



# Algonquin Area Public Library District

2600 Harnish Drive Algonquin, Illinois 60102

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Resident Uses Library's 3-D Printing Resources to Help Food Pantry

*Algonquin, Illinois - March 16, 2015 - Jack Henderson, a volunteer at the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Interfaith Food Pantry, used information from the Library's 3-D Printing class to repair the pantry's greenhouse, ensuring that the 300 families will receive fresh produce later this year.*

Lake in the Hills resident Jack Henderson enjoyed the Library's 3-D Printing class in February, but wondered how useful the information would be in his everyday life. "The class was really fascinating and all, but I wondered if I'd ever use anything I learned there," Henderson says.

A few weeks later, he found out. While working as a volunteer for the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Interfaith Food Pantry, Henderson discovered that an automated vent opener on the pantry's greenhouse was broken. It all boiled down to a small plastic part that fit in the palm of his hand, but the part was not sold separately. The entire opener would have to be replaced at a cost of \$80, a sizeable dent in the pantry's budget.

"The same plastic part on another window had broken before, and I had rigged it up using a metal piece, but I didn't expect that to last," Henderson says. "I got to thinking that I might be able to design the part using a resource the librarian had talked about in the 3-D class."

When Henderson ran into problems using the free online design program, he contacted Digital Literacy Librarian Kenny Duray, who invited him to come to the Library to work on it. They designed the part together using TinkerCad; later, Duray 'printed' the part on the Library's MakerBot Replicator 2.

"I did a little experimentation, trying to make the piece as strong as possible," Kenny says. "The printing process took about 45 minutes." The piece serves as both an axle and connector part for the greenhouse's automated temperature-sensitive vent openers, which maintains the perfect growing climate within the greenhouse.

This isn't the first time Duray has assisted with a 3-D printing project. Since the Makerbot "joined" the Library in 2013, Duray has taught multiple 3-D printing classes and provided one-on-one help with such pieces as screen door parts, an invention prototype, and a Boy Scout plaque. The Library sponsored a contest for unique 3-D projects for young adults in summer 2014. Duray was also featured as a presenter at the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Chamber Expo in January, introducing the community to the Library's 3-D printing capabilities.

Henderson is grateful for Duray's help, noting that the small piece he printed is a big deal for the food pantry and the community it serves. "I appreciate how helpful Kenny was and how willing he was to work with me," Henderson says.



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## **ATTACHED IMAGES:**

DSC\_0884 and DSC\_0897: The new piece in action (yellow)

DSC\_0892: The greenhouse at the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Interfaith Food Pantry

DSC\_0896: Kenny Duray, Digital Literacy Librarian at the Algonquin Area Public Library District, and Jack Henderson and Laurie Selpien, Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Interfaith Food Pantry volunteers, discuss possibilities for additional 3-D printing projects at the food pantry's greenhouse.