

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

2018 Annual Report



Inspiring Readers | Building Community | Sparking Creativity

Little Free Library
is a nonprofit organization
that inspires a love of
reading, builds community,
and sparks creativity by
fostering neighborhood book
exchanges around the world.

Dear Friends,

Moving Forward! That's Little Free Library's theme for 2019—both for our Action Book Club and for the organization itself as we celebrate our growth and resilience. This year we have the opportunity to amplify our mission, the values of our work, and the vision of our dear founder, Todd H. Bol, as we chart a new path forward without him.

We lost Todd to cancer in October of 2018, which was a shock and a tremendous loss to Little Free Library. The outpouring of love and support from our volunteer stewards, friends, and partners along with the media stories from every corner of the globe provided a source of comfort and strengthened our resolve to accelerate the Little Free Library mission.

Even though we lost our founder, 2018 brought us much to be proud of. We celebrated the installation of our 75,000th Little Library; we facilitated projects with partners including Disney, John Grisham, the *New York Times* Learning Network, and Amerigroup; the Action Book Club grew to more than 1,000 registered clubs; and a successful holiday season bolstered our financial health. And, importantly, in 2018 we awarded more than 200 Impact Program Libraries to communities in need—made possible by generous donations from friends like you.

We're starting 2019 with renewed excitement about the possibilities ahead. This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the birth of Little Free Libraries—a major milestone! We're marking this anniversary with special events, giveaways, and the Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of volunteer stewards who exemplify the mission and spirit of Little Free Library.

Heartfelt thanks to all our stewards, partners, and donors for your ongoing support. We are shaping and steering the world's largest book-sharing movement, and we couldn't do it without you. As the momentum continues to grow, we're moving forward. Join us!

Gratefully,



Monnie McMahon
Chair, Board of Directors



Todd H. Bol, Little Free Library founder and creator.

*"You can be the story of change."
—Todd H. Bol*

Who We Are

Little Free Library is the award-winning nonprofit organization at the heart of a global book-sharing and community-building movement.

There are more than 80,000 registered Little Free Library book-exchange boxes worldwide, and behind each one is a volunteer steward—the individual who champions the Library. Our volunteer steward network is made up of passionate readers and community advocates.

Through our “take a book, share a book” philosophy, millions of books are exchanged each year at Little Free Libraries, profoundly increasing book access for readers of all ages and backgrounds. At the same time, countless connections are made through our Little Free Library network.

The Little Free Library nonprofit organization has been awarded recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, the Book Industry Study Group, the Women’s National Book Association, and others, and has received the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency.

By the Numbers

80,000 Registered Little Free Libraries

50 States with Little Free Libraries

91 Countries with Little Free Libraries

120 Million Total number of books shared

155,000 Facebook followers

56,000 Instagram followers

19,000 Twitter followers

39,500 Email subscribers

Little Free Library Milestones



- 2009** Todd H. Bol builds the first Little Free Library book exchange at his home in Hudson, Wisconsin
- 2012** Little Free Library (LFL) becomes a **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**
- 2013** National Book Foundation awards LFL an **Innovations in Reading Prize**
- 2013** *Library Journal* presents LFL with a **Movers and Shakers Award**
- 2015** The number of registered LFL book exchanges reaches **25,000**
- 2015** *The Little Free Library Book* is published, chronicling the global movement
- 2015** Library of Congress awards LFL a **Literacy Award** for best practices
- 2016** LFL launches **Impact Library Program**
- 2017** Women’s National Book Association awards LFL their **Second Century Prize**
- 2018** **7,680** media stories about Little Free Libraries are published this year with potential reach of **3.2 Billion**
- 2018** LFL receives **Force for Positive Change Award** from Marquette University
- 2018** **75,000th** Little Library is given to a school in Oklahoma via LFL’s Impact Library Program

2019 LFL celebrates **ten years** of Little Free Libraries!



A boy reads on his mother’s lap at a Little Free Library in Austin, Texas.

What We Do: Our Programming

Steward Services

The Little Free Library nonprofit organization works with more than 80,000 caring and innovative volunteer stewards—the people who start and maintain Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.

