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Little Free Library Presents 2020 Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement

Hudson, WI (May 18, 2020) – The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization is pleased to present the 2020 Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement to five extraordinary individuals who embody LFL’s mission to inspire a love of reading and build community.

“It is an honor to recognize this wonderful group of volunteer stewards with this year’s Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement. These volunteers have gone the extra mile to help and serve their communities,” said LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger.

“Little Free Library is proud to have such dedicated individuals support our mission,” he continued. “These winners are indicative of the great work being done by our network of volunteer stewards around the globe: engaging communities, promoting book access, and enriching lives.”

The winners are:

Heather M. Butts of Beechurst, New York, who launched more than 40 Little Free Libraries in New York and New Jersey, working with schools, the New York Police Department, and others. “Little Free Libraries have been transformative for the neighborhoods.... We are pleased that we have turned several of our Little Free Libraries into pantries during COVID-19 to help people deal with getting the food they need.”

Kiara Bose Roy of Mumbai, India, who started the first Little Free Library book-sharing box in Mumbai when she was 12 to share her love of reading and provide equitable book access. “I had always been very sensitive to the socioeconomic disparity that I saw in my community.... This was most definitely my biggest motivation in starting a Little Free Library.”

Kristine Humphries, Ojai, California, who helped establish dozens of little libraries around the Ojai Valley in collaboration with the public library’s Ojai Valley Library Friends & Foundation. “Many of our residents have limitations and unmet needs that affect their ability and willingness to use a traditional library system.... The Little Free Libraries are all open 24/7, 365.”

Nancy Wulkan of Chicago, Illinois, who installed her first two Little Free Libraries in Chicago parks and immediately saw the impact on families, neighbors, and the local homeless population. Since then, Nancy has donated twelve more library boxes to her city. “Seeing the unexpected joy on a LFL visitor’s face when they find this box of free books in their community reminds me that big trees grow from little seeds.”

Walter Mulbry of Takoma Park, Maryland, who constructed 23 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes. A member of Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, he enlists local artists to paint the libraries and the Friends book sale to keep them stocked. "Little libraries contribute toward our town's sense of community. We are a very diverse community, but the love of reading is commonly shared."

In addition LFL is honoring one organization with a Todd H. Bol Award:

Hindi's Libraries of Cedarhurst, New York. When Hindi Krinsky, a teacher and mother of five, died suddenly at the age of 32, her friend Leslie Gang and Hindi's husband Dovid Kanarfogel established three Little Free Libraries in her honor. After community members donated hundreds of books, Gang and Kanarfogel established Hindi's Libraries, a nonprofit that has provided more than 90,000 books to organizations and high-need Little Free Library stewards.

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 second year the awards have been presented.

Read more about this year's winners and see their photos at LittleFreeLibrary.org/todd-bol-awards.

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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 109 countries; through them more than 165 million books have been shared. To learn more, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org.