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Library of Distinction: North Saint Paul, MN

“This Little Free Library was inspired by the gorgeous 1887 octagonal house that it graces. Over a long COVID winter, I completely renovated an old, broken-down clock. It's only been up a few days, and already we're meeting more neighbors, sharing books and conversations, and building community.”

– Trudy Ohnsorg, Little Free Library #120060



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## Everyone Deserves to See Themselves in the Pages of a Book

Did you know that in kids' books only:

- 10% of characters are Black
- 7% are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5% are Latinx
- 1% are Native American?

We launched the Read in Color diverse books initiative in Minneapolis last fall, in honor of George Floyd, to increase access to diverse books. And we have been humbled by your powerful response. Because of you, we have pledged to share 20,000 diverse books and 100 Little Free Libraries in high-need communities across the country this year.

“Our youth deserve to read books where they can connect with characters who look like them and recognize their lived experiences in the stories,” said Amanda LeClair-Diaz, who recently received a Little Free Library for the Wind River Reservation (read more inside).

With your help, we can bring Little Free Libraries and inclusive books to the underserved communities where they are sorely needed. Please give today. Any amount that is meaningful to you is needed now and greatly appreciated. Donate online at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate) or by using the enclosed envelope.



You can put diverse books in kids' hands.  
**Thank you for your support!**



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG<sup>®</sup>  
TAKE A BOOK • SHARE A BOOK

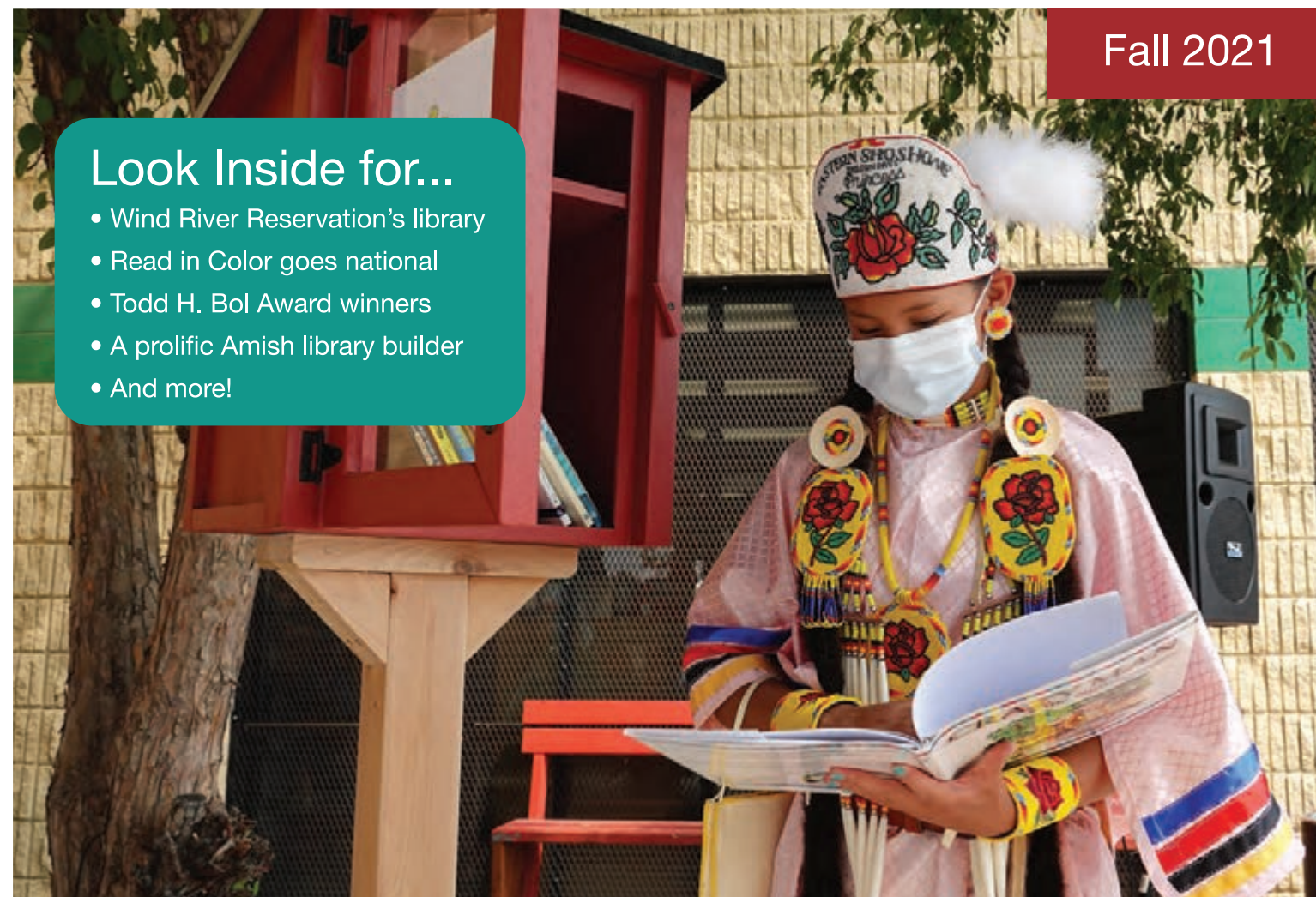
# Little Free Library<sup>®</sup> News

Sharing Books Since 2009

Fall 2021

## Look Inside for...

- Wind River Reservation's library
- Read in Color goes national
- Todd H. Bol Award winners
- A prolific Amish library builder
- And more!



