

Funding for Little Free Libraries

*See How One Idaho Librarian Brought Together Her Community
and Found Funding!*

After reading all about Little Free Libraries, you have been inspired to spawn Little Free Libraries of your own. The only trouble is... how will you find the funding? This is often a real stumbling block for many Little Free Library entrepreneurs. Natalie Nation, Branch Manager of the Meridian Library was determined to give children in her area more access to books and thought Little Free Libraries were the perfect medium to do so. See below how she went about the process and some of her suggestions for new Little Free Library producers!

Proposal

Natalie developed a proposal (can be seen on the page 3 of this document,) for Little Free Libraries or, LFL and called to set up a meeting with a store manager of her local Home Depot store. Home Depot agreed to supply the materials for SIX Little Free Libraries and also connected Natalie with an Eagle High School special education teacher, John Hardy. John Hardy's class cut all of the plywood and materials to the appropriate sizes and established Little Free Library kits.

"The more that it comes from the community the better it is!"

- Natalie Nation, Meridian Library Branch Manager

- Little Free Library plaques were purchased by Natalie to thank all partners and so she could register the new Little Free Libraries on a world map!
- Enlist the help of your local Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts or High Schools for assistance in preparing kits
- Library friends groups can also help with funding and volunteering!
- Create an application process for people to be "Little Free Library hosts," available through your library website. Natalie chose applicants based on their geographic areas where she thought there was the most need.

Building Day



Sponsored by Read to Me, a program of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. libraries.idaho.gov/readtome

November 16-22, 2014

IDAHO FAMILY READING WEEK



Host a building day where the applicants that have been selected and other volunteers can build their own little free libraries and decorate them too! Once you start building more people will become interested so Natalie suggests having a couple of extra library kits ready to go.

- Make those who turn want to be Little Free Library Hosts agree to come build their own LFL
- Host on a weekend or a day that is easy for the entire community to come together and join in on the fun!
- Each new LFL was given a seed collection of children and teen books from the books given to the Meridian Library from the Idaho Commission for Libraries.
- Whenever Meridian Library has a book sale Little Free Library owners are free to add or swap out their collection free of charge,

Results

The communities in the Meridian area who were blessed to be given a Little Free Library are doing very well and continue to maintain their collections. Two of the LFLs are run by elementary school librarians and teachers. One LFL even runs its own summer reading program packed with prizes, reading logs and reading lists to boot!



 **IDAHO FAMILY READING WEEK**
Sponsored by Read to Me, a program of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. libraries.idaho.gov/readtome

November 16-22, 2014



Little Free Library, Home Depot, and Meridian Library District Partnership Proposal

Little free libraries are popping up all across the world. These libraries are freestanding cupboards holding books which are installed in lawns and parks. They help greatly increase access to books in neighborhoods and parks. Little free libraries can be purchased as kits or built with recycled materials and are a wonderful do-it-yourself project. They allow people to create community and have a lasting impact wherever they are placed.



The Meridian Library District wants to foster the creation of little free libraries by enabling Meridian residents to create them and place them around their community. We plan to place little free libraries in parks and other community areas. They will provide free books and also free digital content, such as ebooks. Access to books is directly correlated with future success. We believe that little free libraries will give citizens the ability to greatly increase access to books. This will result in improved literacy and greater academic success for Meridian children.



Why partner with the library?

Home Depot supports do-it-yourself projects and community engagement. It is evident that you value learning by your free workshops for children and families.

We can work together to create little free libraries across the community. Each library can hold a plaque honoring the support of Home Depot and the Meridian Library District, giving both of our institutions a lasting legacy in the community. Both institutions will receive positive publicity for the project from news and media outlets. This will help bolster the images of both Home Depot and the Meridian Library as places to go to for DIY projects and lifelong learning.

How can we work together?

Our options are endless. We can work together to provide workshops, or Home Depot can choose to donate materials in whole or part, or we can apply for a grant to fund the project. I see a number of opportunities for collaboration which will yield a lasting impact for both Home Depot and the community.

<http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/>

www.mld.org



IDAHO FAMILY READING WEEK
Sponsored by Read to Me, a program of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. libraries.idaho.gov/readtome

November 16-22, 2014

