
BOOKS FOR AFRICA



Fall 2000

Newsletter

BFA is Growing...

A new office, expanded warehouse space, and two new staff members—BFA is growing!

Since Books For Africa was founded in 1988, the organization's office has been in the home of its executive director. Now, after twelve years of consecutive growth and more than tenfold increase in the number of books shipped each year, BFA's board recognized the need for additional staff support and office space. The new office, kindly donated by Rudy and Carol Sundberg, is located just upstairs from our warehouse in the Lowertown neighborhood of St. Paul. After a new coat of paint, new carpeting, lighting and furniture, the 400 square foot office was open for business on September 1st. At the office you'll find BFA's newest staff members, Associate Director Amy Sundberg and Development Director Vicki Lofquist. Stop by for a visit any weekday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For those interested in donating books, call ahead for a copy of our Book Donation Guidelines and drop off times.

The Sundberg family has donated warehouse space to BFA for many years, but last December they contributed an area three times larger—the entire basement of the Jax Building—to accommodate BFA's ever-growing supply of books. The space, which had



The BFA team: (above, left to right) Warehouse staffers Keith Feldbrugge and Tom Parry; (at left, left to right) Amy Sundberg, Bob Kowalczyk, and Vicki Lofquist in the new office.

been used as a storage area for many years, had to be emptied and cleaned before it could be put to use as a warehouse. The solution: many dumpsters and volunteer manpower from the Ramsey County Sentence-to-Serve Program. Within a few weeks the entire basement was cleared of clutter and ready for BFA expansion. A few walls were moved, new lighting installed, new sorting tables con-

structed, book receiving area organized and finally, BFA was back in business with 10,000 square feet of new space.

The BFA team is now in place and working in partnership to end the book famine in Africa. Meet the team:

Executive Director—Robert Kowalczyk has served as the executive director of BFA since 1989. Prior to BFA, he worked for 35 years in the field of special education. Bob has the over-all management responsibility of BFA. E-mail: robertk-bfa@mtn.org

Associate Director—Amy Sundberg joined the staff in August 2000. Prior to BFA she worked for 12 years in various management positions including her most recent work experience with an international

continued on page 2

BFA is Growing...

continued from page 1

nonprofit organization. In addition to providing support services to the executive director, Amy oversees BFA's new St. Paul office. E-mail:

amys-bfa@mtn.org

Development Director—Vicki Lofquist is BFA's newest employee,

having joined the staff in September 2000. Prior to BFA, she worked in public radio (where she learned to ask people for money) and, most recently, she worked as a development director with an international nonprofit organization. Vicki's major responsibility at BFA will be to direct the fund-raising program. E-mail: vickl-bfa@mtn.org

Warehouse Manager—Tom Parry, an active Rotarian, first joined BFA as an advisory board member in 1995. In 1997, after having served 31 years in various management positions at the Honeywell Corporation, he came out of retirement to join BFA.

Tom, on a half-time basis, oversees the entire book collection, processing, and shipping that takes place at BFA's warehouse. E-mail: JTParry@aol.com

Warehouse Assistant—Keith Feldbrugge joined BFA in 1999. He has been associated with a social service agency that has supplied volunteer services to BFA for over 7 years. In addition to his full time job with the social service agency, Keith assists BFA's warehouse manager on a quarter-time basis. E-mail: K.S.Feldbrugge@att.net

Call For Volunteers

BFA needs help in the warehouse sorting books. With a recent deluge of textbooks flowing into the warehouse, the bottleneck of our operation is the painstaking task of sorting the books by subject matter, grade level, condition and appropriateness.

Come down to the St. Paul Farmer's Market on any third Saturday of the month, and then spend a few hours around the corner in our warehouse, where you'll meet like-minded folks and having fun doing important work.

Our regular warehouse hours are:

- Every Wednesday from 10 AM to 3 PM.
- Third Saturday of each month: from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

(Mark your calendars with these upcoming Saturdays: October 21, November 18, December 16)

Warehouse location: 253 E 4th Street, Lowertown, St. Paul.

Call the BFA office for directions: 651-602-9844.

