



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

Little Free Library® News

Fall 2026



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 Library book-sharing boxes.

Look Inside for...

- New Indigenous Library Program research
- Banned Books Week info
- Read in Color cohort update
- And more!

A colorful illustration for National Little Free Library Day. The background is green with stylized trees and flowers. In the center, the text "NATIONAL LITTLE FREE LIBRARY DAY" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a white sign reads "MAY 17TH". Surrounding the text are various characters and Little Free Libraries: a boy in a blue jacket and hat holding a book, a girl in a red shirt and purple skirt running with a book, an elderly woman in a yellow coat holding an open book, and a man and a woman sitting on a bench reading. There are four Little Free Library bookshelves of different colors (red, purple, green, and blue) scattered around. A small yellow sun is also visible.

Heartwarming Little Free Library Stories

- *Spreading Hope and Healing One Book at a Time: The Jena-Marie Literacy Project*
- *Little Free Library Steward's Post Showing Excited Young Reader's Reaction to New Book Goes Viral*
- *More Than Books: A Special Keepsake Found in a Little Free Library Launched an Unexpected Journey*

A Letter from Our Executive Director & CEO

In my previous letter to you, I celebrated our Impact Library Program's benefit to communities by increasing access to books where they are needed most. Today, I want to lift up how the program also brings joy, delight, and connection to the community.

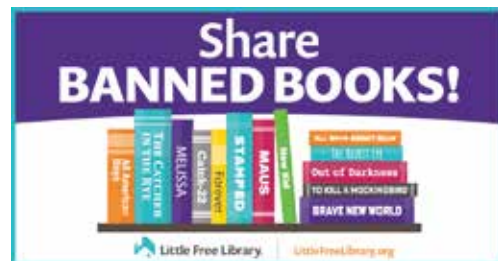
Sima recounted the many ways that she connects with her community across generations around the joy of reading. This included the delight that both a single father and his young daughter experience visiting Sima's Little Free Library every day.

Over my first year leading Little Free Library, Sima's story and many others like it have convinced me of the importance of joy, delight, and connection to community to our organization's work.

Daniel Gumnit
Executive Director & CEO



Expanding access to books is at the heart of our mission. The rise of book bans in America goes against our organization's core values. That's why we're preparing for Banned Books Week October 4-10, 2026! Learn more at lflib.org/bbw. Here's how you can get involved:



- **Share a banned book in a Little Free Library.** Snap a photo, and post it on social media with #bannedbooksweek. Don't forget to tag Little Free Library!
- **Download the LFL mobile app.** If you are a steward who shares banned books, turn on the Banned Books tag for your library. If you are a patron, filter your search by the Banned Books tag to find book-sharing boxes near you that champion this issue.
- **Check out our book ban map!** This map shows the areas hardest hit by book bans and corresponding Little Free Library locations. Use the map to take action and share banned books in little libraries: lflib.org/book-ban-map.



Read in Color®

2026 Cohort Updates

In January, we welcomed a new cohort of Read in Color partners to begin the work of launching the program in six new cities spanning from the East Coast to the West Coast. Together, our cohort members are installing vibrant networks of Read in Color Little Free Libraries in their communities. Learn more about our 2026 cohort members at lflib.org/2026-ric-cohort.

Above image: Community members in Attapulgus, GA, celebrate their new library with a ribbon cutting alongside cohort member Alicia Hurtt of I See My Baby.

Partner Updates

While our 2026 cohort members are getting just started, the great work continues with those who came before them!



In Houston, Cincinnati, and the Twin Cities, our partners are installing additional Read in Color libraries to serve even more community members.

Left: At Harrington Elementary School and other installations in Philadelphia, Global Shapers Philadelphia volunteers continue to restock libraries with books as the community finds titles they're excited to read.

Your Support Matters

In 2025, we granted 643 Little Free Libraries and 102,000+ books through our programs, thanks to your support!

Will you help us increase equitable access to books in 2026? Donate today!



Scan to donate

Impact Library Program



This spring we celebrated 10 years of our Impact Library Program! Through this program, we grant book-sharing boxes full of books to communities where books are scarce.

