

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STARK JFS JOINS LITTLE FREE LIBRARY, DISTRIBUTES BOOKS FOR KIDS

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job and Family Services is pleased to announce that they have connected with the Little Free Library book exchange to host a free book-sharing box in their main lobby at 221 3rd St. SE, Canton, Ohio 44702. The agency joins more than 150,000 locations worldwide in a commitment to increase literacy by removing barriers to book access and encouraging children to read. Children's books targeting ages 2 to 11 years old will be distributed through the book box.

"We are very excited to present our Little Free Library book-sharing box to the community," said Deborah Forkas, M.Ed, Executive Director of Stark County Job and Family Services. "Reading together as a family and introducing books to a child at a young age can help instill a love of reading that will follow them through the rest of their life. We hope to see many families participate in the book exchange."

The Little Free Library is a low maintenance book exchange that is easily accessible to all Stark County residents. Families can borrow a book for as long as they need it, then exchange it for another when they are finished reading it. There is no membership or check out process.

"Reading books with your child is beneficial to their development and it is a great opportunity to spend quality time together," said Rob Pierson, Deputy Director of Child Support. "Our Fatherhood Coalition was contacted by the national Little Free Library organization to select five sites in Stark County to be presented the Little Free Library boxes at the Hall of Fame Village's Fatherhood Festival in June. To honor that connection the book sharing boxes were decorated with the message 'Dadication to Reading', to impress the importance of fathers reading to their children. The other four sites receiving Little Free Library boxes at the Fatherhood Festival were the Aim Academy at Belden in Canton, Levels Barber College in Canton, Family Empowerment Ministries in Alliance, and the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon."

Books distributed through the book-sharing box were collected entirely through staff donations. The public is invited to contribute to the library by leaving donations in the book-sharing box, dropping them off to the Division of Child Support, or calling 330-451-8945.

The Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization with the mission 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. Book-sharing boxes can be found in 50 U.S. states and 112 countries. More than 250 million books have been shared through registered Little Free Libraries. For more information, visit www.littlefreelibrary.org.

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