

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2022

Contact:

Jai-Anna Carter, Communication Associate

Email: communications@scfathersandfamilies.com

Phone: [803-227-8800](tel:803-227-8800)

SC Center for Fathers and Families Makes Father-Child Engagement Easy with Little Free Libraries

Initiative promotes importance of fathers' role in their children's education

COLUMBIA, SC – April 8, 2022 –The SC Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF) held a dedication of a Little Free Library at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. This is the second Little Library sponsored by SCCFF and in partnership with the City of Columbia and Columbia Parks and Recreation Department.

Ed McDowell, Jr., Columbia City Councilman for District 2, and Chakisse Newton, Richland County Councilwoman for District 11, cut the ribbon, officially opening the Little Free Library to the public.

This project aims to promote father-child engagement by providing the resources for fathers and children to read together. According to researchers, children who have an involved father in their lives are better prepared and more interested in learning. The father/child bond can be a catalyst for successful adulthood.

“When I was about to become a father, I remember reading to my sons even before they were out of their mother’s womb,” Warren Bolton, SCCFF Board Chairman explained. “When fathers read to their children, they send a message that reading is important, that education is important, but most of all they send a message that they are important.”

The Little Free Library also honors SCCFF’s 20th anniversary of providing fathers with the means to be great dads. Through the last 20 years, SCCFF has become the voice for fathers across the state and a national fatherhood initiative model. More than 25,000 South Carolina fathers and 56,000 children have been positively impacted.

A 501(c)3 non-profit, SCCFF welcomes community members to donate children’s books so it can continuously replenish the libraries. Books may be dropped off during business hours at its office at 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 111. Financial donations to help ensure no child grows up without a present father may be made at www.scfathersandfamilies.com/donate

About the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System. Its mission is based on the conviction that children thrive when an engaged, responsible father is active in their lives. In South Carolina, many children live in a father-absent home, and the consequences are dire. To address this problem, The Center supports six regional fatherhood organizations, including Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, to provide services to every county of the state while promoting father-friendly policies and practices and helping to erase society's negative stereotypes of non-custodial, low-income dads.

Learn more at www.scfathersandfamilies.com

###