



**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 20 million books to 44 African countries. Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa.

**Fall 2008 Newsletter**

## Students in South Africa Trade Photocopies for Books

*"Xiluva, I teach an after-school reading group, but we only have photocopied pages from text books to use. Do you think you could help me to find some books for the learners?"* —Teacher in South Africa

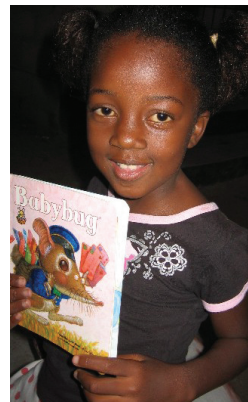
**Spurred on by this simple request**, Rose Zulliger (AKA "Xiluva") found her way to the Books For Africa website. Zulliger, a Peace Corps Volunteer currently serving in South Africa, went on to organize and help distribute a BFA shipment of 22,000 text and library books to 30 schools and communities throughout South Africa.

To cover shipping costs, each recipient school raised \$200 USD in a variety of creative ways such as hosting carnivals and taking student photos. The remainder of the funds was raised through the Peace Corps Partnership Program.

Zulliger writes: "The books were of the highest quality and exceeded my expectations on every level. I cannot even begin to describe the gratitude and excitement shared by countless volunteers, communities, schools, and children. Thank you!" ■



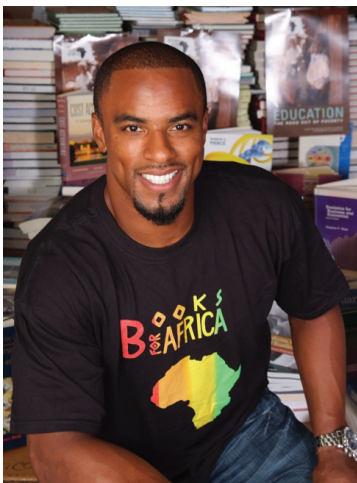
**Above:** Members of an after-school reading group at Ndabeni Higher Primary School in South Africa are very excited to have books to read!



**Left:** Busi, a South African primary school student, cherishes being able to take home library books to share her reading skills with friends and family.



## Darren Sharper and Books For Africa Team Up for the Children of Africa



Minnesota Viking Darren Sharper at the BFA warehouse.

**After hearing that Books For Africa recently was awarded** a \$90,000 grant from Oprah's Angel Network, Vikings safety Darren Sharper decided to take an active role in BFA's fundraising projects and book drives.

Sharper will be hosting Books & Bucks Day at the November 9th Vikings vs. Packers game at the Metrodome. Fans from both teams are invited to donate a book at the game. The team that brings the most books earns bragging rights.

Sharper also will be leading a trip to South Africa tentatively scheduled for March 2008. The trip is open to the public. If you are interested in helping Sharper hand out books to kids in South Africa and visiting this beautiful country, please contact the BFA office at (651) 602-9844 or [bfa@booksforafrica.org](mailto:bfa@booksforafrica.org). ■

**BetterWorldBooks**  
WWW.BETTERWORLD.COM

Buy new and used books at Better World Books, Help BFA!  
[www.booksforafrica.org/betterworldbooks.html](http://www.booksforafrica.org/betterworldbooks.html)

## Books For Africa Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Gala, Mayor's Breakfast, and Braai

“We’ve sent 20 million books to a continent that, as I understand it, has 370 million children. We have to do more. We’ve got a warehouse with a million books which are already owned by the African children. We just need to raise the funds to get them there.”

*Tom Warth, founder of BFA*

**Below left:** Tom Warth, Ambassador Sefue of Tanzania, Emma Kasiga, and Ron Aminzade in front of the 40-foot container of books being sent to Tanzania.

**Below center:** Zantha LaFon Warth and Agnes Swai at the 20th Anniversary Gala.

**Below right:** BFA board members Gena Doyscher and Mike Essien at the 20th Anniversary Gala.

On September 12, 2008, over 350 Books For Africa supporters gathered at the History Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, to celebrate 20 years of service to the children of Africa.

Kerri Miller of Minnesota Public Radio emceed the gala program, which included a videotaped message from Kofi Annan offering his congratulations to Books For Africa and BFA founder Tom Warth. Annan is an honorary co-chair of the Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative, which aims to ship law books to Africa.

The Honorable Welile Nhlapo, South African Ambassador to the U.S., voiced his support for Books For Africa’s initiatives and described the need for books in his country:

“Make no mistake, there are hundreds and thousands of [South African] people, young and old, who aspire to an education so that they can become their own agents of change and lead themselves out of the trap of poverty that has kept them down for much too long.”

Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum and Congressman Keith Ellison voiced their enthusiastic support for BFA, and Agnes Swai expressed appreciation—on behalf of Tanzania National Parks and of the children of Africa—for the donation of BFA books that was



BFA Board President Michael Henley presents Tom Warth with a plaque in honor of 20 years of service to the children of Africa. From left: Tom Warth, Ambassador Nhlapo of South Africa, Patrick Plonski, and Michael Henley.

distributed in her country last year.

At the special breakfast on Saturday morning hosted by St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, the Honorable Ombeni Sefue, Tanzanian Ambassador to the U.S., expressed his appreciation for “the generosity of the American people, for their contribution to the education of the African people.”

The weekend festivities concluded with a South African-style braai (barbecue) hosted by wine importer MT Global at the BFA warehouse on Saturday afternoon. Two 40-foot containers of BFA books were given a send-off to Tanzania and South Africa. ■



“Books For Africa is a simple idea, but its impact is transformative. For us, literacy is quite simply the bridge from misery to hope.”

*Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General and honorary co-chair of BFA’s Law & Democracy Initiative*

## Congressman Keith Ellison (MN) Delivers BFA Books to Five African Nations

In late June, Congressman Keith Ellison (MN) traveled to Africa with five other members of Congress as part of his work for the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC). They met with elected representatives and government officials in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, and Mauritania.

In each country visited, Congressman Ellison paused to deliver sets of brand-new encyclopedias, dictionaries, and atlases provided by Books For Africa. He describes his experience Kenya like this:

“In Kenya, we were in a small village and the students had a wonderful school. They were eager to learn. They had motivated teachers, but they didn’t have any books in the school. They had no library. And so, imagine how proud I was to open up this box of shiny new encyclopedias and dictionaries from Books For Africa. They want more of your books. They can’t wait.”

According to Congressman Ellison, “Those gifts reinforced our personally delivered messages of friendship, partnership, and technical assistance as we seek to govern more effectively, and more compassionately, in both the United States and Africa.” ■



**Above top:** Congressman Keith Ellison (MN) presents BFA encyclopedia sets to officials in Liberia.

**Above bottom:** Congressman Keith Ellison (MN) delivers BFA books to students at a school near Kibera, Kenya.

### BFA Shipments in FY 2008

Country	Containers	Country	Containers
Liberia	53	Algeria	2
Ethiopia	27	Botswana	2
Ghana	20	Guinea	2
Tanzania	15	Lesotho	2
Uganda	10	Senegal	2
Nigeria	8	Togo	2
Kenya	6	Zimbabwe	2
Madagascar	4	Congo	1
Malawi	4	The Gambia	1
South Africa	4	Ivory Coast	1
Cameroon	3	Rwanda	1
Somalia	3	Zambia	1

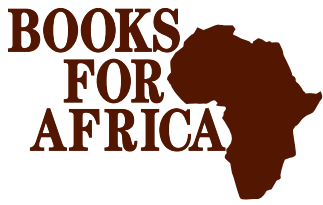
**Totals: 24 countries 176 containers**

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“Literacy is important to the future. We are so very excited to explore our new books!”

*Siyancoba Primary School staff and learners in South Africa*

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Books For Africa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving as the largest shipper of donated textbooks to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped over 20 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 44 African countries. Books For Africa has received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator and the Minnesota Charities Review Council. The mission of Books For Africa is to end the book famine in Africa.

## Two New Grants Fund 19 Book Shipments to Eight African Countries

### \$95,000 Grant from Oprah’s Angel Network Will Send 200,000 Books to Africa

**Oprah’s Angel Network has awarded Books For Africa** a generous \$95,000 grant, which will be used to ship nine 40-foot containers of books to school-age children in South Africa, Tanzania, and Liberia who currently have little or no access to reading materials.

**“Books For Africa brings opportunity to children who may have limited or no access to education.”**  
—Caren Yanis, Executive Director of Oprah’s Angel Network

“Access to books give children a window into the larger world and helps them think about their own futures,” said Caren Yanis, Executive Director of Oprah’s Angel Network. “This grant will put books into classrooms and enable students to rise to their full potential.”

Oprah’s Angel Network is a public charity that uses public donations to award grants to organizations around the world that are improving access to education, developing leaders, protecting basic rights, and creating communities of support. ■

### \$90,000 Grant from the OPEC Fund for International Development

**Thanks to a \$90,000 grant** from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), Books For Africa is sending over 200,000 text and library books to five North African countries. According to OFID, “Providing fresh new learning tools for beneficiary schools will have a positive influence on boosting attendance rates and encouraging children to remain in school.”



**“The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) is pleased to support the work of Books For Africa, which aims to deliver text books to students in five North African countries who are eager to learn English.”** —Ikhlass Al-Sheikhly, OFID

Ten 40-foot containers of books in all will be sent to Chad, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia. The books are earmarked for Arabic-speaking students who are eager to learn English and read English textbooks. ■