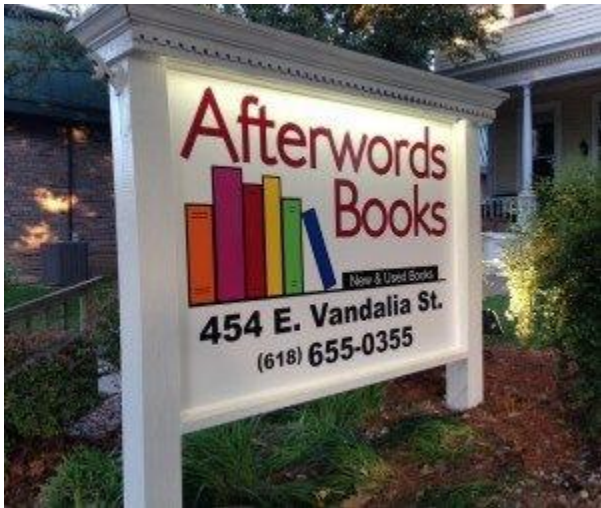




# Thriving outside the big box: Afterwords Books named quarterfinalist for Indie Awards

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*Support Afterwords Books of Edwardsville in national award by voting today*

**EDWARDSVILLE** –The national small business movement, [Independent We Stand](#), announced the quarterfinalists, including Afterwords Books of Edwardsville, of the 2016 Independent We Stand Independent Small Business of the Year or Indie Award. This announcement precedes Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26, encouraging holiday shoppers to support these businesses over big boxes and national chains.

Afterwords Books is located at 454 E Vandalia ST in Edwardsville, offering new and gently-used books, educational toys, and unique, handmade gifts crafted by local artisans. Visit Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-5pm, Friday, 10am-7pm, Saturday, 10am-3pm, and Sunday, Noon-3pm.

“Our community understands that their individual spending choices dictate what their neighborhoods ultimately look like. They realize the importance of each individual’s commitment to nurture the community, to see their tax dollars directly benefit our city, that culture and diversity are meaningful, that our neighbors are all working together to make a difference.” LuAnn Locke, Owner of Afterwords Books

“This year’s quarterfinalists represent a variety of independent businesses across the country, who are making an impact on their local economies,” said Bill Brunelle, co-founder of Independent We Stand. “This award is our way of recognizing their outstanding efforts in their respective communities.”

Voting is now underway at [www.IndieBizAward.com](http://www.IndieBizAward.com) through Dec. 11. Voters may visit the website to cast one vote each day.

The 2016 Indie winner will receive prizes with a combined value of more than \$10,000, including:

- \$5,000 grand prize
- \$1,000 STIHL equipment certificate. [STIHL](#) products are sold exclusively through local, independent servicing dealers and support more than 9,000 STIHL dealers in communities nationwide.
- “Small Business Web Starter Package” from independent web design firm – [Meridian Group](#)
- Three days/two nights stay at an independent beach resort in Virginia Beach, Va. (valued at \$1,000)
- Plaque to display at winner’s business
- Public relations and social media recognition
- Quarter and semifinalists will receive a Premium Membership from Independent We Stand

Nearly 13,693 votes were cast for 222 nominees during the nominations phase. The quarterfinalists in alphabetical order are:

- [Afterwords Books](#), a bookshop in Edwardsville, Ill.
- [Anonymous Lacquer](#), a nail polish company in Newport News Va.
- [Artsy Fartsy](#) an art gallery in Carson City, Nev.
- [Big Red's Equipment](#), a lawnmower and tractor store in Grandbury, TX.
- [BodyworksBall](#), a wellness company in Brick, N.J.
- [Bonlife Coffee](#), a coffee roaster in Cleveland, Tenn.
- [Children's World](#), a uniform supply company in Sarasota, Fla.
- [Collage](#), a gift shop in York, Pa.

- [Continental Earthworks](#), a forestry and wildland fire mitigation company in Avon, Colo.
- [Cornerstone Shop & Gallery](#), a lifestyle store in Lake Geneva, Wis.
- [From My Shelf Books & Gifts](#), a new and used bookshop in Wellsboro, Pa.
- [Fuzzy Goat](#), a yarn shop in Thomasville, Ga.
- [Gardiner Food Co-op & Cafe](#), a food co-op and café in Gardiner, ME.
- [Hipp Modern Builder's Supply](#), a hardware store in Mountain View, Ark.
- [Hungry Hound Beer Grain Treats](#), a dog treat company in Conklin, N.Y.
- [Life's Memories & More](#), a scrapbook store in Palmer, Mass.
- [Luxe Fiber Designs](#), a fiber mill in Stone Lake, Wis.
- [Lyons Lumber & Hardware](#), a hardware Store in Frankfort, Ky.
- [Miss Ellie's Delights, LLC](#), a bakery in Norfolk, Va.
- [Mower Man Lawn Service](#), a landscaping company in McKinney, TX.
- [Roe Brothers, Inc.](#), a hardware store in Florida, N.Y.
- [Surviving Sisters' Boutique](#), a clothing boutique in Hyde Park, N.Y.
- [The Bookshelf](#), a bookshop in Thomasville, Ga.
- [The Cross Eyed Owl Gift Shop](#), a gift shop in Valatie, N.Y.
- [The Enrichery](#), a supplemental education company in Houston, TX.

The winner of the Indie will be announced Dec. 14.

For more information on Afterwords Books, visit: [afterwordssusedbooks.com](http://afterwordssusedbooks.com)

For more information on the “Indie” or to vote, visit [www.IndieBizAward.com](http://www.IndieBizAward.com).

## **About Afterwords Books**

Afterwords Books is a family owned and operated bookstore, seven years strong and growing. They offer both new and gently-used books, a trade for credit program, free children’s story times, book clubs for all ages, a documentary club, educational toys, unique gifts crafted by local artisans, and impeccable customer service; all in a relaxing, inviting environment. Afterwords is proud to be part of the circle of local merchants that support the shop local movement by practicing what they preach; offering unique goods and services while giving back to the community through big and small gestures, and choosing to shop and dine with the independent businesses in their own backyard!

## **About Independent We Stand**

Independent We Stand is a movement of independent business owners across the country to inform their communities about the importance of “Buying Local” and how these efforts bolster their local economy. This movement supports all local and national causes committed to boosting local economic development projects. The Independent

We Stand movement is co-sponsored by [STIHL Inc.](#) and [FCA US LLC](#). Associate sponsors include [PPG Pittsburgh Paints](#), [Do it Best Corp.](#) and [Tire Pros](#).