



Books For Africa is the world's largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped over 27 million books to 48 African countries. BFA's mission is simple: to end the book famine in Africa.

Fall 2012 Newsletter

More Than 40,000 Books Helped "Pioneer Students" Earn College Degrees in South Sudan

The "pioneer students" of the Catholic University of South Sudan proudly received their college degrees in May of 2012 as the university's first graduating class.

Without two BFA shipments of 22,000 books each, sponsored by Harriet McGuire, college degrees would have been a far off dream for many of these students. Infrastructure throughout South Sudan was destroyed in the recent civil war. Very few schools and libraries remained.

Many of these students, their families, and the major part of their community in Juba have only recently returned to their homes in South Sudan. The resilience of these 25 students was incredible as they worked not only to attain a college education, but establish normalcy in Africa's newest nation.

The Guest of Honor at the graduation, the Honorable Manase Lomole Waya, the Acting Deputy Governor of Central Equatorial State, challenged the pioneer graduates to "not hang your degrees on the wall," but instead "be prepared to be leaders, be stewards of resources." The students' degrees are only the first steps towards a more peaceful tomorrow for South Sudan.



Above: Students study in what Father Michael Schultheis, Vice-Chancellor of the Catholic University of South Sudan, calls "the best container library" in Africa.



Above: The University is surrounded by difficult conditions and poverty, but the graduation ceremony was "a gala occasion." Graduates, their families, friends, and supporters gathered for a day of thanksgiving and celebration to the tune of children's choirs singing in Acholi, in Zande, and in Latuko, in all languages of the land.

Books For Africa Shipments 2011-2012

Nigeria	55	Malawi	5
Ghana	35	Senegal	4
Ethiopia	20	Angola	2
Kenya	14	Cameroon	2
Tanzania	14	Comoros Islands	2
The Gambia	11	Egypt	2
Uganda	7	Somalia	2
Zambia	7	South Sudan	2
Rwanda	6	Swaziland	2
Sierra Leone	6	Benin	1
Liberia	5	Sudan	1

Total Containers: 205

Countries: 22

Computers & Laptops: 616

Total Values: \$28,251,900

Thomson Reuters Hosts 5K Walk/Run to End the African Book Famine

On a brisk fall Friday, hundreds of Thomson Reuters staff participated in a 5K Run/Walk on behalf of BFA. This exercise was for more than just team building. Thomson Reuters—the world's largest information resource for financial, legal, tax and accounting, healthcare, science and media professionals—serves as a major partner for BFA.

By paying \$1 per day to wear jeans to work, employees raised \$1,500 that was matched by Thomson Reuters. Thomson Reuters also donated \$2 for every kilometer walked. With 300 participants, that made for an additional \$3,000 donation. In total, Thomson Reuters gave \$6,000 and 3,000 books to BFA with this event. Thank you, Thomson Reuters!

In addition to financial contributions, Thomson Reuters supplies legal texts to African law schools through the BFA Jack Mason Law and Democracy Initiative. This initiative addresses Africa's scarcity of law and human rights books to further the development of civil society and fair governance throughout the African continent.



Above: Amid a train of Thomson Reuters employees, BFA supporters and staff got out for a nice afternoon walk with friends and partners, all committed to ending the African book famine.



Left: Thomson Reuters employees know how to give back. In just one month, they collected more than 3,000 books! Tom Pfeifer, Vice President of Government Sales and Account Management at Thomson Reuters, and Patrick Plonski, Executive Director of BFA, show off some of the donations.

"We help the legal system perform better, every day, worldwide. And each of our 15,000 employees works hard to bring this mission to life – supporting lawyers, law schools, the courts and governments around the world... We could have no better partner on this journey than Books For Africa and the Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative"

- John Shaughnessy, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Thomson Reuters



Give to Books For Africa Today to Celebrate the Happiest Time of the Year!

When you donate to Books For Africa this holiday season, you can spread joy and sponsor books to students like Ebrima Cham in The Gambia. Since Ebrima's school—Banjulinding Lower Basic School in The Gambia's capitol, Banjul—received a shipment of BFA books, his school work has improved leaps and bounds. Someday, Ebrima wants to be a philanthropist so that he can bring joy to children the same way BFA books bring him joy.

What can you do this holiday season to send books to students like Ebrima?

