



**Little Free Library®**  
Take a Book. Share a Book.

# Little Free Library® News

Sharing Books Since 2009

Fall 2022



## Look Inside for...

- 150,000th Little Free Library
- Big book giveaways
- LFL's new office
- 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.



## We've Moved!

This summer, the LFL office moved from Hudson, Wisconsin, to St. Paul, Minnesota. Our new mailing address is 2327 Wycliff Street, Suite 220, St. Paul, MN 55114. While we'll miss the birthplace of the Little Free Library nonprofit, our new location in the Wycliff Building allows us to be part of the city's Creative Enterprise Zone and connects us with a thriving nonprofit community. Almost all of our boxes are unpacked!

## What's in Store

Did you know every purchase from the Little Free Library online store supports our programs like Read in Color and the Impact Library Program?

Visit our shop to see new library models and accessories, including a Composite Schoolhouse Library, made from maintenance-free plastic lumber and modeled after a one-room schoolhouse (and the first-ever Little Free Library!), or the Add On Bench, which can be added to any existing Little Free Library if you want to invite patrons to sit and stay awhile.



# A Letter from Our Executive Director

Greetings to all our Little Free Library friends and advocates!

As organizations evolve over time, it is important that they take the conscious effort to look ahead and consider the future. Our board and staff recently concluded that exercise to create the strategic plan to guide our future. I would like to share with you its key points.

Rest assured that this plan builds on the long history of support and engagement from our volunteer stewards and is not straying away from that legacy. Our strategic goal is to amplify that impact by **placing and sustaining a book-sharing box in every book desert in the United States over the next three years**. We estimate that to be 2,500 locations. How will we do this? There are three key priorities.

**Expand Our Partnerships.** We are fortunate to work with great organizations and companies. We will strive to grow that roster both nationally and at the community level to accelerate library placement, community relevant book distribution, and ongoing sustainability.

**Grow Volunteer Participation.** Our volunteer stewards have been instrumental to our presence. We will strive to build on that success by recruiting new volunteers with new tools and service opportunities. These added hands will allow us to expand book access in under-resourced communities.

**Build Capacity.** Our mobile application is an example of the types of tools we will invest in to facilitate connections across the Little Free Library network. We will do more. We will also invest in people to help build the programs, coordinate volunteers, and engage financial support.

Together, with your participation, we believe we can grow equitable book access across our county. We welcome you to join us on the journey.

Peace,

M. Greig Metzger  
Executive Director



## Little Free Library Welcomes All



Alaina L. knows how important it is for kids to see themselves in the pages of a book from her work at We Need Diverse Books. She recently fulfilled her dream of becoming a Little Free Library steward.

"My wife and I just bought a house and I have always wanted to have a Little Free Library. I've wanted to fill one with diverse books. Some of the few in our first stack are *Grown* by Tiffany D. Jackson, *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green, and *Mad Bad and Dangerous to Know* by Samira Ahmed," she says.

ON THE COVER: A steward in the Bay Area celebrates a new Read in Color Little Free Library.



## Read in Color

Our **Read in Color** diverse books initiative recently launched in the San Francisco Bay Area, Denver, and New Orleans! It will soon arrive in Portland and Miami to help amplify BIPOC and LGBTQ+ voices through books.

“Diverse books encourage people to open their minds and hearts to new perspectives, which in turn foster genuine conversations and new friendships. Providing access to diverse books provides a critical and beautiful pathway toward true celebration and inclusivity. Books are power, and people with books are powerful!” said Bay Area steward Hayriye I.

By the end of this year, we will have shared 40,000 diverse books and 200 libraries through the Read in Color program.

*Learn more about how you can get involved and sign the Read in Color pledge at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color).*

## Big Book Giveaways

This year, we’ve provided Little Free Library stewards with more free books than ever before!

Each month, our friends at Good Morning America offer their book-club pick to 150 lucky Little Free Library stewards, like Kimberly K. (pictured here). We’re also fortunate to work closely with our publishing partners. In honor of Banned Books Week in September, HarperCollins Children’s Publishing gifted 1,000 of their banned or challenged books to LFL stewards.



We also host a Steward Book Directory with book opportunities at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/books](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/books). And, of course, we offer our popular monthly book giveaways through our e-newsletter and social media platforms. Be sure to sign up for the e-newsletter and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter!



## Impact Library Program

Thanks to your support, we grant Little Free Libraries and books to underserved neighborhoods across the United States and Canada through our **Impact Library Program**. We recently granted a library to the Lake Erie Candy Company, located in Erie, Pennsylvania, where 25% of the population lives in poverty. A Title 1 elementary school is nearby the sweetshop's book-sharing box.

"Education is the cornerstone of a thriving community and we're excited to provide a safe environment to make reading available," said Impact Library recipient Greg Fornalczyk. "Reading was my safe place as a child growing up in a tough neighborhood. It's important to share with the community when given the opportunity and the Little Free Library enables us to contribute in a positive way."

Our monthly Impact Library Program grants are made possible by individual donors and partner organizations dedicated to spreading the joy and power of reading.

*Learn how you can help this program thrive at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact).*

## Download the LFL App!

We’re proud to offer a mobile app that makes it easy to find a Little Free Library near you! This app is available for download on iOS and Android devices.

Visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org/app](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/app).



**Library of Distinction: Phoenix, Arizona**

“Welcome to The Sharing Saguaro! ¡Bienvenido al Saguaro Compartido! Our cactus little library has four book sections so there’s something for all readers! We have a free plant/seed stand too (Need a plant? Take a plant. Have a plant? Leaf a plant.) and an arts/crafts/school supply box.”

—Danica Tuxbury,  
Little Free Library #11009  
(Instagram photo: @jamiesbookmark)



Keep in touch    

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# 150,000 Little Free Libraries



With your support, we granted the world’s 150,000th Little Free Library to a Head Start center in Lebanon, Tennessee! This little library was supplied with 1,000 children’s books from our nonprofit organization to keep local kids excited about reading.

**Little Free Libraries help create equitable book access. But we need to do more.**

45% of our nation’s children live in neighborhoods that lack public libraries or in homes where books are an unaffordable luxury. With your help, we can bring Little Free Libraries full of books to these communities. Please give now. Donate by using the enclosed envelope or online at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate).



The 150,000th library stands at Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency's Head Start location in Lebanon, TN.

You can put books in kids’ hands today. **Thank you for your support!**