



December 20, 2017

Mr. Bob Swanay
Carmel Clay Public Library
55 4th Ave. SE
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Mr. Swanay,

On behalf of the Indiana Library Federation, we want to commend the volunteer service of one of your own. **Karen Steinberger** has served as a volunteer with the **Young Hoosier Book Award (YHBA) Program** during 2017, providing an estimated 250 hours.

As chair of the Middle Grade Book Committee, Karen Steinberger coordinated volunteers who read and reviewed scores of recently released books targeted for the age group. Karen helped facilitate two educational meetings in Central Indiana--first to teach best practices about reviewing and related technology, and second to discuss themes and potential student reaction to specific books. Volunteers prepare teacher activity guides that align with classroom activities, while also supporting the primary goal of the program—to promote recreational reading.

In addition to the reviewing and preparation of materials, teachers and librarians facilitate student voting to identify students' favorites. The top vote-earners are awarded this state's Young Hoosier Book Award. Authors and publishers across the country recognize this award, as well as the Eliot Rosewater Book Award for older teen readers, and send the award winners to annual awards program at our Annual Conference in November.

The Young Hoosier Book Award (YHBA) program could not exist without the quality contributions of volunteers like Karen. At a time when our state is recognizing the importance of literacy to college and career readiness, **we commend Karen Steinberger** in fostering recreational reading for young people. The benefits of recreational reading include not only literacy and educational outcomes, but also increased social skills and health outcomes.

Thank you for your support of recreational reading and literacy in Indiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lucinda Nord'.

Lucinda Nord
Executive Director

A handwritten note in black ink that reads 'Thanks, Bob, for your great stuff.' The note is written diagonally and appears to be a personal message from the recipient to the sender.