Inspiration From BFA's Mailbag

The BFA mailbag holds many treasures. We recently received this gem from Robin Duncan, a long-time BFA supporter. Robin first learned about BFA when she was working for the Minnesota Educational Computing Company as part of the school marketing team for an educational CD-ROM of Dan Buettner's 1993 bicycle ride across Africa. Since then, Robin has been sending BFA books from her home in New York. Recently, she had the opportunity to visit Africa and see some schools first hand:

Dear BFA,

Please find enclosed 3 years worth of National Geographic Magazines, in the annual index binders. I just returned from a trip to Kenya, my first to Africa, and I have a new understanding for the importance of the written word and how BFA brings that to Africa.

Of all the wonders I saw, includ-

ing the exotic wildlife, the spectacular landscape, and the marvelous people, truly the most impressive experience for me was to see the presence of schools in even the most remote areas, and to watch the children in uniform coming and going from class each day. To further understand that school is not "free" or "public" as we know it, and to hear what financial sacrifices parents go through to ensure their children's education, leaves one caught between the emotions of hope for their future and despair at what ours may be if we continue to disengage from our commitment to this institution.

Thank you for continued efforts to support education in Africa. I cannot think of a more meaningful movement with which to be connected.

Sincerely,

Robin Duncan

Garrison, New York

Kids Support BFA

It is never too soon to learn about helping others. Recently we received this letter from one of our younger supporters:

My name is Ryan Grimshaw. I am 8 years old. I wanted to send these books to Africa for the poor. I felt bad for people who don't have the money to pay for the books so I wanted to give

them to a school that needs them.

I hope that you can send them to where they are needed. Thank you for helping me do this.

You are welcome, Ryan, and thank you for thinking about kids who do not have books. We certainly will send your books to a school where they are needed. Here is another letter about some young supporters of BFA:

As part of our concern for world-wide literacy during our celebration of

March-Is-Reading-Month, Winchester Elementary students brought in 54,121 pennies to school. We are donating this \$541.21 to you for the shipping of books to Africa.

Best of luck in all your endeavors. Thank you for all that you do to make our world a better and more literate place.

*Jay Hillard
Winchester Elementary
Northville, MI*

Contributions

Individuals

Robert Aminzade
Frank Babka
Richard A. Brusseau
Hope and Rob Cassidy CO
Rev. James Challancin MI
Rev. Jane Granzow IA
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Hambidge CO
Michael Henley
Clark and Vonnie LaChapelle
Devora and Kilian Molitor
Stan and Wendy Mopsik MD
Edward and Emily Parry MD
Eleanora Pennekamp
Laura Roettger WI
Allen W. Shelton CA
Cynthia T. Stuck
Imogene and Herbert Treichel
Gerald Weatherall WI

Organizations

Bayport Foundation
Ghana Book Trust
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin WI
Stanley British Primary School CO
Tew Foundation

In-Kind Individuals

Bob and Kathy Auten NJ
Gwenn Bahnson WI
Jerry Benjamin
Cheryll Benson
Prof. Judy Bovinet
Doug Bratt
Shannon Brown and Lance Cole OR
Chuck Burmeister
Jacob Carlton TX
Peter and Pat Dalum WI
Barbara Jane Deneen
Jim and Ginny Deneen

Mary Theresa Downing
Robin and Thomas Duncan NY
Sunny Jo Emerson
Mary Eskola
Kam Evenson
Prof. Joseph Foegan
Vickie and Gene Froehlich
Lynn Garrett
Lennie Graven
Cal Greening
Kathy Grundhuefer
Andre Guirard
Copper Harding
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Jeannette Hill
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Donna Kernik
Jerry Klatter
Connie La Rocque
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Mary Jean Overend
Brian Peterman
Prof. Mary Ann Pevas
Lora and Rob Plain TX
Jon Poppolo
Duane and Anita Prairie

Ann Rannow
Dr. Robert Retherford
Rodney Robichaud
David Runkle
Dr. Michael Schneider
Kristin and Dorothy Scott
Penne Sewall
Mark Simonson
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Slannard
Pat Sorensen
Helen Sullivan WI
Rudy and Carol Sundberg FL
Mr. William Totten
Robert Trapp and Judith Bowker OR
Marie Waldhauser
Chris Watkins IL
Ann Witherspoon
John and Lavinia Ycas CO

