

## **PRESS RELEASE-REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **United Way of Susquehanna County and its Community Partners, Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center, Clifford Township and Daydreamers Child Care Celebrate the Grand Opening of Fourth Little Free Library in Clifford, PA.**

[New Milford, PA] - [March 26, 2018] - Little Free Libraries are a growing global phenomenon. The small, front-yard book exchanges number 36,000 around the world in 70 countries. Now, a new Little Free Library is available in Thompson, PA.

United Way of Susquehanna County along with its community partners, Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center, Clifford Township and Daydreamers Child Care has joined the movement to share books, bring people together and create communities of readers. A ribbon cutting ceremony for their fourth Little Free Library, which is located at the Clifford Recreational Center, (Cemetery Rd. Clifford, PA), was held on Monday, March 26, 2018th at 10AM. Special thanks to Chris Marcho, Clifford Township Supervisor, for allowing us to install the Little Free Library at their facility.

“Our Little Free Library doesn’t just belong to us, it belongs to the whole community,” says Kim Merithew, Director of Corporate and Community Giving. This initiative aligns with our goal of *Helping Children Do Well* focusing on programs that support academic readiness, mentorship, family stability and childhood wellness. “It’s our hope that this Little Free Library will bring a little more joy, a little more connection and a whole lot more books to our community”, added Dr. Alice M. Davis-Executive Director, Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center. “This will be a wonderful addition to the Clifford Recreational Center and we are excited to be a part of this community initiative” shared Chris Marcho.

One of the most successful ways to improve the reading achievement of children is to increase their access to books, especially at home (McGill-Franzen & Allington, 2009). But according to the U.S. Department of Education, up to 61% of low-income families do not have any books for their kids at home.

### **Little Free Libraries play an essential role by providing 24/7 access to books and encouraging a love of reading in areas where books are scarce.**

Anyone may contribute or take books. You can donate a book(s) by simply placing them in the Little Free Library book exchange near you. If you take a book (or two) from a Library, you do not need to return that exact book. However, in order to keep the Little Library full of good choices for the whole neighborhood, the next time you swing by the Library bring a few books to share. Little Free Library book exchanges function on the honor system; everyone contributes to ensure there are always quality books inside for both children and adults. This way, we all win!

In addition, informational pamphlets will be available to help connect the community to health and human service agencies serving Susquehanna County residents.

Susquehanna County residents are invited to visit any of the Little Free Libraries located in Thompson, Springville, Lawton and Clifford.

Special thanks are extended to the Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center Carpentry & Cabinetmaking Instructor, Bruce Castelli and his students for their expert design and craftsmanship. Under Mr. Castelli’s leadership, the students are learning lifelong, valuable skills and have created a lasting community project for many, both young and old, to enjoy. Students from SCCTC Cabinet and Carpentry Making, Auto Body and Welding all contributed to building the unit.

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Pictured from left to right: Larry Wilson, Chris Marcho, Clifford Township; Katie Valentine, Daydreamers Child Care; Tom Marin, Cameron Wasko, Joe Wright, Bruce Castelli and Dr. Alice Davis, Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center; MaryAnn Warren, County Commissioner; Robin Cobb, United Way of Susquehanna County