

"LITTLE SCHOOLS"



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March 19, 2020

Village Residents and General Public,

In an effort to help our community and its local school districts fill a gap in meals for our students this week my wife Kira and I have repurposed our "Little Libraries" located in the Village. This has only been possible because of a great deal of support & love from our neighbors and community members. Thank you! We have successfully equipped our once full book boxes with non perishable food items and simple school supplies. Our "Little Schools" are located at the Historical Society, Main Street; the Red Brick Church, King Street & at the Fire Department on Congress Street.

The locations were restocked again this morning... day 4. They were moderately used and no one has abused them. We ask that people drop off any donations to our side porch on 3 West Front Street in Rensselaer Falls or call (315) 276-0189. Please do not put items directly in the "Little Schools." A small team of people are organizing and preparing packages to promote minimal contact.

Our communities are so resilient, schools are ahead of schedule and student breakfast/lunches start being distributed by most districts today. With that said our worry last Sunday afternoon after an emergency meeting was this week, the week of March 20. Watching and listening to the folks and then needing to refill the "Little Schools" told us people are hungry and people are worried. Today we know of neighbors that are concerned about where their next paycheck is going to come from or how they will pay the bills on time. Please use this resource to help our family in this time of need. This is one way we can start to help each other and find some sort of new normal.

I was humbled and I felt optimistic waking up this morning almost with a heightened sense of purpose and drive. I am convinced this is because of the people in my community. Even my 6 year old was asking to check in on the "Little Schools" this morning, shining a light on this new need for empathy and concern for others. These moments can only be experienced during times like these. Take time to enjoy what you love, work to support your family and others.

In conclusion I would like to add I've always known how amazing this Village, this Town, and this County are and we should remember that it is days like these that really exemplify how unique and strong we truly are, when we work together.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Hammond

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<https://www.rensselaerfallsny.com/mayorboard.html>