

Books For Africa is the largest shipper of donated textbooks to the African continent. Books For Africa shipped over 12.6 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 26 countries since 1988. BFA has received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator (4-star rating) and the Minnesota Charities Review Council.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Ship Books Back to Ethiopia

Some 40 years after completing their Peace Corps service in Ethiopia, a group of RPCVs recently collaborated with their former students and others to get 35,000 books delivered to their host community. How did they pull off this project?

The RPCVs contacted Books for Africa.

The three RPCVs from Ethiopia, who served in the mid-1960s, teamed with many of their former students in the Ethiopian town of Debre Marcos in a request to Books For Africa to ship and assist with the distribution of the more than 35,000 books. These included elementary and high school math, science, and English textbooks, as well as school library and reference books.

The Ethiopia team raised more than \$4,500 and secured the necessary tax letters from the Ethiopian government to qualify for a matching USAID grant to cover BFA's \$9,000 shipping costs. Then, last February, the Ethiopia RPCVs raised an additional \$3,500 for teacher supplies, reference books, medical books, and learning charts that they took with them on a visit to Debre Marcos. The RPCVs, accompanied by several of their former students, also presented the town's development committee with \$1,000 for school improvements.

"All the funds were used wisely," says Ethiopia RPCV Clare Shea (1965-1967), "and went a long way to assist the educational needs of Ethiopian students."



Elementary School Children Donate \$2,439 to Books For Africa as Net Proceeds From Pickle Sales—Meet the newest members of the Books For Africa Kilimanjaro Society! Kindergarten students at George Elementary School in Arkansas sold pickles for 50 cents apiece in their school to raise funds to ship books to Africa. The students also coordinated the shipment of a truckload of textbooks from Arkansas to Minnesota for shipment to Africa. The students were inspired by their teacher, Karen Wiggins, who is traveling to do mission work in Tanzania, East Africa. Books For Africa thanks the students of George Elementary School for their dedication to helping children in Africa to learn.

BFA Ends Another Record-setting Fiscal Year

Books For Africa has had another outstanding fiscal year, shipping more books than ever before. Specifically, in FY 2005 BFA shipped 64 containers of books (approximately 1.6 million books) to 15 African countries and exceeded last year's shipment total of 56 containers. These books were conservatively valued at over \$10.6 million. BFA raised almost \$500,000 in cash to ship these books – a 21 to 1 return on donations. Additionally, more books were shipped from our St. Paul warehouse location than ever before. BFA shipped 42 containers from St. Paul this year vs. 26 in the previous fiscal year

– a 62 percent increase. Other developments in the past months include BFA's first ever shipment of French-language books from Paris, France to French-speaking Mali in West Africa. This first shipment by BFA to Mali, and recent shipments to Djibouti and Rwanda, brings to 26 the total number of African countries served by Books For Africa since 1988. So in short, things are going well with an aggressive shipping schedule geared to do our part to meet the tremendous needs across the African continent. Thanks to everyone for your help in making it happen!

BFA Participating in 2005 Federal Combined Charities Campaign

Books For Africa is pleased to be participating once again in the Federal Combined



Charities Campaign. In 2004, BFA received approximately \$48,000 in pledges from United States federal employees across the world. Books For Africa is part of the Aid to Africa Federation, but carries its own CFC number (#9954) so federal employees may donate directly to BFA. The Combined Federal Campaign is the world's largest workplace-giving program, soliciting donations from nearly four million federal employees and generating approximately \$250 million in donations. Books For Africa appreciates the support of federal employees in this, the 2005 Federal Combined Charities Campaign.

Letters

Here is a recent e-mail to BFA, just one of many hundreds sent every month from Africa.

"I am an English teacher working with trainee teachers and qualified teachers in Zambezia, Mozambique. We have a very big problem of lack of books in the province due to the high cost of books and general lack of availability as a result. The schools are being issued with text books to use in the classroom but the teachers need back up books such as dictionaries and grammar books as their knowledge is very limited due to a general low level of teaching in the schools.

Could Books for Africa help please?

Yours sincerely
Rosie Hunt



Books For Africa recently hosted a delegation from the parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania. The delegation was traveling across the United States as part of the American Council of Young Political Leaders and toured the Books For Africa warehouse when they were in Minnesota. Books For Africa has shipped approximately 950,000 books to Tanzania since 1988.

