

BOOKS FOR AFRICA



SPRING 2005

NEWSLETTER

Books For Africa is the largest shipper of donated textbooks to the African continent. Last year, Books For Africa shipped over 1.5 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books. BFA has received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator (4-star rating) and the Minnesota Charities Review Council.

Books For Africa Ships 100,000 Books to Rotary Club of Eshowe, South Africa

BFA continued its longstanding partnership with Rotary International with a special project shipping approximately 100,000 books to the Rotary Club of Eshowe in South Africa. Key partners in this effort included the World Bank Book Project, Global Transitions International, the U.S. Department of Defense, Bromelkamp Company, and the Donaldson Foundation. A total of three 40-foot sea containers of primary and secondary textbooks (65 tons) valued at approximately \$500,000 were delivered in 2004.

Rotary International and Books For Africa have worked in close partnership since BFA's establishment in 1988, and have shipped hundreds of thousands of books to Africa over the years. Last year, BFA worked on



four separate Rotary projects delivering approximately 175,000 books to Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa. Partnering Rotary clubs from 2004 have included the Woodbury Rotary (Minnesota – USA), The Jinja Rotary (Uganda), the Rancho Cucamonga Rotary (California – USA), the Eshowe Rotary (South Africa), and the Rotary Club of North Pocono (Pennsylvania – USA). Under BFA/Rotary partnerships, the sponsoring Rotary club raises

funds and the receiving Rotary club in Africa coordinates book distributions.

Books For Africa is the largest shipper of donated textbooks to the African continent, shipping over 12 million primary, secondary, and post-secondary textbooks to 24 countries since 1988. Last year alone, 1.5 million books valued at approximately \$13 million were shipped. While all books provided are donated, it costs approximately \$9,500 in shipping and related costs to move a 20-foot container of books to Africa.

BFA was built in large part through partnerships with Rotary International. Contact us today to learn more about how your Rotary club can join in efforts to increase levels of education and literacy across Africa.

Better World Books Collections Under Way Across the United States

Better World Books continues to support BFA through the collection of books on approximately 400 college campuses across the United States this spring. These book collections provide vital financial support for BFA, resulting in over \$100,000 in funding since this partnership was initiated. Better World Books and BFA recently presented to college bookstore managers at the National Association of College Bookstores at their national confer-

ence in New Orleans, and also at the COOL Idealist Conference at the University of California-Berkeley where many students were enlisted to run book drives on their campuses. BFA benefits from the proceeds of book sales and also receives substantial book donations from the Better World Books collection center in South Bend, Indiana.



“Africa is the foremost development challenge facing the international community today.”

United Nations Secretary General
Kofi Annan – March 11, 2005

Books For Africa and Lawson Software Partner to Help Rwanda

Although many people are aware of the genocide that devastated Rwanda in 1994 – fewer have heard of the efforts underway to rebuild Rwanda’s infrastructure, political institutions, and human resources. Recently Books For Africa and Lawson Software teamed up to do their part in this effort to rebuild Rwanda by shipping approximately 25,000 textbooks to schools, libraries, and orphanages throughout the country.

Books For Africa has partnered with a number of U.S. corporations and foundations to send educational relief efforts to sub-Saharan Africa over the years. “We welcome the opportunity to work with other U.S. corporations in the future to sponsor the delivery of textbooks and school materials throughout Africa,” said Books For Africa Executive Director Pat Plonski.

The shipment to Rwanda was organized in April of 2004, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. Books For Africa co-hosted a Minnesota visit of a presidential delegation from the Republic of



Pictured above at a special reception at the residence of the President of the University of Minnesota are Dr. Robert Jones representing the University of Minnesota; Winston Hewett representing Lawson Software; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; and Pat Plonski representing Books For Africa.

Rwanda, with President Paul Kagame speaking about efforts to rebuild schools and infrastructure and increase levels of education and human development. In a collaborative effort, students from the University of Minnesota and St. Paul Schools collected books to ship to Rwanda for BFA.

This container of textbooks and other donated materials – 13 tons of humanitarian relief supplies – left Minnesota on April 20, 2005, and will arrive

in Rwanda for distribution in June.

“I wish to thank you for spearheading the collaborative effort between Books For Africa, Lawson Software and students of the University of Minnesota to collect textbooks for students in Rwanda,” Kagame said. “Improving our human resources through education is our government’s priority and we therefore look forward to a partnership with Books For Africa to provide textbooks to schools in Rwanda.”

Letters

BFA gets scores of requests weekly for books. Many of these letters come directly from schools and libraries. Here is one typical letter illustrating why BFA’s mission is so important:

Dear Books For Africa;

We are Chuodho Women Group, a community-based organization caring for AIDS orphans in Karungu, Kenya on the shores of Lake Victoria.

