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**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YMCA and Lowe's of Northbrook Unveil "Little Free Library" and Reading Garden

Northbrook, IL – October 2016: The North Suburban YMCA now welcomes guests with a beautified outdoor space at its entry, thanks to the generous support of Lowe's of Northbrook and the Northbrook Public Library.

The centerpiece of the space is a "Little Free Library" structure created by volunteers at the Northbrook Public Library, surrounded by new landscaping with a cedar reading bench provided by Lowe's. The new space was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 20.

Little Free Libraries are small house-like structures, mounted on posts, with space for books. Community members can exchange books anytime by leaving or taking them out of the library. According to the LittleFreeLibraries.org website, there are over 40,000 of these book exchange centers promoting literacy and community connection around the world.

The YMCA was contacted by Northbrook Public Library Executive Director Kate Hall and Youth Services Director Kelly Durov, who recognized the Y's potential as an optimal Little Free Library location. "The YMCA is an important community hub with lots of people coming in and out of the building every day," noted Durov. "It creates an amazing opportunity for us to share some literature with the Y members and communities."

The Little Library's structure was built and painted by volunteers from the Northbrook Library's Teen Advisory Board, following a design created by student Anna Fillmore. The Northbrook Library will stock the Free Library with titles for all ages to supplement drop-off donations by users, and will rotate materials on a weekly basis.

To create a welcoming environment for the structure, the Y turned to Lowe's of Northbrook for expert help.

Lowe's staff members beautified the exterior space by trimming trees, planting new shrubs, replacing mulch, and constructing a new brick paver patio and pathway with a hand-built, cedar octagon reading

bench. All work and materials were donated by Lowe's of Northbrook through the Lowe's Heroes Volunteer Project

"Lowe's of Northbrook is very proud to support the North Suburban YMCA and be a bigger part of our community than simply a business," commented Dan Camp, the Lowe's of Northbrook store manager. "Lowe's believes that reading is one of the key foundations for success in life, whether for enjoyment or by creating that magical "spark" of inspiration. Our most recent Lowe's Heroes Project at the Y is just one way of sharing our company values with the entire community."

The new reading garden and Little Free Library is located adjacent to the entrance of the North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook.

"The Y is honored to be chosen by the Northbrook Library as an official site for the Little Library Organization," said Adrienne Wright, NSYMCA Senior Director of Development. "We are also thrilled to have a new partnership with Lowe's of Northbrook. Their commitment to beautifying the community is a perfect fit for the Y's mission and focus on social responsibility."

For more information about programs and events at the Y, visit www.NSYMCA.org.



Photo 1 Caption: Staff from the North Suburban YMCA, Northbrook Public Library, and Lowe's of Northbrook gathered on October 20, 2016 for the official opening of the Y's new Little Free Library and reading garden.



Photo 2 Caption: Lowe's of Northbrook Manager Dan Camp, NSYMCA President CEO Howard Schultz, and Northbrook Public Library Executive Director Kate Hall cut the ribbon to open the new Little Free Library and reading garden at the North Suburban YMCA



Photo 3 Caption: The North Suburban YMCA's new outdoor space includes an octagonal reading bench and brick paver patio next to the Little Free Library.

About the [North Suburban YMCA](#)

The North Suburban YMCA serves 15 northern suburbs of Chicago, and for over 48 years has provided programs and services that address youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility every day. Working together for good is who we are: An association of people united in a common effort to help individuals become healthier, more connected, and confident. There is no other nonprofit quite like the Y: We have the national and local presence and partnerships to not just promise, but deliver, positive change, making sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. For more information, visit NSYMCA.org.