New Ways to Support Book Projects in Specific Countries

BFA is excited to announce a new web-based container donation program that will be launched in the fall of 2005 allowing donors to pool their resources to support specific book projects in specific locations throughout Africa. Under the new program, donors may support the delivery of sponsored containers featured on the BFA website. In this way, even small donors who cannot finance a full container can still support the deliv-

ery of books to specific areas in Africa through pooling their resources. Those interested in supporting any of the featured projects can simply go to www.booksforafrica.org and then click on the "Featured Containers" section on the left-hand side of the screen. Maybe you have a book project that you would like to have featured on the BFA website? Contact BFA offices for more information about how to get books to your project in Africa.



A typical BFA book distribution in Africa.

If you would like to learn more about Books For Africa please call 651-602-9844 (fax 651-602-9848).

E-mail: bfa@booksforafrica.org Web: www.booksforafrica.org

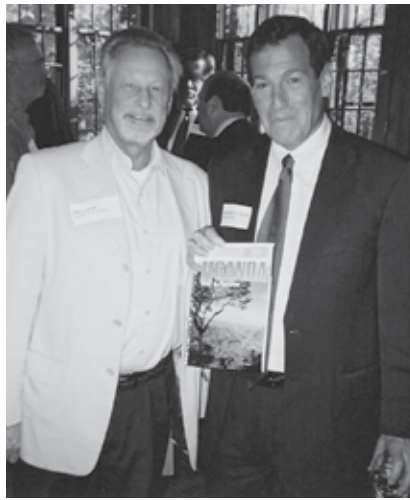
Kilimanjaro Society Hosts U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Jimmy Kolker

U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, Jimmy Kolker, spoke at a special Kilimanjaro Society program on September 1st at the University Club of St. Paul, Minnesota. The reception featured an overview by Ambassador Kolker and an interactive discussion including a question and answer period with Kilimanjaro Society members. Ambassador Kolker also toured the BFA warehouse. The U.S. Embassy in Uganda recently sponsored the delivery and distribution throughout Uganda of a



container of textbooks from Books For Africa.

The Kilimanjaro Society reception also featured the announcement of the shipment to Uganda of two containers of books in the months ahead sponsored by local community organizations including supporters of Sacred Heart Seminary (Matthew Odong, Monsignor – Gulu, Uganda), and Pre-



ferred Adventures Ltd. (St. Paul, MN). These initiatives financed by local organizations and facilitated by Books For Africa will result in the delivery of approximately 60,000 textbooks to Uganda in the next 12 months.

“Schools are constantly writing and e-mailing us from Africa saying they have no books and asking us to send some. The need for books are so great in Africa that we could easily send twice as many books if we could get more shipping funds,” said Books For Africa Executive Director Pat Plonski.

The Kilimanjaro Society represents BFA’s top donors, and includes individuals and organizations that have given or pledged at least \$1,000 to BFA.

Library Builder Award

Somali Family Services held its second annual Resource Day at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, July 30th. The Library Builder Award was presented to Pat Plonski, BFA’s Executive Director, by Somali Family Services President Abdurashid Ali for assistance in developing the Gorowe Public Library in Somalia. The Gorowe Library will be the first public library in Somalia, and BFA will be donating the books for this library. Rang Hee Kim with Counterpart International was also honored. On July 29th, Counterpart International provided a donated 40-foot sea container filled with books



donated by BFA medical and educational supplies. Somali Family Services coordinated the delivery of this container to Somali as part of tsunami relief efforts along the coastal area.

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Staff Corner

Welcome to BFA's new Administrative Assistant, Kristin Van Blaircon! Kristin will be assisting BFA part time in office work, including the processing of shipping documents which ensure that BFA containers can be cleared efficiently from African ports where they are shipped. Kristin holds a Bachelor's degree in Studio Arts from the University of Minnesota, and has an artist gallery in the Jax Building where BFA is located.

Books For Africa is also pleased to welcome Rachel Tenney from Macalester College in St. Paul. Rachel is interning at BFA through the fall of 2005 assisting in warehouse logistical operations.

Where Do all of These Books Come From?

BFA will ship about 1.7 million books to Africa this year. The question is often asked, "Where do you get the books?" The answer is that they are delivered to BFA's St. Paul warehouse by the shopping bag, and by the semi-load. Individuals, schools, universities, libraries, publishers, and book companies all donate high-quality new and used books for shipment to schools, libraries, and universities across Africa. Better World Books provides large quantities of post-secondary books as well as cash donations from book sales. McGraw Hill also donates post-secondary books which are shipped directly from their warehouse to Africa. The World Book Company donates encyclopedia sets, and The Dictionary Project donates dictionaries. Lerner Publications donates large quantities of new children's books. Finally, Follett Educational Services; Academic Book Services; and Goodwill Easter Seals Minnesota donate large quantities of books of all types. And these are just a few of our book donors. Books For Africa thanks these fine organizations, and all of our book donors who provide the books that we ship on your behalf to Africa.

