

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Little Free Libraries of Oshkosh

*Miniature libraries built by high school students pop up in community*

Oshkosh, WI—Celebrate Education, an annual event that honors the educators, administrators and volunteers in our schools, is just around the corner. Last year, a Celebrate Education grant was awarded by Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh to the Oshkosh North High School Vocational Skills Class for their program, Little Free Libraries.

“Because of the Little Free Libraries program, the Vocational Skills class has gone above and beyond giving back to their community,” says Jill Williams, an advisor at Oshkosh North High School. “They’ve advanced their communication skills by setting up

meetings with the Oshkosh Parks Director and the Oshkosh Parks Advisory Board, as well as improving life skills such as reading a tape measure, completing purchase orders and learning about various building materials—wood, paint, stain, plexi-glass, screws and other tools.

Little Free Libraries originated in 2009 in the front yard of Todd Bol’s house, a Wisconsin man that wanted to pay tribute to his mother, a teacher and an avid reader. Bol designed a miniature schoolhouse atop a wooden post that could house a small amount of books. The idea behind Little Free Libraries is for people to find one in their community, bring a book to put in the library to share with others, and take a new one to read. This program has since spread across the United States and into neighborhoods all over the world.

“I never thought I would get up in front of my class and be able to communicate a need for these Little Free Libraries, let alone talk to the city to request and receive permission for this program,” said Anthony Wegenke, a student in the Vocational Skills class at Oshkosh North High School. “Who knew it was so simple?”



Little Free Libraries such as the ones pictured here can be found in Roe Park in front of the Downtown YMCA location and at Service Oil on Omro Road.



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The Oshkosh North Vocational Skills class built 10 Little Free Libraries in the community over the past year. Since then, Williams said she has seen at least six more libraries pop up around town. To learn more about Little Free Libraries and where you can find one, visit [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

Celebrate Education is an annual event hosted by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in partnership with the Oshkosh Area School District, Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and Wisconsin Public Service Foundation. This year's Celebrate Education will be held at the Oshkosh Area Convention Center on March 23, 2015 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Register online at [oshkoshareacf.org](http://oshkoshareacf.org) or call 920-426-3993 by March 18. Join us in recognizing our exceptional educators, innovative administrators and dedicated volunteers who enrich the lives of students in our community.

*The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization created by and for the people of Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon. Through charitable giving, the Community Foundation strives to make our communities thrive. For more information, please call 920-426-3993.*

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