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NEWS RELEASE

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Locate and Add Little Free Libraries in Dubuque with Interactive Maps

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Finding Little Free Libraries (LFLs) in Dubuque and adding a new LFL location to a map just got easier. Two interactive maps are now available on the City of Dubuque's website allowing users to locate or add Little Free Libraries in the Dubuque community.

The maps are accessible at www.cityofdubuque.org/GIS. One map finds nearby LFLs according to the address provided, and the other map allows users to add the location, information, and picture of their own LFL. Dubuque residents will now be able to keep up to date with the Little Free Libraries locations popping up throughout Dubuque.

A Little Free Library, in its most basic form, is a small box that houses free books for anyone to take and exchange at any time. Returns and/or exchanges are not mandatory, but encouraged. Dubuque's Little Free Libraries are open to everyone regardless of income level, age, or residence. Non-residents are also welcome to participate.

Earlier this year, AmeriCorps VISTA with the Dubuque Campaign for Grade-Level Reading established five permanent Little Free Libraries at five of Dubuque's six fire stations to promote literacy and increase access to books. Additional LFL locations exist throughout the city and can now be found on the interactive map.

The worldwide movement of Little Free Libraries (LFLs) began in Wisconsin in 2009. Todd Bol built a model of a one-room schoolhouse and filled it with books free for the taking. It was

a tribute to his mother, a former school teacher with a love for books, learning, and reading. By January 2014, the total number of registered Little Free Libraries in the world was conservatively estimated to be nearly 15,000, with thousands more being built.

Since installation of LFLs at local fire stations, Dubuque has seen an increase in Little Free Libraries throughout the city. To make sure LFLs are evenly dispersed throughout the city, AmeriCorps VISTA encourages you to check the map and support LFLs already established. If there's not one within your area, get creative and build your own OR consider sponsoring a Little Free Library in an area without one! Keep reading and enjoying the LFL movement in Dubuque.

For more information about Little Free Libraries, check out "Dubuque Little Free Libraries" on Facebook or visit <http://littlefreelibrary.org>.

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