To mark the 10-year anniversary, we reached out to a handful of Impact stewards to learn how their library has influenced their community. One of the stewards we heard from was Sima H. of Decatur, GA, who recently attended a Little Free Library staff meeting to share her story with us.



Sima has had her library for more than two years and says that it's about more than books. "Being a steward feels like tending a small wooden garden of stories," Sima said. "The Little Free Library has become more than a box of

books, it is a meeting place without walls. I feel it has given my neighbors a place to pause for a moment. It sparks conversations and has made literacy visible in our neighborhood."

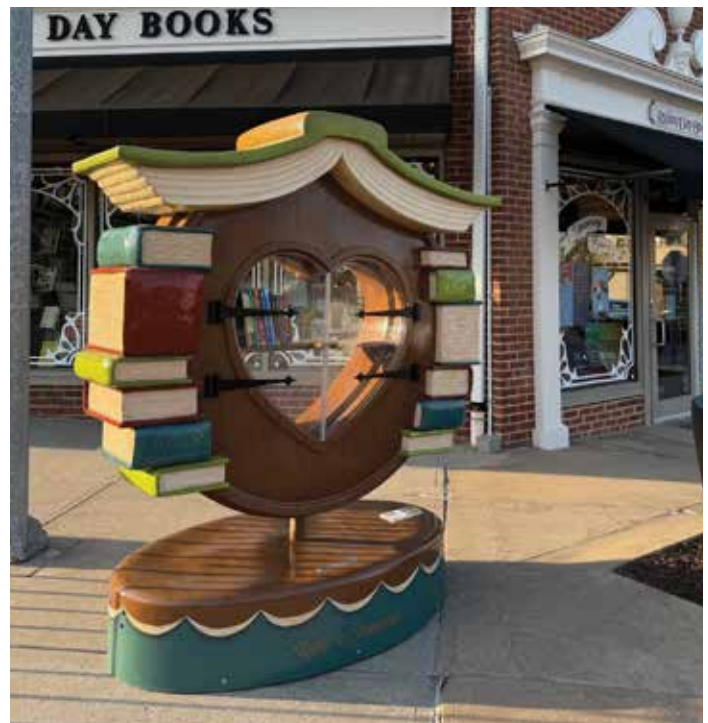
Her own love of books inspired Sima to apply for her library and share that love with her community. "I honestly believe books are living things, and they give us exactly what we need at that moment. I wanted to provide a safe space for my neighbors to read and gather."

Learn more about the Impact Library Program at lflib.org/impact.

Library of Distinction: Fairway, KS

“Read It Forward” Parade of Hearts Little Free Library #218317 was created as part of the 2026 Parade of Hearts to invite connection through the simple act of sharing a book. Parade of Hearts is a public art celebration highlighting local artists around Kansas City.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram (@littlefreelibrary), where we share cool Little Free Library designs every day. And tag us in your Little Free Library photos, which could be featured across our social media channels!



New Study: Little Free Libraries Improve Book Access and Reading in Indigenous Community



A new study on the Tohono O’odham Nation offers rare research into how expanding access to books can influence reading in Indigenous communities—and the results are striking.

The study found that Little Free Library’s Indigenous Library

Program significantly increases access to books, helps overcome major transportation barriers, and supports more frequent reading among families and children.

89% of respondents say they have access to more books because of Little Free Library book-sharing boxes, and over one-third of families with children report reading more since using the book boxes.

Jordan Evans, CEO and Executive Director of the Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF), and a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, said access to culturally relevant stories is especially meaningful for children in the community.

“Any time we can weave in Native literature, it really instills a sense of pride in the children,” Evans said. “And that pride transcends into so many other success stories—whether it be education, whether it be prevention. The building of that pride is something we want to do everything we can to contribute towards. These stories of relatable characters and these authors who have gone on to do creative, wonderful things—they really help.”

Learn more about the study at lflib.org/inlp-study-2026.



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Keep in touch



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Front cover: Children of the Tohono O’odham Nation visit one of the reservation’s Little Free Libraries.



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