

Shaw Industries donates to United Way for new books, upkeep of 'Little Free Libraries'

**SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED WAY
OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA**

As Shaw Industries continues to celebrate its 50 years in the community, the company recently donated proceeds from its 50th anniversary merchandise to the United Way of Northwest Georgia. Associates donated \$3,700 to help impact education in the community through United Way's "Little Free Libraries."

More than 1,400 books were purchased to stock the 26 Little Free Libraries that can be found in Whitfield and Murray counties. Board books for babies, chapter books for older elementary school students and books for all stages in between will continue to be added to the Little Free Libraries during the next few months thanks to Shaw Industries' generosity and commitment to creating a better future. Additional funds will be used to repair the libraries as needed.

These "take a book, leave a book" structures are just big enough to hold 20 to 30 books, creating access to reading material across the community. Built with recycled or natural materials, designed, decorated by and watched over by volunteers, each little "book habitat" turns over its collection several times a month. One of the unique concepts is that no one can



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Susan Farris, center, vice president of corporate marketing and communications at Shaw Industries, with her grandchildren, Ezra and Eliot Cerentano, in front of a "Little Free Library." Shaw Industries donated \$3,700 to the United Way of Northwest Georgia

steal the books because the books are "free" — freely given by neighbors from their own collections, used bookstores, authors and others who love the sense of community that the Little Libraries create. The idea is to promote literacy and community-building by supporting book exchanges.

"United Way is thankful to Shaw Industries for their partnership in continuing to fight for the education of every person in our community," according to the local United Way.

To find the Little Free Library closest to you, visit ourunitedway.org/content/little-free-libraries.