



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 21 million books to 45 African countries. Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa.

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Ambassador Johnnie Carson Delivers Keynote at African Education Conference



Ambassador Johnnie Carson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, discussed U.S. policy in Africa with special focus on education.

The Obama Administration's Top African Official Briefs Group at the Oct. 2 African Education Conference at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute

Ambassador Johnnie Carson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, delivered the keynote address at the Oct. 2 conference on Literacy and Education in 21st Century Africa. Ambassador Carson discussed U.S. policy in Africa with special focus on education.

The conference was presented by Books For Africa and the University of Minnesota's Office of International Programs. The keynote address was followed by breakout sessions on literacy issues in Africa related to health care, human rights, formal education, and economic development.

The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion featuring Ambassador Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations; Christopher J. Thomas, World Bank Sector Manager for Education in Africa; and South African Vice Consul General Gillian Motlhamme. The three officials discussed key issues regarding literacy in Africa, including the need for books and computers especially in rural areas. ■

"I don't know how to describe the value, the infinite value, of books and the knowledge in there. And you bring it to Africa. You make a tremendous contribution to one of the key and pivotal sectors in any developing country."

—H.E. Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga of Tanzania, referring to BFA shipments



Christopher J. Thomas (World Bank) and Dr. Robert J. Jones (University of Minnesota) visit during the conference.



From left: J. Brian Atwood (University of Minnesota), Carol Klee (University of Minnesota), Patrick Plonski (Books For Africa), Ambassador Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania, Ambassador Johnnie Carson, and Michael Henley (Books For Africa).

Books For Africa Hosts the President of Somalia at Kilimanjaro Breakfast

“As a mother, I can’t think of anything more powerful than putting a book in the hand of my child. Books For Africa not only reinforces the importance of children learning, but help adults to fulfill their dream of living in a country full of hope and opportunity.”

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN)

Below left: Somali President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed and Congressman Keith Ellison at the Kilimanjaro Breakfast.

Below center: South African Vice Consul General Gillian Motlhamme speaks at the braai at the BFA warehouse.

Below right: BFA Executive Director Patrick Plonski inducts Congresswoman Betty McCollum into the Kilimanjaro Society.

At a VIP breakfast on Oct. 3 honoring Kilimanjaro Society members, Books For Africa was honored to welcome Somali President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, whose visit was coordinated by Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison.

President Ahmed remarked: “Books and knowledge are light, and ignorance is darkness. The problems inside Somalia are largely due to ignorance. Sending books to Africa can change people’s lives in profound ways.”

The breakfast was hosted by Books For Africa in cooperation with Congresswoman Betty McCollum. John Rupp and The University Club sponsored the event. Kilimanjaro Society members are donors who have contributed between \$1,000 and \$4,999 a year to Books For Africa.

Congresswoman McCollum made a surprise announcement that she has introduced House Resolution 3701, called “More Books For Africa,” which calls for a major appropriation to ship more books to Africa. Congressman Ellison is a co-sponsor.

Books For Africa provided its first annual Kilimanjaro Society Award of Merit to Better World Books, BFA’s single largest donor. BWB’s Paul Miller said, “This weekend really reaffirmed the importance of the work that BFA does in getting books over to the African continent and helping to advance the cause of literacy and education.”

On October 2, Books For Africa and the University of Minnesota hosted a reception at Eastcliff honoring Ambassador Johnnie Carson. The reception was sponsored by



Somali President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed and Karen Johnson, Kilimanjaro Society donor and former BFA board member, at the Kilimanjaro Breakfast on Oct. 3.

Thomson Reuters West.

The weekend festivities concluded with a South African-style braai (barbecue) at the Minnesota BFA warehouse on Saturday afternoon. The event was hosted by Robert Marx of MT Global Importers. BFA supporters enjoyed a delicious meal and plenty of South African wine.

Guests celebrated the send-off of one 40-foot container of BFA books to South Africa. The Donaldson Company generously provided the funding for the shipment of approximately 20,000 books. South African Vice Consul General Gillian Motlhamme said: “I feel that as a business Donaldson Company has displayed a sense of corporate social responsibility. It’s very encouraging to see business giving back to the community. I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to Donaldson Company.” ■

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“Thank you to Books For Africa for making a difference in the lives of adults and children in Africa. You really don’t know how much it means to us to have a book.”

South African Vice Consul General Gillian Motlhamme

Making a Difference on a Budget

We know that many of you are living with more limited budgets these days. However, you still can make a huge difference to Books For Africa. There are several giving options that provide a strong long-term impact without a large upfront investment:

- *Designated gifts*—If you make donations through the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign, you can choose to designate Books For Africa on your contribution form.
- *Payroll deduction*—We can help you set this up with your bank, so that you can have a set amount automatically deducted from your paycheck on a monthly or quarterly basis. Small regular gifts are a painless way to make a significant gift.
- *Planned gifts*—You can make BFA the beneficiary of your insurance or will, or set up an annuity that will provide you with ongoing income while providing revenue for Books For Africa.
- *Appreciated stock*—As the stock market revives, consider making a gift of your appreciated stock.
- *Volunteer*—If you live near a BFA warehouse (either in the Twin Cities or the Atlanta metro area), go on the website and look at the volunteer options to see what works for your schedule.
- *Donate books*—Check our website for book guidelines, then see if there are some books in your library that you would be willing to donate to African readers.

Whatever route you choose for your gift, we appreciate your selection of Books For Africa as a vehicle for making a difference in the world. Thank you! ■



BFA Shipments in FY 2009

Country	Containers	Country	Containers
Ethiopia	22	Benin	2
Ghana	19	Botswana	2
Liberia	18	Cameroon	2
Tanzania	16	The Gambia	2
Uganda	10	Madagascar	2
Nigeria	9	Mauritania	2
Kenya	8	Mozambique	2
Malawi	8	Niger	2
South Africa	8	Rwanda	2
Somalia	6	Senegal	2
Morocco	5	Sierra Leone	2
Chad	4	Zimbabwe	2
Egypt	4	Djibouti	1
Togo	4	Sudan	1
Tunisia	4	Western Sahara	1
Zambia	4		

Totals: 176 containers, 1.8 million books sent to 31 countries

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“The education of young people in Africa must be a top priority, and your contribution is of enormous value.”

Volunteer at Bega Kwa Bega charity in Uganda, recipient of a BFA shipment of books

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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 21 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 45 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.

Books For Africa Sends First-Ever Shipment to Mozambique

This year Books For Africa sent its first-ever shipment of books to Mozambique. The container arrived thanks to generous funding from Better World Books. Here is a poem written by Jeronimo Cessito, the founder of a school that received books from this shipment:

What Books Mean to Me

*Book is a blessing for my life,
Book is a tool for my daily life,
Book is text for learning,
Book is expensive,
Book is thought,
Books help to change my mind,
Books help to change my actions,
Books help to change my character,
Books help to change my destination,
Books will help our village, town, city, and nation.*

Thank you for sending us books.

—Jeronimo Albino Cessito



These first graders from Ray of Light School in Mozambique were happy to receive their BFA books.