

NEWS RELEASE

The landscape is changing for the little free library movement. New Minneapolis Foundation Fund supports all forms of front yard sharing libraries and honors the movement's late founder, Todd Bol.

Blessing boxes. Little free pantries. Little free art libraries. Little free seed libraries.

Front yard sharing is turning into a major movement in terms of neighbors helping neighbors, in many areas of need," according to Tony Bol, brother of the late Todd Bol, who built the first little free library in 2009. Nothing sped up its evolution more than the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, front yard sharing provides food, personal care items and more to families in need.

Where has the trend taken root most deeply? Who sets up front yard sharing boxes, and who uses them? What's the impact on neighborhoods? Who's doing innovative things with front yard sharing?

The new [Share With Others: Little Libraries Fund](#), honoring Todd Bol, aims to help researchers answer those questions and many others while supporting this grassroots movement.

Based in Stillwater, MN, the Fund was established by Share With Others, the company started by the Bol family after Todd's 2018 death to support all forms of sharing libraries. As planned since the company's inception, a portion of Share With Others' sales is directed to the Fund.

This donor-advised charitable fund will be supported and stewarded as a component fund of the [Minneapolis Foundation](#), whose mission is to study and support the community impact of neighbors sharing with neighbors through little libraries and other generous actions.

The Fund will build upon 2020 research that compiled information about front yard sharing locations and groups. A growing database that now contains more than 750 groups in the United States and 200 groups around the world will provide rich information for further study of the social impact of front yard sharing. (**Editors Note:** The database is available to media by request.) Tony Bol notes that the Fund welcomes interest from potential research partners.

October saw the launch month of "Share With Others: Little Libraries Community Impact Award". The inaugural award recipients are community groups that have made an impact by developing food-sharing programs during the pandemic. Each group will receive a Share With Others little free pantry to use in their ongoing work. The recipients are: [Be The Good Project](#) in Alexandria, VA, [Love Fridge](#) in Chicago, IL.

"We are so grateful for the Fund's leadership and vision for empowering neighbors to care for one another with generosity, dignity, and love," said Sterling and Amber Marchand, co-founders of Be The Good Project. "We've seen firsthand how little pantries not only meet the practical needs of our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity, but they also equip communities with safe and easy ways to help during an especially challenging time."