\$25 sends 50 books

\$50 sends a full box of books

\$150 sends one computer for a school or library

\$1,000 sends 2,000 books, enough to fill a school library

\$10,300 sponsors a whole container of 22,000 books to an African port



Books For Africa Reading Month 2012

In Minnesota, we bring in fall with cool mornings, fall colors, and the back to school season. This September, we celebrated with Books For Africa's Reading Month!

Thanks to the generosity of the customers of several local bookshops—The Red Balloon Book Shop, Common Good Books, The Bookshelf of Wayzata, and Micawbers Books—BFA collected more than 25 boxes of children's books to send to students in Africa. BFA also celebrated UNESCO's International Literacy Day with an African children's story hour to celebrate the meaning of books.

We wrapped up the month with the "Mobilizing Diaspora Connections Conference," jointly hosted by the African Development Center and sponsored by Thomson Reuters, Bremer Bank, BMO Harris, Amara Wines, Girlfriend Wines, US Foods, and Kalahari Foods. BFA commends the efforts of the African Diaspora living and working here in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota for their leadership and contributions to economic and community development.

We ended the conference with our Annual South African Braai and Warehouse Party! We had record turnout and fun for all ages. Our guests even got to get their groove on with Universal Dance Destiny, a great addition to our annual party!



Above: BFA board members Rosie Owens (left) and Tammie Follett (right) take a moment to smile for the camera at the Braai and Warehouse party.



Above: BFA supporters boogie to Liberian music at the Annual Braai and Warehouse Party.

Atlanta Falcons Land in the BFA Warehouse to Help End the African Book Famine



Above: BFA was chosen as one of twelve lucky winners of the Atlanta Hometown Huddle. Rookies from the NFL's Atlanta Falcons packed and sorted books in the Atlanta warehouse to show their commitment to building strong community in Atlanta!

BFA was selected as one of twelve lucky organizations to have members of the Atlanta Falcons join us as volunteers as a part of their "Hometown Huddle" community service initiative! Sporting their jerseys and enthusiastic attitudes, fourteen Falcons rookies came into the BFA Atlanta warehouse to sort and pack books.

Other BFA volunteers were excited to work alongside the NFL players. The rookies brought with them red "Rise Up Atlanta" t-shirts and wristbands for fans. With a big smile, regular BFA volunteer and huge Falcons fan, Sheila Pollock, said, "I can't believe it! I showed up to sort books as usual and here are my Falcons!"

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“We now have our very own library,
and it is full of books from America!
Can you imagine this, in our school?”

- Abubakar, 14 years old, school student at
Islamiyya Primary in Kano, Nigeria

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Memorial Libraries Give New Chances to Rwandan Students

Rwanda: a small nation in central Africa known for its beautiful, lush, rolling hills, and a very dark time in its history. For Kim Harms, DDS, and Pam Pappas Stanoch, however, Rwanda stands as a reminder and an example of what it means to hope, to practice forgiveness, and to feel joy. In memory of her son, Eric, Kim worked with Pam, a long-time BFA supporter, to send a container of 22,000 books to Rwanda in partnership with BFA. Kim and Pam recently visited all of the future homes of the Eric James Harms Memorial Libraries.



Above: A student at Wisdom School for deaf children writes “Pam” and “Kim” on the chalk board to show he can communicate in English. Kim Harms explains, “Before starting school, these students had no language. Now they can write and read!”

During her travels, Kim met Dorcus—a shining, intelligent little girl with big dreams. Dorcus, a student at Fair Children/Youth Foundation (FC/YF) in Musanze, Rwanda, also happens to be deaf. FC/YF runs a large English-immersion primary school, a nursery school, and a revolutionary school for deaf children. Thanks to the programs at FC/YF, Dorcus was doing so well at the school for deaf children that she has been moved to the main primary school.

Dorcus and the rest of the students in FY/CF's programs now have access to resources that will enhance their learning. For Dorcus, the library means that another barrier to her education has been broken down. Books enable her to learn and dream in the same way as her peers.



Above: While in Rwanda, Kim and Pam tracked down a special friend of BFA staff member, Rachel Brady. Rachel met Dorcus while volunteering at Wisdom School several years ago. Even though they are apart, the two still communicate through written letters. Dorcus can read, write, and express herself in language that she did not have before attending FC/YF.