In Kind Organizations

Abbott Northwest Hospital
AGS
Albert Lea Schools
Annandale Public Schools
Anoka Ramsey Community College
Becker Elementary School
Blake School
Bloomington Schools
Brother's Brother Foundation PA
Carleton College
Central Lutheran School
Century College
Clayton Schools WI
Coedworld.com SD
Coon Rapids Schools
Cooper High School
Cretin-Derham Hall School
Crow Wing County Schools
District 861 Schools
Franklin Pierce College Library NH
Friends of the Winona Library
Habitat for Humanity KY
Hartford Union School WI
Hastings High School
Hawaii Prep. Academy HI
Hennepin Technical College
Highland Catholic School

Hospitality House
International Book Bank MD
International Book Project KY
ISEM
King of Kings Lutheran School
Lake Country Montessori
Lerner Publications
Madison Elementary School
Meadowbrook Elementary School
Minneapolis Community College
Minneapolis Public Schools
MN Textbook Brokers
Mounds Park Academy
NASA Library DC
Nativity School
Normandale College, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
North Presbyterian
North St. Paul/Maplewood Schools
Pike Lake School
Ramsey County Library
Richfield Schools
Risen Christ Catholic School
Roseville Schools
Ruminator Books
Sabre Foundation MA
Sanford Middle School
Sauk Centre Schools
Scott County Library
Shakopee Area Catholic Schools
Spring Lake Park High School
St. Olaf College
St. Patrick's WI
St. Paul Academy & Summit School
St. Philips Lutheran Church
Stillwater Schools
Sunnyside Elementary School
University of St. Thomas
U of WI-Stout WI
Vadnais Heights Rotary Club
Washington County Schools
Webster School WI
William Mitchell College of Law
Wilshire Park School
Winona Schools
Winona State University

BOOKS FOR AFRICA CO-SPONSORS UPCOMING TALK:

“Africa: Pay Attention Now or Pay Later”

As an average American, you are more tightly connected to Africa than you think. Often, the cash you lay down for oil, gas or a diamond wedding ring makes its way back to a government, a corporation—or maybe even to an arms smuggler or a guerrilla warlord—on the world’s poorest continent. Yet, America pays little attention to how it affects Africa, and what the continent’s evolution could mean to us.

Join Books For Africa, the

Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP), and the Minnesota International Center (MIC) on Thursday, November 9th as James Rupert, *Washington Post* assistant foreign editor for Africa, examines this topic and shares his insight into why Americans should keep Africa in the public consciousness.

Who: James Rupert, assistant foreign editor for Africa, *The Washington Post*.

When: Thursday, November 9;

registration 11:30 A.M.; lunch at noon; program 12:30-1:30 P.M.

Where: Minneapolis Hilton & Towers, 3rd Floor, 1001 Marquette Avenue, downtown Minneapolis.

Cost: MIC, BFA & MAP members \$25; Non-members \$35; limited program-only seating \$5.

To register: Call MIC at 612-625-4421, or their 24-hour Activity Line at 612-626-6204.

Tireless Tom to Walk Across Minnesota

BFA founder Tom Warth is at it again! Having successfully completed his walk across the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail, he has now set his sights on Minnesota. He plans to cross the state from East to West, beginning his walk in May in Taylors Falls, traveling by back roads and the Gateway Trail to St. Paul, then on through the Twin Cities on existing trails and paths. On the other side of Minneapolis he will follow the railroad bed trail to Cosmos,

MN, and from there walk on back roads to the South Dakota border.

Tom will again be accepting pledges to raise funds for BFA. He welcomes company, and plans on completing the bulk of his walk next spring.

Crossing Minnesota will complete an impressive feat of walking from Lake Michigan to South Dakota. Says the tireless Tom, “No, I do NOT plan on walking across South Dakota!” We’ll see about that.

Our New Address

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St. Paul, MN 55101 USA

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Fax: 651-602-9848
E-Mail: bfa@mtn.org
Web: www.booksforafrica.org



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St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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