



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Little Free Library Grants 100 Book-Sharing Boxes, Announces First 25 Winners**

*The little libraries will help increase book access for children in high-needs areas, especially while schools and public libraries are closed during the pandemic.*

Hudson, WI (May 28, 2020) – The Little Free Library® (LFL) nonprofit organization is granting 100 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes to sites that serve children in an effort to improve book access for kids across the country. Today LFL is thrilled to announce the first 25 grantees. Recipients include schools, literacy groups, Native American reservations, healthcare centers, homeless shelters, laundromats and more.

The 100-library giveaway is in celebration of LFL reaching 100,000 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide. The [100,000th Little Free Library](#) was granted to the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans in Houston, Texas, on March 11.

“We are happy to recognize the hard work of our stewards who made 100,000 Little Free Library installations possible by granting 100 of our libraries where they are needed most,” said LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger. “While our [Impact Library Program](#) makes grants to all types of underserved communities, this special initiative prioritizes organizations that serve children.”

“There is no more critical time for our children,” Metzger continued. “With most schools being closed since mid-March, access to books—a critical foundation for developing life-long literacy skills—is critical. We are honored to do our small part to fill the gap.”

Each grantee will receive a Little Free Library book-sharing box, a mounting post and a selection of children’s books provided by learning company Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**LFL proudly presents the first 25 grantees below. Read more about each winner [here](#). The remaining 75 Little Free Library grantees will be announced this summer, through regular updates from [LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org).**



**Allyson Palaschuk | Made by Momma | Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

"Made by Momma is a community resource centre that thousands of mothers with young children come to each year.... Our hope is to make sure access to books and reading for toddlers, kids, youth and adults is not a luxury. Having a Little Free Library means access for ALL!"

**Alura Gilliland | The Dalles, Oregon**

"I live next to a women's shelter that constantly has children cycling through every six months or so. There are also many middle school aged children within the neighborhood, and I would like to offer them accessibility to reading materials."

**Amanda Sisk | Greenville, South Carolina**

"The Nicholtown community is a home to very diverse group with a large majority of families being of low economic means. I want to provide these children with the excitement and inspiration that a Little Free Library can provide."

**Angela Kelly | William F. Murphy Elementary School | Woodridge, Illinois**

"During this time of COVID-19, we feel that a Little Free Library is especially in need. Our school library can only do so much to provide books to our users, and right now it is sadly closed. If we had a LFL on our grounds, kids would have another option to get books whenever they needed to."

**April Taylor | Reading with Erma | Ft. Meade, Florida**

"I would like to install [a Little Free Library] in the Ft. Meade migrant farm area that is underserved by their community. I personally go out to these communities twice a week and read individually with children there."

**Ashlee Swanson | Alto Park Elementary School | Rome, Georgia**

Thirty percent of our student population are English-language learners who are effectively living in book deserts at home. We are a Title I school with large numbers of our students living in poverty.... Regardless of their lack of access, my students still love reading and love books."

**Carol Heisler | Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club | Crystal Lake, Illinois**

"This community has two elementary schools...and both have a student population where over 50% of the kids qualify for free or reduced lunch. During the summer, the local food bank sponsors a free lunch program for children in Ladd Park where we would plant this Little Free Library."

**Dana Mallory | Ozarks Literacy Council | Springfield, Missouri**

"Our organization has provided free literacy classes for 51 years! We serve low income people and families with 125 volunteer tutors matched with those that cannot read or read well.... Our children in the community would greatly benefit from the gift of free books. Literacy is life!"

**Darla Kennedy | Meigs Local Schools | Middleport, Ohio**

"Our community is a rural, Appalachian county in southeastern Ohio. We are an impoverished county, and many of our children have very limited books within their homes. Our local library is in another town and many of our children live more than 10 miles from the library."

**Duane Yazzie | Shondeen Estates Resident Organization | Rock Springs, New Mexico**

"Shondeen Estates is a housing complex of the Navajo Housing Authority.... The students are predominantly of Native American descent and range from PreK to college and would greatly benefit from a neighborhood-based lending library."

**Emily Hicklen | Toney, Alabama**

"I am certain that a Little Free Library would revolutionize my low-income, rural community by filling the gap in accessible education and providing positive educational reinforcement."

