



## *Rotary Little Free Library™ Centennial Project*

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **What is a Little Free Library?**

Little Free Library, Inc. is a worldwide movement to promote literacy and build community. It began in Hudson, Wisconsin, when one man built a tiny, one-room school house library and installed it on his front lawn to honor his mother and her love of reading. His idea caught on and spread. As of January 2013, there are over 5,000 Little Free Libraries in 35 countries around the world.

#### **How does Little Free Library work?**

The Little Free Library operates on the concept of "Take a Book, Leave a Book." Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations build and install free-standing Little Free Libraries, stock them with books, and invite the neighbors "take a book and leave a book." The Little Free Library serves as a neighborhood gathering place where neighbors share books and conversation, and build community.

If someone finds a book they'd like to keep, that's perfectly okay. If they have books they'd like to put into the library to share with others, that's okay, too. If they'd like to write a note in a book to share why they liked it, that's wonderful!

There are no check-out procedures and no late fees. The goal of the Little Free Library is simply to share good books.

#### **Why is the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne involved in the Little Free Library movement?**

The Rotary Club of Fort Wayne will celebrate its Centennial in 2015. Club members were looking for a local service project that would help them celebrate 100 years of "Service Above Self." The mission and goals of Little Free Library, Inc. was a perfect fit with the Rotary's mission to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship.

The Rotary Club of Fort Wayne set a goal to sponsor the installation of 100 Little Free Libraries throughout the community by June 2015. The Club's the first of those 100 libraries on July 16, 2013 at Washington Elementary School – and invited the community to partner with the Club to install 99 more.

**I'm interested in becoming a Rotary Little Free Library partner. How does the process work?**

It's really easy. You'll need to complete a Rotary partner/steward form with your contact information and the proposed location of your library so Rotary can begin the process of getting your library officially registered. Then you just have to build (or buy) and install your Little Free Library.

**I have no carpentry skills. Do I have to build my own library? Can I buy a library already assembled? Can someone help me build my library?**

The Rotary Club of Fort Wayne can't build your library for you but we have ways to help. If you want to buy a completely assembled library, we can provide you links to websites that have libraries for sale. If you want to build your own library, the Club can provide basic building plans. If you don't have any carpentry skills, the Club can provide connections to resources for acquiring pre-cut kits for you to assemble and paint.

**Do all Little Free Libraries have to look the same?**

Definitely not! Creativity is most definitely encouraged. Your Little Free Library should reflect the interests and personality of the person, family, or organization that built it.

**What does Rotary provide to partners?**

In addition to providing links to resources to assist you to acquire/build your Little Free Library, the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne will provide partners with:

- Paid \$35 Little Free Library registration fee so your library is registered with Little Free Library, Inc. and your library is included on the worldwide database of libraries
- Official Little Free Library charter sign
- Rotary Club of Fort Wayne centennial logo for your mounting post
- "Starter" packet of 10 free books to stock your Little Free Library
- Inclusion on Rotary Little Free Library Facebook page
- A joint press release to help publicize your Little Free Library

**What are my responsibilities as a partner?**

As a Rotary Little Free Library partner are to:

- Build (or purchase) and install their Little Free Library
- Be a good Little Free Library steward by maintaining their library in good order and keeping it stocked with books
- Affix the official Little Free Library charter sign to your Little Free Library
- Affix the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne centennial logo to your mounting post

**How can I (or my organization) become a Rotary Little Free Library Partner?**

It's easy to become a partner. Just contact Candace Schuler, Chair of the Little Free Library Project of the Fort Wayne Rotary Club at 260-418-6142 or [clschuler@comcast.net](mailto:clschuler@comcast.net) and she'll send you all the information you need to get started.