



Baltimore County Public Library

# News Release

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## **BCPL Librarian Wins Disability Advocate Award**

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities (BCCD) recently awarded Baltimore County Public Library's (BCPL) Brenda Johnson-Perkins as the 2014 winner of its Disability Advocate Award. The award is presented to the individual "who works to instill a positive attitude and acceptance of persons with disabilities in Baltimore County." She will be honored along with other recipients at the BCCD annual awards ceremony and luncheon on October 15. Mrs. Perkins is a librarian at the Randallstown Branch of BCPL.

After noticing that several adult day care facilities regularly brought their attendees to the library, Mrs. Perkins researched and found that a large number of adult day care groups operate in the Randallstown community. She developed a plan to target seniors with developmental disabilities during outreach efforts at BCPL. She partnered with the following agencies to target this population: Active Day and Senior Care Centers of America, Chimes of Central Maryland, Break Away Adult Day Program for Seniors, and Liberty Road Senior Center.

The story times Mrs. Perkins developed, titled "A Time for Us," are themed programs corresponding to major holidays, events in history or seasons. Sessions combine stories, poetry, music, puppet play, motor activities and group singing using musical instruments. The goal is to provide sensory, motor and intellectual stimulation in a warm and welcoming environment.

Programs have taken place at the Randallstown Branch as well as on site at facilities in the area. She invites members of various groups to these sessions to give people from different centers the opportunity to socialize. Mrs. Perkins saw a need in the community and developed a plan to get in touch with and better serve the members of that group.

After the success of this program at the Randallstown Branch, Mrs. Perkins has begun training other librarians within the BCPL system to take the program into their own communities. BCPL would like to congratulate Mrs. Perkins for this honor.

PHOTO ATTACHED: Brenda Johnson-Perkins is congratulated by new BCPL Director Paula Miller.

PHOTO CREDIT: Josh McCready, BCPL

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The Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) has been serving the citizens of Baltimore County since 1948. With 19 branches throughout Baltimore County, BCPL offers an environment for all to be empowered, inspired and informed to succeed. In addition to loaning books, library card holders may borrow DVDs, music, e-books and gain access to our research databases. Our 19 branches provide computer and Internet access, job search assistance and offer a multitude of daily learning programs for adults and children. For more information about our branches and services, please visit [www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info).



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