



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS WORK WITH COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE BOOKS TO STUDENTS**

**Millersville, Maryland** – Your Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighters are pleased to announce the expansion of their Little Libraries program to locations throughout the County. Serving on the front lines throughout the pandemic, your Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighters uniquely recognize the incredible challenges local families continue to face.

By providing access to books - and the stories they contain - we hope to bring families together while empowering our children as they continue on their learning journeys. This project was conceived by Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighter Brian Holtslander who designed and painted the boxes - with his daughter as his assistant - over the course of the last year.

“I interact with Citizens every day in my capacity as a Fire Fighter/Paramedic,” said Anne Arundel County Professional FireFighter Brian Holtslander. “at the end of our shift, it’s hard to just shut down and not take that commitment home with us. I want every child to have access to the books and the messages of inspiration they contain, especially in these times.”

The newest Little Library will be located in the Robinwood Community in Annapolis. The location was chosen in partnership with STAIR-Annapolis, an Anne Arundel County nonprofit.

“STAIR-Annapolis is thrilled to be a part of this important initiative of the Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighters,” said Laura Iversen, Executive Director of STAIR-

Annapolis. “Community collaboration is vital to our organization’s mission, and we’re so excited for the installation of the new Little Free Library at Robinwood, where readers of all ages will be able to find books to help spark imaginations, feed curiosity, and discover the joy of reading.”

This Little Library complements the Fire Fighter’s original Little Library, in partnership with the Maryland Family Network, located on West Street in front of the Department of Human Services. Additional Little Libraries will be placed throughout the County in the coming months.

**About Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighters/IAFF Local 1563:**

The Mission of the IAFF Local 1563 is to affirm public goodwill of the Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighters in order to support our members in providing the best level of service for the citizens of Anne Arundel County. Headquartered in Millersville, Maryland, the IAFF Local 1563 represents nearly 900 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics who serve and protect the 568,000 citizens of Anne Arundel County.

**About STAIR-Annapolis:** Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR)-Annapolis is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving more than 100 second graders in Anne Arundel County each year. STAIR’s mission is to increase the reading level of second graders reading below grade level, to increase students’ sense of self-esteem and self-confidence, and to provide a caring environment where reading is fun. With a team of over 250 dedicated volunteer reading tutors and in partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and community organizations, STAIR operates at 12 elementary schools and community centers throughout the Annapolis cluster and greater Anne Arundel County. To learn more, visit [www.stairannapolis.org](http://www.stairannapolis.org).

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