



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **2020 World Literacy Award Presented to Little Free Library**

Hudson, WI (April 21, 2020) – The Little Free Library nonprofit organization is honored to receive the 2020 World Literacy Award for its significant contribution to global literacy. The award was presented by the World Literacy Foundation at their online World Literacy Summit.

Andrew Kay, CEO of the World Literacy Foundation, explains that this award aims to celebrate the work and impact of Little Free Library around the globe. Mr. Kay said, “In the current crisis, literacy has never been more important with the disadvantaged children lacking access to books and educational resources. Today, 91% of children are not currently attending school.”

Little Free Library inspires a love of reading and improves book access by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. With more than 100,000 registered book-sharing boxes in over 100 countries, Little Free Library helps to exchange tens of millions of books annually.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the World Literacy Foundation for Little Free Library’s work in expanding book access,” said Greig Metzger, Little Free Library’s executive director. “The timing of this announcement couldn’t be any better as this is Volunteer Appreciation Week in the US. For without our wonderful volunteer stewards supporting our network here at home and across the globe, none of this would be possible.”

“That is not to say the job is done, because we have more to do,” Metzger continued. “The world continues to have places where access to books is limited by one’s home address.”

It is reported that two out of three children living in poverty have no books to call their own, and children growing up in homes without books are on average three years behind children in homes with lots of books. Little Free Library strives to place libraries where they can benefit underserved youth through their Impact Library Program, an initiative that grants no-cost little libraries full of books to applicants.

“We believe that access to books should not be limited to where you live, rather, we believe that book access, the opportunity to read and to grow to one’s full potential is a right, not a privilege,” said Metzger.

Worldwide 770 million people cannot read a single word, while another 2 billion people struggle to read a full sentence. Illiteracy is a global crisis, and the World Literacy Foundation educates people on the benefit of acquiring even basic literacy skills. The cycle begins with a child struggling to read, progressing into an adult who struggles with literacy and as a result becomes a victim of issues relating to unemployment, crime and wellbeing.

This award was presented to Little Free Library by the World Literacy Foundation along with other awards presented to individuals and initiatives around the world for their contributions to global education.

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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 has received recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation and others for its dedication to expanding book access for all. There are 100,000 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide; through them more than 165 million books have been shared. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org).

**About the World Literacy Summit:** The online World Literacy Summit (WLS) brings together leaders from 85 countries representing over two-thirds of the world's population, and all with a single focus—advocating, championing and educating on the vital importance of improving literacy levels across the globe. For more information about the WLS please visit [www.worldliteracysummit.org](http://www.worldliteracysummit.org)

**About the World Literacy Foundation:** The World Literacy Foundation (WLF) strives to ensure that every young individual, regardless of geographic location, has the opportunity to acquire literacy and reading skills to reach their full potential, succeed at school and beyond. The WLF works to provide free access to quality education materials and innovative solutions that target wide-scale illiteracy. Please visit [www.worldliteracyfoundation.org](http://www.worldliteracyfoundation.org) for more information.



*A Little Free Library in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Additional images available upon request.*