Our mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries.



# Who Builds Our Little Free Libraries?



Every Little Free Library book-sharing box sold on the LFL website is created by an Amish craftsman in the Upper Midwest. Amish builder Henry Miller has crafted more than 40,000 Little Free Libraries — more than anyone in the world (that we know of)!

The libraries Henry makes in his Cashton, Wisconsin, workshop include all of the book-sharing boxes we grant through our Impact Library and Read in Color programs, as well as many of the models available on our website. Fun fact: Dan Sheridan, our product manager, communicates with Henry by sending emails to his non-Amish neighbor.



## A Finnish Duo

Lottie Saahko and her grandfather often work together on projects that keep their sweet relationship strong. Their latest endeavor? A Little Free Library for their town of Valkeakoski, Finland. The pair converted a cupboard from the local thrift shop into a charming book-sharing box, complete with an official LFL charter sign.

“It’s busy, and the little guest book I added has quite a list of names already!” said Lottie. “That makes me especially happy, because usually Finns are quite shy.”

# A Letter from Our Executive Director

Greetings to all our Little Free Library Friends!

The world continues to be an uncertain place with the return of “normal” constantly changing. Yet despite these fits and starts, the Little Free Library network grows steadily, due to the tremendous efforts of our volunteer stewards. Thank you each and every one.

Our growth has been marked by some key milestones. Recently, we installed the 125,000th Little Free Library at the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. This new library was provided as part of our Impact Library program, which also crossed a key milestone. Since the program’s launch in 2017, Little Free Library has given away over 1,500 libraries and 37,500 books in the United States and Canada.

A more recent initiative, Read in Color, also continues to grow. Launched in the Twin Cities last fall, our diverse book initiative has expanded to seven cities. By year’s end, Little Free Library will have distributed over 20,000 diverse books through new library installations as well as our existing steward network.

This is all made possible with your support. Thank you!

Be well,

M. Greig Metzger



## 2021 Todd H. Bol Awards

Little Free Library stewards are the heart and soul of the global LFL network. Each year, we are delighted to recognize five extraordinary individuals who embody our mission to build community, inspire readers, and expand book access with the Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement, named for LFL’s late founder. Two of our 2021 honorees are:



**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,” she said.



**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,” he said. “I feel happy to see that this LFL has helped me to give back to my community.”

*Learn more about the honorees at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/todd-bol-awards](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/todd-bol-awards).*

ON THE COVER : *Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Princess Janae Todd, 8th grader at Fort Washakie School, with the Wind River Reservation’s Little Free Library.*

## Read in Color Goes National



*Pictured (left to right): Read in color launches in New York City and Detroit.*

Our Read in Color initiative is distributing thousands of diverse books to Little Free Libraries nationwide. The program debuted in Minneapolis in 2020, and so far this year, we’ve launched in six additional cities: Washington, D.C., Boston, Detroit, New York, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

By working alongside key partners, we are able to listen to the needs of the community and make the Read in Color initiative thrive. Collaborators include BIPOC-owned independent bookstores like Black Garnet Books and Fulton Street Books; publishers including HarperCollins and Scholastic; and local organizations such as Everybody Wins DC and Brilliant Detroit.

Plans for Read in Color 2022 are underway, and we can’t wait to reveal where the initiative is coming next! When we Read in Color and share diverse books, understanding, empathy, and inclusion can grow.

*Learn more about Read in Color at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color).*

## Little Free Library Unbound

Our monthly web series, Little Free Library Unbound, has now been going strong for nine months! We’ve heard from authors, literacy advocates, longtime stewards, and many more incredible book people. As we close out this year and look ahead to 2022, we’re excited to share even more valuable insights—as well as superstar guests—with you.

### Here's what attendees are saying about LFL Unbound:

"I am proud of this program, which expands my stewardship knowledge and commitment."

"I love the webinars...I enjoy seeing the libraries of the guests and learning about the writers and their wonderful books."

"I have loved every topic this year and learned so much."

Join us for the next live episode of Little Free Library Unbound by registering at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/lfl-unbound](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/lfl-unbound).



## Impact Library Program

Our Impact Library Program grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved areas across the United States and Canada. Recently, we provided a very special library to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming: They received the world’s 125,000th Little Free Library! It will offer books featuring Native American creators, characters, and content.

“We are honored that the 125,000th Little Free Library stands on the Wind River Reservation where it will serve Indigenous youth and their families,” said LFL Director of Programs Shelby King. “Giving us even greater joy is that the community members who use this little library will see their own reflections in the characters and books inside.”

The Impact Library Program is made possible by individual donors and partner organizations dedicated to spreading the joy and power of reading.

*Learn more about how you can support this program at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact).*