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NEWS RELEASE

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Lisa Szeles Joins Stark County District Library as Volunteer and Literacy Coordinator

October 10, 2007 – Lisa Szeles, MLS, has joined the Stark County District Library as Coordinator of Volunteer and Literacy Services. She comes to the library from Wadsworth (OH) Public Library where she was an assistant manager of the Children’s Department.

Szeles brings a range of library experience along with a background in public education to her new position. “I look forward to making use of the talent in our community to encourage literacy and improve overall awareness of the library,” she said. In her dual-role position, she will integrate volunteer services for the library’s eleven locations and also serve to develop a broad-based literacy support program. Encouraging literacy, whether for adults or early childhood efforts, is a foundational element of the library’s Strategic Plan.

“Stark County is a rapidly changing environment,” Kent Oliver, executive director of the library said. “Our mission, Inspiring Ideas, Enriching Lives, Creating Community, can be best served through the development and support of a literate community. By creating this new position and working to coordinate with other community literacy activities, Lisa and the library will be working for the well-being of our entire population.”

The Stark County District Library is one of the best 100 libraries in the United States, ranked 6th in its population category. Its Main Library, 10 Branch Libraries, and two bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles serve 143,000 library card holders. More than 1.4 million people visited the Main Library or its Branches and Bookmobiles last year. Holdings number more than 925,000 items, and annual circulation is 3.8 million items. The collection includes books, audio visual materials, and periodicals for all ages. In addition, the Library provides programs and classes for adults, teens, and children, computer and Internet access, inter-library loans, reference and genealogy services, and traveling collections on two Bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles, as well as Outreach services to shut-ins, nursing homes, and housing units. It is one of the nine largest library systems in the state of Ohio, serving 12 local school districts. For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit www.starklibrary.org.

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