



THE LITERACY LINK

APRIL / MAY 2020

PROMOTING LITERACY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

While the arrival of COVID-19 has shuttered schools and temporarily halted our in-person programs for both children and adults, our commitment to those we have the privilege to serve is stronger than ever.

We know there is a great disparity between the education experience of the children in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and their peers in more affluent communities and this crisis has only exacerbated the divide. We also know that in these communities there is only one age-appropriate book for every 300 children and 61% of families have no books at home.

This is one of the primary reasons we have shifted our focus at this time to book distribution. Because many of the children we serve participate in the free meal distribution programs implemented by Cincinnati Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club, and Read Ready Covington, we have worked in tandem with them to provide books to their children and families during this unprecedented time.

Since our first COVID-19 response book distribution in mid-March, we have distributed over 13,000 books and are committed to providing books through our network of Little Free Libraries and our community partners throughout the summer and beyond.

COMMUNITY WIDE BOOK DRIVE

In collaboration with Blue Manatee Literacy Project and WordPlay, we are encouraging our neighbors to donate books to supplement our efforts. If you have gently used children's books to donate, please contact Liz at Liz.Asman@LNGC.org to coordinate pick-up. If you would like to make a donation to support our efforts, [please click here](#).

We greatly appreciate your help as we promote literacy in safe and strategic ways!



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all the tutors, character coaches, and teachers for generously sharing their time and talents for the benefit of the adults and children we serve. This past year alone we trained 1,372 new volunteers! We know that next school year will look different than in years past, but we are working with our school partners and will keep our volunteers abreast of those developments.





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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Over the last few weeks we have been checking in with all of our Little Free Library (LFL) stewards and received feedback from many that the use of their LFL has increased significantly since COVID-19. Over 1,600 books have been distributed to different LFLs throughout the city. If you are interested in becoming a steward [Click Here](#) to fill out the form on our website.

Jessica Thayer: "We have recently used our library to also distribute voting information, sidewalk chalk, and coloring pages for a local Easter Egg Hunt."

LaDonna Duffey: "The Little library has been a blessing. The excitement is overwhelming, we truly appreciate the opportunity to take part, thanks again."

RESTART KITS KEEP STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS & STAFF SAFE

We recently received a RESTART Kit from the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber which contains hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and masks. Kits are free to Chamber members and are provided through a collaboration with Procter & Gamble Co., CVG and Brain Brew Custom Bourbon at Eureka! Thank you for providing these critical supplies so that we can focus on our mission and keep our volunteers, students and staff safe.



BUSAM SUBARU "SHARES THE LOVE"

Thanks to board member, John Busam, for selecting us again as the Busam Subaru "Share the Love" recipient. This year's event raised \$31,702, bringing the three year total to \$82,408! We are grateful to John for this platform to raise funds for our programs and share our mission with your customers.

SUMMER LEARNING & FUN FOR STUDENTS AT RESURRECTION

Through the generosity of the SC Ministry Foundation, which promotes the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, we are excited to provide all Resurrection students in grades K-3, who participate in the Children's Basic Reading Program, with fun summer packs. On May 15th, we distributed these pack filled with specially selected books, activity pads, kinetic sand, jump ropes, and more! Thank you, SC Ministry Foundation!

