



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

Little Free Library® News

Sharing Books Since 2009

Spring 2021



Look Inside for...

- The first Little Free Library in Antarctica
- How we're sharing thousands of diverse books
- Our lively new digital-event series
- Little libraries in the park
- 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.



Little Free Libraries Are a Walk in the Park

The Skokie Public Library and Skokie Park District recently put out a call for volunteers to host Little Free Libraries in twenty parks throughout the area.

"This is an excellent opportunity to promote literacy and give back to the community," they said.

The popular initiative, which invites volunteers who "adopt" park libraries for at least one year, has received an enthusiastic response. We think this is a great idea for park systems everywhere.



Action Book Club



Our Action Book Club invites groups to read and discuss books, then take part in meaningful service projects together. This mother-daughter book club in Albuquerque recently read *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, then worked together to hold a kids' book drive.

Retired teacher Becky Conner, pictured on the left, told us their mission was to put books in children's hands to boost literacy and inspire lifelong readers. "Book ownership is so important!" she said.

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

A Letter from Our Executive Director

One of the wonderful things about Little Free Library is the global network of volunteer stewards. Their efforts are the fuel that makes the engine run. To our stewards, thank you.

But it is not just the locally focused efforts of stewards that make a difference. It is also the larger community support stewards give each other that is so impactful. A key steward benefit is being part of this community. Whether it is tips on launching a Little Free Library, strategies to secure books, or ideas for holiday themes and activities, the steward community can be counted upon for help.

We try to amplify the value of stewardship by being a conduit for this accumulated experience. To that end, a key 2021 priority will be the launch of our exclusive Little Free Library mobile application. The app will make it easier for everyone connected to Little Free Library to participate. Our plan is to launch in late spring, so stay tuned!

Peace,

M. Greig Metzger



Bringing Diverse Books to Your Neighborhood

We are excited to introduce Read in Color, our initiative to distribute thousands of diverse books to Little Free Libraries nationwide.

Read in Color kicked off this fall in the Twin Cities, where we established 20 new Little Free Libraries in underserved neighborhoods and acquired over 5,500 books that amplify BIPOC, LGBTQ, and other marginalized voices. *USA Today*, CNN, and others spotlighted the effort, and this year we are bringing Read in Color to six additional cities.

Less than 25 percent of children's books depict non-white characters. But we believe everyone deserves to see themselves in the pages of a book. We also know that books can offer a window into experiences that are different from our own. When we Read in Color and share diverse books, understanding, empathy, and justice can grow.

More than 2,000 individuals have signed our Read in Color pledge to show their support for diverse books. Go to LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color to add your name!



ON THE COVER & ABOVE: Local residents choose books from the first Read in Color library, unveiled in Minneapolis. Photos by Anna Min of Min Enterprises Photography.

First Little Free Library Arrives at the South Pole

It's official: There are now Little Free Libraries on every continent! The first Little Free Library in Antarctica was established by Dr. Russell Schnell at the South Pole.

Dr. Schnell—an atmospheric scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on climate change—built the Little Free Library at his home in Boulder, Colorado, then shipped it to the South Pole, where he had previously worked.

The little library, charter #115933, is located inside NOAA's Atmospheric Research Observatory and brings a sense of community and figurative warmth to the inhospitable environment.

"Books with photos of colorful trees, warm deserts, water, beaches, wheat fields, and animals and birds are popular at the South Pole," Dr. Schnell said. "Everything else is white for hundreds of miles in all directions."



Photo by Yuya Makino



Impact Library Program

Our Impact Library Program provides Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved areas across the country. More than 1,250 Impact packages have been granted to date. A recent recipient, Stanbridge University, installed their little library at the Illumination Foundation's multi-service center in Southern California, which serves individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

"The Little Free Library has been a nice surprise for families," said Andrew Castillo, the Associate Manager of Family Programs. "Families experiencing homelessness visit the center to receive supportive services, and are thrilled to find the unexpected Little Free Library and have the opportunity to select books for their children. Illumination Foundation is grateful to house this incredible resource for the children in our program and the community at large."

The Impact Library Program is made possible by individual donors and partner organizations who share a vision for spreading the joy and power of sharing books. Learn more about how you can support this program at LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact.



Little Free Library®
Unbound

Little Free Library Unbound

You're invited! Join us for "Little Free Library Unbound," our new digital-event series connecting stewards, supporters, and book-lovers of all kinds to chat about literacy, book-sharing, stewardship, and more.

Attendees have the opportunity to submit questions for our guest panelists. Previous guests include beloved children's book author, Kate DiCamillo; owner of Black Garnet Books, Dionne Sims; and Little Free Library super steward, Professor Heather Butts.

To register to attend the next live episode of Little Free Library Unbound, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org/lfl-unbound.



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Library of Distinction: Dana Point, CA

"I wanted a library for years. I set out to accomplish my dream by finding a lumber yard and convincing a master carver to help me! I think all Little Free Libraries across the country are beacons of hope...The best feeling in the world is looking out my window and seeing a family with big smiles picking out books together."

— Shelly Berryman, Little
"Tree" Library #94322



Keep in touch    
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Little Free Libraries Bring Book Access and Joy



Little Free Library book-sharing boxes are symbols of hope in an extremely challenging time. They provide essential book access while many schools and public libraries are closed. They boost reading motivation during a distanced school year. And they signal to community members that we're all in this together—even when we have to be apart.

Forty percent of Little Free Library volunteer stewards report that more children and families are using their libraries since the pandemic began. Our Impact Library Program, which grants no-cost Little Free Libraries to high-need areas, is seeing a surge in activity as well. In fact, the number of applicants has doubled! We want to fulfill as many requests as possible, but we need your support.

You can help us bring Little Free Libraries and diverse books to neighborhoods where they are needed most. Please donate online at LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate or by using the enclosed envelope.



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