



“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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Books For Africa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving as the world’s largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped over 28 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 49 African countries. Books For Africa has received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator, GuideStar, and the Minnesota Charities Review Council. BFA’s mission is simple: to end the book famine in Africa.

Help End the Book Famine — Donate Today!



Caitlin Newcamp, a Peace Corps Volunteer, wants to bring books to her students in Kenya. Her students are ready to read, learn, and grow. Caitlin reports:

“My first week of school I had several students ask to borrow my personal books! The few reference books I have brought from America are constantly being “checked out” by students for several days at a time. I need more copies! English is the international language and all student exams are in English so it is essential that they become comfortable speaking, hearing, reading, and writing it. Books are the foundation to getting this exposure and increasing literacy.”

As our fiscal year draws to a close on June 30, consider a gift that will give students like Caitlin’s a chance to obtain an education. Please consider sponsoring books to an African school in honor of a friend or family member in recognition of a special event this summer. Your gift will be acknowledged with a hand-written note to the recipient. Gifts over \$500 will appear in our next Annual Report.



A Big Day for Chain of Hope in Uganda



CHAIN OF HOPE, a non-profit serving the people of war-torn Northern Uganda, brought 22,000 BFA books to students in the region in early spring of 2013. Chain of Hope provides school and housing for orphans and vulnerable children. Currently, they serve over 175 children. These new libraries will build a foundation of opportunity for at risk youth for years to come.

“The Books have arrived! THANK YOU! And as expected, the kids are super excited—they had to get a day off from study because they just couldn’t concentrate in class. The big truck (which the children thought was a school bus!) couldn’t pass through the school gate so we had to ferry the books with another smaller vehicle to one of the classrooms as we await distribution to all beneficiaries.”

—Agnes Igoye, Container Captain for Chain of Hope, Uganda project

All photos chronicling the arrival of books to Chain of Hope were provided to Books For Africa by Agnes Igoye, a former fellow at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (USA) and Books For Africa Container Captain (pictured above and to the left).

BFA Milestone!



For the first time in our history, Books For Africa has shipped books to Burundi!

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Only 50% of Burundian children attend elementary school, and only 8% attend secondary school. In April, 22,000 books were shipped to schools that need them in Burundi thanks to Burundi Friends International (BUFRI) and Books For Africa. Now that Burundi is a part of the East African Community, where English is a common language of business and politics, students will greatly benefit from the opportunity to learn in their new libraries of English language books.

Contributing to the “Knowledge Economy” in Africa at Spring Fundraisers

“We are in the era of fast food, and we want to see results. But here we have a room full of people, who day in and day out, one book at a time, are saving the children of Africa from a destiny of illiteracy, from a destiny of ignorance, from a destiny of maleducation, from a destiny not only of unemployment but of un-employability.”

—His Excellency Ebrahim Rasool, Ambassador of South Africa to the United States



Chris Coleman-Mayor of St. Paul, MN, Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, and Patrick Plonski- BFA Executive Director, at the BFA Donor Reception at the St. Paul Athletic Club. Photo credit: Aaron Hays



Breita Linnell, Norm Linnell-BFA Board President, Karen Sorbo, Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, Asratie Teferra-BFA Board member, and Seth Eggezza-BFA Board member, at the Knowledge is Power Luncheon at the Town & Country Club of St. Paul, MN. Photo credit: Aaron Hays



Donnadelliah Maluleke-Consul Economic, South African Consulate General, Chicago, at the MN Trade Office’s Doing Business in South Africa Conference, held in conjunction with BFA at the St. Paul Athletic Club. Photo credit: Aaron Hays

Books For Africa was honored to host His Excellency Ebrahim Rasool, Ambassador of South Africa to the United States, as our keynote speaker for our annual fundraising events on May 15, 2013, in St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Representing the largest economy in Africa, Ambassador Rasool spoke of the importance of education and literacy for African youth.

“We cannot have Africans missing the knowledge economy,” said the Ambassador, “For you it may be a math book that you have forgotten about... but for Africa it is the difference between back to the future or reaching the potential of the African continent.”

Books For Africa supporters raised more than \$75,000 to ship books to schools and libraries across Africa. As Ambassador Rasool noted, “Africa’s future is being built not only in Africa. I can see today that it is being constructed actively in Minneapolis/ St. Paul and I am deeply honored and humbled to be here and to be part of a recipient community of your generosity.”

Gifts That Keep On Giving



Tom Warth, BFA founder, has gotten quite creative to help end the book famine since founding BFA 25 years ago. This April, Tom raised more than \$14,000 to send a full container of books to Nigeria by orchestrating a three-day walk from Menomonie, Wisconsin, to St. Paul, Minnesota (a distance of 68 miles).



BFA received a donation in the amount of \$600,000 in May 2013—the largest single donation in our history! The generous gift from the Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation of Nigeria will send over 1,000,000 books to schools and libraries across the continent. Above, Tom Warth visits Nigerian students at their school that received books by SEOF.

Books For Africa 25th Anniversary Celebrations

Books for Africa has been sending books to schools and libraries across the African continent for the past 25 years. Join us throughout Books For Africa’s 25th Anniversary Year as we celebrate all of our past, present, and future work toward ending the African book famine!

Please visit our website at:

WWW.BOOKSFORAFRICA.ORG/EVENTS

Or CONTACT:

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or more information.

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