



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Margret Aldrich  
612-203-6856/[maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org](mailto:maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org)

### Little Free Library Announces 2021 Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement

Hudson, WI (May 18, 2021) – The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization is pleased to present the 2021 Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement to five extraordinary individuals and one exemplary organization who embody LFL’s mission to build community, inspire readers and expand book access for all.

“The last year has been a challenge for all of us. But no surprise, Little Free Library’s volunteer stewards rose to the challenge to support their communities,” said LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger.

“It was difficult to select this year’s Todd H. Bol Award for Outstanding Achievement winners from such a large and wonderful pool of candidates,” he continued. “The winners exemplify the wonderful volunteers we have the honor to work with as they engage, inspire and strengthen their neighborhoods.”

#### The winners are:

**Sarah Kama of Arlington, Massachusetts**, who started nine Little Free Libraries dedicated to diverse books and has shipped hundreds of books that amplify BIPOC voices to little libraries in all 50 states. “My Little Free Library reminded me that no dream is too big or too small. I believe my Little Free Library acts as a beacon of hope and promise to myself and future generations of BIPOC youth, that we do indeed matter.”

**Seraphin Niyonsenga of Kigali, Rwanda**, who started a Little Free Library book-sharing box in Rwanda to help bridge the literacy gap. “Seeing kids flock to my LFL has been fulfilling.... I feel happy to see that this LFL has helped me to give back to my community.”

**Russell Schnell of Boulder, Colorado**, who brought the first Little Free Library to Antarctica—this means there is now a Little Free Library on all seven continents. “Books with photos of colorful trees, warm deserts, water, beaches, wheat fields, and animals and birds are popular at the South Pole. Everything else is white for hundreds of miles in all directions.”

**Katie Stuart of Poulsbo, Washington**, a teenager who installed her Little Free Library six years ago and has since been inspired to give back in many other ways. “Little Free Libraries sparked my passion for community service.”

**Dan and Trina Wiswell of Tacoma, Washington**, who are LFL stewards and superfans. They have visited nearly 2,000 Little Free Libraries and “book bombed” them with more than 11,000 books. “I am retired disabled. Our library and book bombing has given me purpose, and helps maintain my mental health,” Dan says.

**Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, Michelle Otten Guenther, of Cincinnati, Ohio**. This organization has distributed nearly 75,000 books and installed roughly 100 Little Free Libraries since 2017. “Many of the children and adults that we have the privilege to serve live in economically-disadvantaged communities, so we wanted to focus on bringing LFLs to these neighborhoods,” says Michelle.

The Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement are named for LFL’s founder, Todd Bol, who created the first Little Free Library book-sharing box in 2009 in Hudson, Wisconsin, and passed away unexpectedly in 2018. This is the third year the awards have been presented.

Bol said: “I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other, and see that they have a better place on this planet to live.”

**Read more about this year’s winners and see their photos at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/todd-bol-awards](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/todd-bol-awards).**

###

**ABOUT LITTLE FREE LIBRARY:**

Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers, and expands book access through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. 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 increasing book access for all. There are more than 100,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide in all 50 states, 110 countries and 7 continents; through them, more than 200 million books have been shared. To learn how you can start a Little Free Library of your own or support bringing little libraries full of books to underserved communities, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org).