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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Haywood County Public Library "Bibliotequitas" Receives Award**

Haywood County Public Library has received the 2016 Service and Innovation award from the North Carolina Public Library Director's Association for their "Bibilotequitas" project.

Inspired by the Little Free Library movement, where small free-standing containers filled with books have been popping up everywhere from in front of people's homes to parks to schools ([www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)), Haywood County Public Library installed two "Bibliotequitas" in town – one near a public soccer field and the other in front of a store called La Mexicanita – in order to both spread a love of reading and advertise its free services to the Hispanic community in Haywood County, a population the library wished to better serve. The Bibliotequitas are filled with books for children, teens, and adults in both Spanish and English that anyone may borrow, and there is a laminated flyer that lists some of the many free services the library offers in the door of each Bibliotequita. Similar to how Little Free Libraries work, where people are encouraged to "take a book and return a book," the Bibliotequitas operate on the honor system, where borrowers are entrusted to return any books they borrow to the Bibliotequitas for someone else to enjoy.

The project was a collaboration between the library, Girl Scout Troup 30250, the Waynesville Recreation and the La Mexicanita market located in Hazelwood. Girl Scout leader Marcia Tate played a major role in coordinating this project with library staff and two scout members Elizabeth Martin and Marisol Garcia. Library patron William Rhodarmer constructed the little libraries. Elizabeth and Marisol designed and painted them.

**Photo captions:**

Little Library Vance Street Location: Staff members from the Haywood County Public Library and Town of Waynesville Parks and Recreation, members of Girl Scout Troup 30250, and William Rhodarmer and his grandchildren at the Vance Street Bibliotequitas.

Elizabeth Martin: Girl Scout Elizabeth Martin paints a Bibliotequita.

Marisol Garcia: Girl Scout Marisol Garcia paints a Bibliotequita.