Stewards can be individuals, families, educators, public librarians, police officers, scouts, business owners, or members of civic organizations. We support them by providing encouragement in getting started; social networks to exchange ideas and experiences; a world map to help patrons discover the Little Libraries; resources for free or reduced-cost books; and more.

“Thank you for this great organization, and for spreading the love of books and reading to all!” — Sarah S.



We support volunteer stewards around the globe, like this father-son duo in Oakland, California.

Impact Library Program

Our Impact Library Program provides no-cost Little Free Libraries to communities where they can help improve reading motivation, increase book access, and strengthen community ties.

Through this program, we’ve placed more than 500 Little Libraries around the United States, thanks to individual donors, organizational partnerships, and Little Free Library’s earned revenue. A generous grant from the Lawrence Grauman Jr. Trust for the Impact Library Program in 2017 enabled us to increase the number of Impact Libraries we gave to communities in need in 2018.

“I live in an area of Columbus, Ohio, where you can hear gunshots at night and find used bullets on the sidewalk.... This Impact Little Library has been a way to connect the neighborhood.” — Anya T.



Visitors peruse the books in a Cleveland, Ohio, Little Free Library donated through our Impact Library Program.

Action Book Club

Books can inspire you to make the world a better place—starting in your own neighborhood. Our Action Book Club™ invites participants of all ages to read and discuss books, then take part in meaningful (and fun) group service projects to benefit their communities.

Action Book Clubs across the country have completed inspiring projects: A middle school in Virginia read *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, then knit scarves to welcome refugees to their area. A women’s book club in Alberta read *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald, then cooked meals for families at a children’s hospital.

“The Little Free Library Action Book Club is a beautiful and important way to spread love and kindness throughout the world, one book and one good deed at a time.” — Karina G.

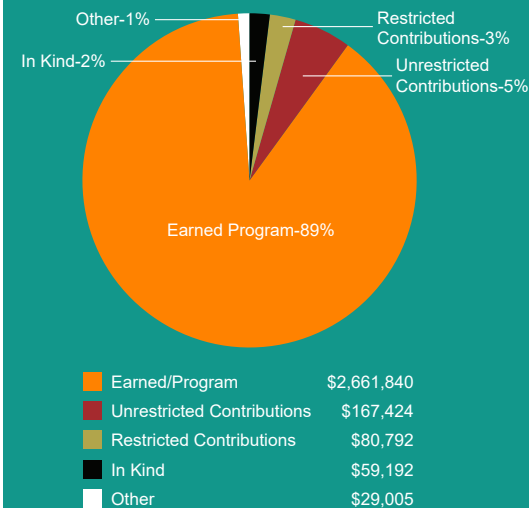


A preschool-age Action Book Club in Maryland read *Good Night, Good Knight* then did a pajama drive for a local shelter.

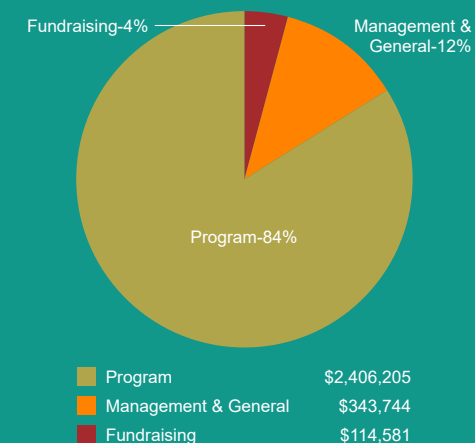
2018 Financial Summary

Little Free Library’s business model is designed to fulfill our mission to build community, spark creativity, and inspire readers. Our finances built momentum during fiscal year 2018 and showed significant improvement over 2017. In 2019 we’re forecasting continued improvement as we enhance programs to engage stewards and attract sponsorships, partnerships, and grants.

LFL 2018 Revenue



LFL 2018 Expenses





573 County Rd A, Suite 106, Hudson, WI 54016

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Young readers in Khartoum, South Sudan, choose books from a local Little Free Library.



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