**Erin Chaffe | Communicare Health Centers Kyle | Kyle, Texas**

"I am a pediatrician at a federally qualified health center serving mostly low income and undocumented families. Our families are generally Spanish speaking with many working to learn English as a second language."

**Heather Smurr | Ingram Elementary School | Ingram, Texas**

"Our community does not have a public library. The closest one to us requires an annual fee for out of town patrons, and most of our families cannot afford the fee or transportation to the library. Our families largely live in poverty, with over 80% of our students in low socioeconomic households."

**Jackie Carson | Gaylord, Michigan**

"Otsego Memorial Hospital would be a wonderful location for a Little Free Library. Otsego County is a rural and mostly low income community. Children coming for doctor appointments or visiting family who are hospitalized would greatly benefit from access to books."

**Jamie Clark | Levant Corner Store | Levant, Maine**

"We are the community hub for seven surrounding towns and sole grocery, gas, and restaurant for miles. Our local public library closed a few years back. We have been working with the local principal to provide food, internet services, and support to families in need during this time."

**Jeanne Alves | Coventry, Rhode Island**

"So many young children are dragged to the laundromats. Laundromats often serve families residing in tenement housing lacking resources.... A real Little Free Library box would be a welcome addition to any laundromat, especially during this COVID-19 crisis."

**Joshua Sterner | Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania**

"[This is a] mixed-income area in the Pocono Mountains, formerly a vacation area. There has been a surge of population (35k in just one of the many small communities just in my township) with NO stores within 45 minutes."

**Kaeli Mercado | Kansas City, Missouri**

"My name is Kaeli Mercado and I am a homeless woman from Kansas City, Missouri. Enduring the hardships of being homeless can really take a toll on your spirits. The Little Free Library always takes me away from what can sometimes be a harsh reality.... The location in which I'd like to place a Little Free Library is a place that serves the homeless, helping with showers and a hot meal."

**Kalpana Saxena | Santosha 'Kula' | New Orleans, Louisiana**

"This library will be located on a refurbished school bus that already serves homeless populations in the underpass below I-10. Two or three times a week, we park there and provide much-needed services as well as coffee, food and cell phone charging stations."

**Kellie Frederick | Cottonwood Lamppost Neighborhood | Richardson, Texas**

"With the COVID-19 crisis, it's even more important to maintain community involvement and awareness. We plan to use the library box not only for books, but canned goods and communication."

**Lisa Querijero | Books For Kids | Ann Arbor, Michigan**

"Kids need books, and studies show that when books are in the homes and hands of kids, they become more literate and better readers. Books for Kids has donated over 10,000 books to the Philippines, Detroit, Inkster and Flint."

**Melissa B. | Grand Portage, Minnesota**

"We live on a rural Indian reservation in Northern Minnesota. It is 30 miles to a library (which is currently closed). Then next closest is Duluth (120 miles away). Literacy issues are big up here and we would like to encourage local kids who can't afford to order books the chance to read."

**Ngoc-Tran Vu | Boston, Massachusetts**

"I live in a working-class community of Dorchester, Boston's largest and most diverse neighborhood.... There are many immigrants and refugee families, and I would share books in various languages that are accessible and inclusive. Languages such as Spanish, Haitian Creole and Vietnamese."

**Sally Van Cura | Habitat for Humanity of LaSalle, Bureau & Putnam Counties | Ottawa, Illinois**

"We are the local Habitat for Humanity, and we are currently building our home at this site. The Little Free Library will be a great addition to this location. The site is located across the street of a park and McKinley Elementary School, Ottawa so it will continue to impact our community."

**Savona Bailey-McClain | New York, New York**

"My neighborhood has been in transition for the last ten years. It used to be a drug-infested area. There was a lot of violence. Slowly, our street has changed.... We have worked to calm the street down. The library would help the children feel more empowered by getting a book on their own."

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**About Little Free Library:** Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community and improves book access by fostering neighborhood book-exchange boxes around the world. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award and has been recognized by the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation and others for its dedication to expanding book access for all. There are more than 100,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide in all 50 states and in 108 countries; through them more than 165 million books have been shared. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org).