Hi Everyone, I am here to take you through how the Dedham Housing Authority put together a Free Library program.

First – the Town of Dedham’s Dedham Little Free library project is an officially chartered member of the national Little Free Libraries initiative, which has spurred the creation and installation of well over 30,000 community-created little libraries in 62 countries.

Our Representative, Paul McMurtry was working with a non-profit library advocacy group Dedham Library Innovation Team and contact our Director, Joanne Toomey to discuss the possibility of bringing the Dedham Little Free Library Project to the Dedham Housing Authority sites across town. Paul noted that DHA has three family developments that 178 children call home. “Placing a Little Free Library at each complex would benefit these children, their families and neighbors tremendously today and for generations to come”.

Joanne Toomey appreciated Representative McMurtry’s and DLIT’s efforts to celebrate literacy in Dedham and noted that” the DHA is committed to providing more than just a roof over a family’s heads. We want living environments that foster quality of life, and I believe these libraries further that goal in a creative, productive way”.

In recognition of the NAHRO Housing America Month 2015 which is as you know celebrated every October the project was put together and the Library’s dedication ceremony took place on October 1st.

Dedham’s Little Free Library Project is made of many components:

1. To build the little libraries, DLIT partnered with the Dedham High School working directly with the Director of Technology and Libraries, and DHS faculty teams, which include Engineering/Construction Teachers, as well as the Fine Arts Director and Art Teacher. Supplies were donated by the local lumber company.

2. They were painted by folks who belong to the Community Artists group. These are ordinary citizens who love to paint and therefore have been painting these birdhouses for the Town.

3. The Birdhouses were installed by the maintenance staff of the DHA.

4. Books for the libraries was next on the list so Joanne sent out an e-mail to friends and family requesting books, the first little library was being installed at our 200 development and targeted for children, therefore Joanne’s request was for children’s books.