



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

573 County Rd A
Suite 106
Hudson, WI 54016

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HUDSON WI
PERMIT NO. 517



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG[®]
TAKE A BOOK • SHARE A BOOK

Library of Distinction: Burbank, CA

“My daughter Bailey and I have read together every day since her birth. We are also fervent film buffs. The pandemic gave us time to build a Little Free Library. She designed it herself and added elements such as mini-movie posters that are actually book covers. We are excited about this new adventure!”

—Paul Coyne, Library #105077



Keep in touch
© LittleFreeLibrary.org | 715-690-2488

100 Granted Libraries Mark 100,000 Around the Globe



In honor of reaching our 100,000th Little Free Library installation this spring, we granted 100 libraries to organizations that serve children and youth. We launched this project just as COVID-19 became part of our nation’s vocabulary. Little did we know how critical these 100 boxes would be.

The impact of the pandemic on book access has been significant, especially for children. Schools have been closed. Libraries have been closed. For many children, these are the only access points for books. And the data is straightforward: Book access improves literacy skills and academic performance, which in turn builds engaged and healthy communities. Without books, not only do children not improve, studies show that children’s reading skills can atrophy.

We want to do more. We need to do more. These 100 granted libraries just begin to fill the need. You can help us by donating online at LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate or using the enclosed envelope.

Kids need books—now more than ever. Thank you for your support!

Little Free Library[®] News

Sharing Books Since 2009

Fall 2020



Look Inside for...

- The world’s 100,000th Little Free Library
- Our PBS Kids partnership
- A virtual Action Book Club
- How we’re sharing diverse books
- And more!

Help us bring books where they’re needed most!

Donate. Share Books. Become a Steward. LittleFreeLibrary.org

A Letter from Our Executive Director

Hello, Friends of Little Free Library!

A global pandemic has turned the world upside down since our last newsletter. While our procedures have changed, our goals have not. Together we're working to expand the Little Free Library network in partnership with individuals, schools, and local communities.

In June, we launched a new program with the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico. City leadership wanted to increase volunteerism in the community but needed activities that could be done with social distancing. Using the city's volunteer portal, Little Free Library became one of the first national organizations to participate. Residents can sign up to install a Little Free Library book-sharing box; help support an existing one, either by supplying books or making simple repairs; or build a Little Free Library for someone else to steward. With success, this test may be a model for other cities to pursue.

School district foundations have also been key partners. As schools closed, so did library access. The solution for the Hillsborough Education Foundation in Tampa was a network of 50 Little Free Library installations—one for every elementary school in their city. Children now access books conveniently and safely whether the school is open or not.

These examples are made possible with your support. Thank you!

Peace,

M. Greig Metzger

Introducing the 100,000th Little Free Library!

Little Free Library hit a major milestone this year, reaching 100,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide. The 100,000th library was launched in Houston, Texas, at the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) on March 11.

"The impact that the Little Free Library will have on the students, clients, and families we serve is truly incredible," said Joe Jimenez, President and CEO of AAMA. "What better way to support literacy than through a hands-on approach that this library will provide?"

The library features the artwork of award-winning illustrator John Parra from the book *Little Libraries, Big Heroes*. Publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will fill the library with free English- and Spanish-language children's books for its first year.

ON THE COVER: Kids choose a book from the 100,000th Little Free Library, unveiled in Houston this spring.

Why Sharing Diverse Books Matters

Meet Sarah Kamyra, a New York high-school counselor and Little Free Library steward who is a champion of sharing diverse books in Little Free Libraries. She began by filling her local libraries with books that amplify Black voices through her "Diverse Libraries" project and has now shipped hundreds of books to libraries in all 50 states!

"I believe that Black and brown children deserve to see themselves represented in books and that if you cannot see it, you cannot be it," Sarah says.

We are grateful for the efforts of Sarah and other Little Free Library stewards to make every voice heard. Stay tuned for Little Free Library's exciting initiative "Read in Color," launching this fall!



Impact Library Program

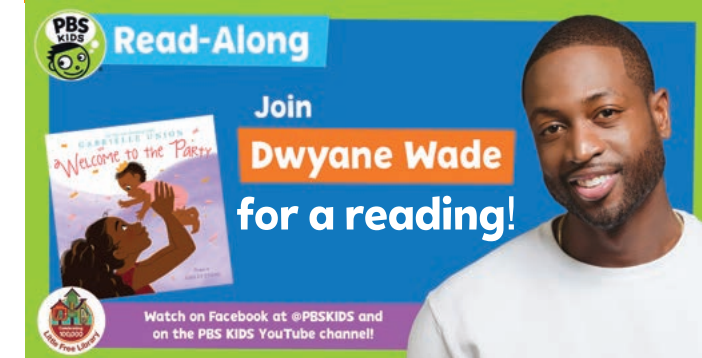
Our Impact Library Program places Little Free Libraries full of books in underserved areas. More than 1,000 little libraries have been granted to deserving recipients. A recent grantee, Heather Smurr, wanted to provide students at Ingram Elementary access to a continuously changing array of literature.

"Ingram, Texas's very first LFL is up and running and we couldn't be more excited!" Heather said. "This library will serve a rural population with a high number of low-income families. The LFL is located in the front of our elementary school where families will have easy access day after day, which is especially needed during this time of quarantine and COVID restrictions. As our town doesn't have a public library of its own, our LFL will offer a way to get books in both English and Spanish into the hands of our hard-working families."

The Impact Library Program is made possible by individual donors and partner organizations committed to improving literacy in communities with limited access to books. Learn more at LittleFreeLibrary.org/Impact.



Storytime with PBS Kids and Little Free Library



This summer, we teamed up with PBS Kids to produce read-along videos with some very special guests.

NBA legend Dwyane Wade read *Welcome to the Party*; TV host and fashion icon Tim Gunn read *Mary Had a Little Glam*; celebrity chef Carla Hall read *My Rainy Day Rocket Ship*; and U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo read her poem "Remember," to name a few.

You can find the videos on the PBS Kids YouTube channel — check them out!



2020 World Literacy Award Presented to Little Free Library

In April, we were honored to receive the 2020 World Literacy Award, which celebrates Little Free Library's significant contribution to global literacy. "In the current crisis, literacy has never been more important with the disadvantaged children lacking access to books and educational resources," said World Literacy Foundation CEO Andrew Kay. Thank you to the World Literacy Foundation for this honor—and thank you to our amazing volunteer stewards for bringing the Little Free Library network to every corner of the globe!



Action Book Club

Our Action Book Club invites groups to read and discuss books, then take part in meaningful service projects together. Since the pandemic, many clubs are meeting virtually. An Action Book Club based in Brooklyn, New York, chats online, then members—located across the globe—each carry out an act of kindness in their own community. The group recently read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong, then donated books to local Little Free Libraries.

"It's been so great getting to know everyone through our chats!" said organizer Sophia Becker. "I so hope for life to return to normal, but in the meantime, it's actually humbling to take a minute and realize that in spite of the pandemic we have only gotten closer, that books have triumphed and truly connected us in more ways than we thought."

Learn how you can start an Action Book Club at LittleFreeLibrary.org/ActionBookClub. Here's to reading well and doing good!