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CONTACT: Christine Weeks [267-251-7428](tel:267-251-7428) Christine Weeks

**Little Free Library Places 50,000th Library In Santa Ana
Thanks to Their Impact Fund**

Hudson, WI. – Little Free Library® placed its 50,000th book exchange at the Illumination Foundation homeless shelter in Santa Ana, California, a community with only one library and no bookstores for over 335,000 residents.

Little Free Library started with a free book exchange along a walking trail in Wisconsin in 2009 and today, only seven years later, the nonprofit organization has developed into an award-winning force for literacy and community-building.

“Little Free Library is more than cute boxes of books,” notes Founder Todd H. Bol. “Along with placing our 50,000th library, we’ve established a global network of stewards, built partnerships with publishers and literacy organizations, and developed programming that leverages the power of sharing books to bring communities together.”

The Little Free Library organization qualitatively estimates that 50,000 little libraries cumulatively amounts to 36,500,000 books being shared in a year and 600, 000 neighbors meeting each other for the first time.

Little Free Library’s Impact Fund program made the book exchange placement at the Illumination Foundation possible. The Impact Fund is a donation program that places book exchanges where they can be a catalyst for improving reading motivation and deepening community connectedness.

Marytza Rubio, Founder of the Makara Center for the Arts, applied to the Impact Fund for a Library to be placed at the Illumination Foundation as the first step in a broader effort to place Little Free Libraries throughout Santa Ana.

“Makara Center for the Arts seeks to increase access to arts and culture in our community, and libraries, including Little Free Libraries, are part of those efforts,” notes Ms. Rubio.

“We’re starting at the Illumination Foundation because in Orange County our homeless population is our most vulnerable and many of them are children,” said Ms. Rubio. “Shelter residents have little access to books and the Little Free Library can address that need.”

The Little Free Library Impact Fund is supported by individual donors and partner organizations who want to spread the joy and power of sharing books. Additional dollars for the Impact Fund come from Little Free Library’s retail sales and Library registration fees. Individuals interested making a financial contribution to the Impact Fund or in applying to receive a free book exchange may learn more at littlefreelibrary.org/impact-about/

“We call it the Impact Fund because that’s the goal – we want to substantially improve our world – and so does the Makara Center,” says Bol. “We are thrilled that our 50,000th library will be at the Illumination Foundation and part of such a wonderful mission.”

About Little Free Library®: In 2009, Todd H. Bol built the first Little Free Library book exchange and placed it in his Hudson, Wisconsin front yard to honor his mother. The idea for the handmade book exchanges with the motto “Take a book. Return a book™” took hold quickly, and today the number of registered book exchanges has grown to more than 50,000 around the world, in all 50 states and in 70 countries. Through these book exchanges millions of books are shared annually. Little Free Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has received numerous honors, including the National Book Foundation’s Innovations in Reading Prize, the American Library Association’s Movers and Shakers Award, and the Library of Congress Literacy Award. The organization encourages the volunteer stewards who manage the book exchanges to register their Little Libraries for listing on its world map and inclusion in a network that shares ideas and notices about events and programming. For more information visit littlefreelibrary.org.

Makara Center for the Arts is a Santa Ana, California-based nonprofit with the mission to provide community access to arts & culture. Santa Ana currently has only one full-service library to serve over 335,000 residents, and there are no general interest bookstores in the city. One of the primary goals of Makara is to establish a specialized Lending Library featuring global arts & culture and literature from underrepresented communities. Makara’s programs include a monthly book club, writing and arts workshops, and literary advocacy initiatives. Additionally, Makara aims to increase literacy by installing Little Free Libraries in multiple neighborhoods throughout Santa Ana. For more information, visit www.makaracenterarts.org.

Illumination Foundation is a health and human services 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Orange County with the mission to end the cycle of homelessness. Orange County, California is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, yet is also home to over 32,000 homeless or unstably housed children. While many of Illumination Foundation services focus on stabilizing families through housing and supportive services, the organization also offers specialized healthcare services for chronically homeless and medically vulnerable individuals. Founded in 2008, the Illumination Foundation has served over 24,500 vulnerable children and adults with life-changing services including emergency and permanent housing, individualized case management, access to healthcare services, childhood enrichment, after-school tutoring, and other services vital to breaking the cycle of homelessness. For more information, visit www.ifhomeless.org.
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CONTACT: Christine Weeks [267-251-7428](tel:267-251-7428) christine@fieldguideinc.com