We run a primary school for those orphans, Sori Lakeside Junior Academy, which is a mix of day scholars and boarders. Currently we have 210 students attending the school. However, due to the high poverty level of the community, guardians are unable to pay even a small amount in



A typical school in Africa.

school fees. In addition, the orphanage receives very little in outside funding. Therefore, we are unable to provide them with textbooks or reading books. Thus, we are interested to know if we can be assisted by your

program so that our orphans can achieve academically. We are striving to provide our children with the basic necessities of life as well as a good education which we believe is essential to their human rights.

I am attaching our certificates of registration issued by the Government of Kenya.

We look forward to

hearing from you soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Yohei Ishiguro, Program Officer
Chuodho Women Group,
Karungu, Kenya

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



Books For Africa board members and staff recently hosted Congresswoman Betty McCollum of St. Paul, Minnesota as well as representatives of the Minnesota Trade Office, the Corporate Council on Africa, and local Rotarians at a warehouse tour. The group discussed opportunities for increased cooperation between BFA, government entities, corporations, and key non-profits such as Rotary International.

World Food Programme / USAID Partnership Remains on Track

Books For Africa's innovative partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) School Feeding Programme and the United States Agency for International Development continues to move forward, delivering hundreds of thousands of books to school feeding locations across Africa. Initiated in September of 2004, book shipments have been sent to WFP country mis-

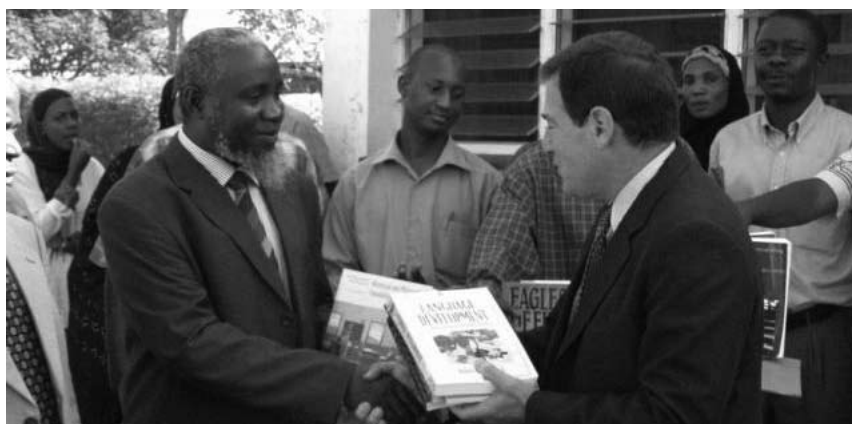


sions in Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sierra Leone. Additional

shipments are planned for the Gambia and Liberia. Upon project completion later this year, approximately 400,000 books valued at well over \$2 million will be shipped.



USAID is providing financial support to cover out of pocket costs related to this project. Wilson Logistics and Seaboard Marine have also assisted in this effort providing donated shipping to Africa. Thanks to all of our partners for making this effort a great success!



On February 19th, U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Jimmy Kolker officially handed over a donation of more than 10,000 textbooks provided by BFA to Islamic University in Mbale, Uganda. Islamic University Rector Dr. Ahmad Kamal Sengendo received the donation on behalf of the University. The U.S. Embassy also donated books to dozens of primary schools around the country.

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Books For Africa
253 E 4th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

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NOTE: If your name and/or address is incorrect or if you no longer wish to receive BFA's newsletter, please make name and/or address corrections or write "delete" on your mailing label and return it to BFA.



BFA Public Service Announcements Run on CNN

A five-minute public service announcement ran throughout the month of April on CNN in Minnesota and Wisconsin through a special partnership with Comcast Cable Network. Pictured above are Colleen Needles, host of the Comcast Newsmakers Program, and BFA Executive Director Pat Plonski conducting an in-studio interview for this program.

"Invitation to My Seventieth Birthday Party"

BFA founder Tom Warth is inviting all his relatives, friends, acquaintances, and BOOKS FOR AFRICA supporters to join him in celebrating his upcoming birthday on February 5, 2006

However, the party is at the top of Kilimanjaro as part of a trip to East Africa in support of BOOKS FOR AFRICA! This is a three-part trip comprised of the climb, an animal safari and a trip to Dar es Salaam to visit our partners and be present at the arrival of a container of books. Travelers can take part in one, two, or all three segments.

The trip is filling up fast and reservations need to be made ASAP.

For more details Email Tom at TE@Warth.name



June 30th marks the end of BFA's fiscal year, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the donors – large and small – who assist us in our mission of ending the book famine in Africa. If you have not yet donated to BFA in the past 12 months, please consider an end-of-year gift. Please also consider joining the Kilimanjaro Society of Books For Africa. The Kilimanjaro Society represents those individuals and organizations having donated \$1,000 or more to BFA over the course of the year. This February 10th, Books For Africa hosted its second fundraising lunch at the Town & Country Club in St. Paul. Over 200 guests came to hear speakers from all over share their experiences of seeing the faces of children impacted by books donated through Books For Africa. 16 new members of the Kilimanjaro Society have been welcomed through these moving fundraising lunches. BFA now boasts over 100 Kilimanjaro Society members total, and we would like to add you too!