Jumpstart's Read for the Record Partners with Little Free Library to Bring Books to Neighborhoods Nationwide

10,000 Books Distributed Across Four Cities for 20th Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul, MN (October 9, 2025) – Jumpstart is partnering with Little Free Library to expand its 20th anniversary Read for the Record celebration beyond classrooms and into neighborhoods nationwide. Through this collaboration, 10,000 Read for the Record books will be distributed across Washington, DC, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and New York City via Little Free Library's network of over 200,000 volunteer-led book-exchange boxes.

The partnership enables more families to participate in the 20-week Read for the Record celebration running from October 13, 2025, through February 26, 2026. Read for the Record is the world's largest shared reading experience, uniting millions of readers to read the same book on the same day while raising awareness of the critical importance of early literacy.

"Expanding access to high-quality books requires partnerships that meet families where they are—and Little Free Library does exactly that," said Crystal Rountree, CEO of Jumpstart. "Little Free Library's incredible network of community stewards creates countless daily opportunities for children to discover books. When we join forces with organizations like Little Free Library, we multiply our impact and move closer to a world where all young children have the books and caring reading partners they need to thrive."

“We’re thrilled to team up with Jumpstart in celebrating the 20th anniversary of Read for the Record, a milestone moment for early literacy," said Daniel Gumnit, CEO, Little Free Library. "By

distributing 10,000 books through our Little Free Library network, this collaboration reflects the heart of our mission: expanding access to books and inspiring lifelong readers."

This year's featured book, *See Marcus Grow* by Marcus Bridgewater (Garden Marcus) and illustrator Reggie Brown, introduces young readers to gardening while exploring themes of curiosity, discovery, and growth.

Partnership in Action

The collaboration recently celebrated early success in Broward County, Florida, where partners distributed more than 20,000 Read for the Record books to children. Author Marcus Bridgewater visited Broward Estates Learning Center Elementary School, where students received book bundles and explored the school's new Little Free Library, stocked with books from Jumpstart's 20-year Read for the Record history.

Why It Matters

On February 26, 2026, millions of voices worldwide will unite to read *See Marcus Grow* together on the official Read for the Record Day—the culminating celebration of our 20-week journey through early literacy. This synchronized moment of shared reading creates a powerful global community committed to ensuring every child has access to high-quality books and caring reading partners.

Nearly 40% of American preschoolers enter kindergarten underprepared in critical developmental areas like language, literacy, and social-emotional skills—the foundation every child needs to become a reader and achieve academic success. Without early intervention, this gap compounds throughout their education. **Reading aloud with children multiple times a week is one of the most powerful tools families have** to build these foundational skills. Through partnerships like Little Free Library, Jumpstart provides high-quality children's books with research-based activities that families can use at home—bringing proven early literacy strategies directly to communities.

Over two decades, more than 30 million people have participated in Read for the Record. This partnership with Little Free Library ensures even more families and communities can join the celebration.

Community members can participate by visiting their local Little Free Library, ordering books at readfortherecord.org, or signing up for the Read for the Record newsletter to receive free weekly activity guides and resources. Share celebrations using #ReadForTheRecord20th and tag @JumpstartKids.

For more information, visit readfortherecord.org.

About Jumpstart For over 30 years, Jumpstart has prepared young children for kindergarten success by recruiting and training caring adults to teach foundational literacy skills in preschool

classrooms nationwide. Jumpstart has served over 209,000 children and trained more than 71,000 volunteers. Learn more at jstart.org.

About Little Free Library Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-sharing boxes. There are more than 200,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide in all 50 states, in 128 countries and on all 7 continents. Learn more at LittleFreeLibrary.org.

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