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North Sarasota Library manager Yvette Robison focuses on family, education and community

The North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota has always been a hub of activity in the north Sarasota community and the library's new manager is taking steps to continue and expand that role.

Yvette Robison, who was named manager in June, has spent a lot of time making sure Newtown residents know how valuable the North Sarasota Library is. She started by working closely with staff from neighboring properties – including the Newtown Estates Recreation Center, Booker Middle School and Emma E. Booker Elementary School – to declare the area around the library the I-Zone (I is for Intelligence and Integrity). The goal is for children to take pride in themselves and their academic achievements.

By the end of July, 53 children had participated in a summer literacy program for elementary and middle school students that promotes reading, writing and speaking skills enhanced by music and dance. Robison and the North Sarasota Library staff are planning more activities to engage youth and young adults in academic opportunities and to remind adults in the community about numerous programs and services the library offers.

"The library is one of the greatest resources we have because it has an open door policy coupled with the desire of staff to assist anyone who comes through our doors," Robison said.

Robison brings a wealth of education experience to the north Sarasota community after nearly two decades as a counselor and administrator at Manatee Community College (now State College of Florida). She has served on the boards of Children First and United Way and has helped guide the formation of what is now the Early Learning Coalition. Robison knows the challenges parents face after raising a family in Sarasota and being active with parent organizations when her children were in public schools.

"Yvette's years of experience in education and family relationships are a perfect fit for libraries because we offer so many programs and services that support families in our community," said Sarabeth Kalajian, libraries general manager.

A good education is the biggest advantage children can have as they grow into adulthood. Sarasota County libraries offer free online computer access, mentoring sessions, classes on numerous subjects and access to thousands of databases, including Tutor.com, which provides online tutoring, homework help and test preparation.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the library website at www.sclibes.net.