

For Immediate Release

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UNITED WAY OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY INSTALLS LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Pensacola, Fla. – October 19, 2018

United Way of Escambia County is now the proud host of a Little Free Library – the “take a book, leave a book,” free book exchange. The Little Free Library is located just outside the front entrance of their office at 1301 W. Government Street, Pensacola, FL 32502.

There are over 75,000 registered Little Free Libraries in 88 countries around the world. Through these libraries, tens of millions of books are exchanged each year. The first official Little Free Library was erected outside of Hudson, Wisconsin on a bike path and within a few months, thousands of people had seen the library.

The mission of this nonprofit organization is to inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

According to the Children’s Literacy Foundation, 65% of America’s fourth graders do not read at a proficient level, and 61% of low-income families do not have age-appropriate books for their children at home. Locally, the Florida Department of Education reports that only 46% of children in Escambia County are ready for kindergarten, ranking Escambia County 53rd out of 67 counties in Florida.

“Our hope is that this Little Free Library will make books accessible to our community and bring people together,” said Education Outreach and Volunteer Manager, Kristy Craig. “Ultimately, we want to encourage a lifelong love of reading, and ensure that students are reading at grade level and equipped to thrive academically,” she added.

United Way of Escambia County’s Little Free Library adds to over 40 officially registered libraries in the Pensacola area. Little Free Libraries are a valuable resource to our community, as they provide 24/7 access to books and encourage reading in areas where books may be scarce. You may find the closest library to you here: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>.

If you would like to donate books to United Way of Escambia County’s Little Free Library and join us in the fight for improving literacy in Escambia County, please contact Education Outreach and Volunteer Manager, Kristy Craig, at 850-434-3157 or kristy@unitedwayescambia.org.

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United Way of Escambia County (UWEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every citizen in our community. UWEC has operated locally for 94 years with a vision of a community United to create better opportunities for all. By investing in programs, participating in partnerships, and leveraging resources, UWEC works to meet a mission of Uniting our community to improve lives.

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