

# **“Little” Little Free Library Initiative**

## **Building a Brighter Beloit Through Literacy** *A Family Services Collaborative Community Project*

### **Certificate of Acceptance**

#### Overview

The goal of this project is to increase childhood literacy and parent-child bonding through reading. The project relies on a wide range of community partners to build, install, and maintain miniature libraries that can be easily accessed by the community. While there are numerous little free libraries throughout Beloit, this project is an intentional effort to make sure that all areas of the city have access to these books, especially children’s books. This project is in many ways consistent with the goals and expectations of the Little Free Library organization. They are an excellent resource and we encourage consideration of joining their organization and registering your library. (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>)

Since this is not a new concept, we have the luxury of learning from those who have walked this path before us. We are asking that as a participant in this project you commit to supporting/complying with the time and experience proven recommendations listed below. Here’s what we’re requesting:

#### Location and placement of the Brighter Beloit Little Libraries

- Place in high priority locations (that is, where children are present and can easily reach)
- Securely mount the library to prevent injury and promote longevity (e.g., set on 4x4 post(s) that are set in concrete below frost line)
- Do not block pedestrian traffic

#### Design of the structures

- Constructed with “safe materials” (e.g., no glass [Plexiglas ok], no sharp edges, no pinching latches)
- Welcoming and attractive to children
- Provides dry storage for books
- Requires low maintenance/uses weather proof design
- Easily accessible to children – door opens easily, height is accessible.

#### Content

- Keep the libraries full with appropriate books– with a priority on children’s books
- Remove “stagnant books” (e.g., Chilton’s auto repair manual for a 1976 Ford Pinto).

- Encourage references to the “big library” – bookmarks will be available to the hosts for inclusion in the books.
- Reference to host (optional)
- Reference to Family Services collaborative community project

Stewardship of the little library

- Monitor the library at least weekly to
  - Ensure adequately stocked with appropriate books (on-going help stocking libraries will be available)
  - Check for damage/maintenance needs
  - Address on-going maintenance needs
- Identify successor steward so that if the current steward is unable to continue, there is a successor that will quickly assume responsibility for the library. (Stewards should be specific individuals and not an organization).
- Submit a brief annual report to Family Services – in order to keep the momentum going, we would appreciate feedback on the neighborhood’s response to the library/initiative. We would like to hear comments (both pro and con), suggestions for improvements (including additional locations), and any needs you may have. These should be sent to John at Family Services (416 College Street, 365-1244; [jpfleiderer@familyservices1.org](mailto:jpfleiderer@familyservices1.org))

**Approval of Certificate of Acceptance**

I have read the above expectations and accept them as reasonable expectations and as my responsibility for ensuring the success of this project in improving literacy in Beloit.

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Organization

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

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Email

