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“Reading will help me travel the world
without getting in an airplane.”

*Benjamin, student in Kisumu, Karateng, Kenya
(Our Reading Spaces/InAble project)*

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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 26 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 46 African countries. Books For Africa has received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator and the Minnesota Charities Review Council. BFA's mission is simple: to end the book famine in Africa.

Books For Africa Recipient Celebrates 50 Years of Educating Young Women in Uganda



Above: Students of the Tororo Girls' School performed for guests and school officials to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary.

With the help of a Rotary International Global Grant, Books For Africa and Ameriprise Corporation sent a full container of books to the Tororo Girls School in Tororo, Uganda. Seth Eggessa, Books For Africa Board Member, visited the school for an anniversary celebration in January 2012.

Eggessa joined the students in celebrating 50 years of providing education for young women in Uganda. Volunteers from the United States Peace Corps founded the school in the 1960s with the mission of expanding educational opportunities to include young women. Eggessa joined Dr. Shelby Lewis in Tororo. Dr. Lewis is one of the school's founders and the Deputy Chairperson of the U.S. Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in Africa.

The library is stocked with books thanks to the Books For Africa shipment. With a good supply of books, the community is now working with donors like USAID to further upgrade the library.



Right: Many of the students wrote and performed skits to show how education positively impacts their lives.

BOOKS FOR AFRICA

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Spring 2012 Newsletter

Books For Africa Celebrates Shipping More Than 26 Million Books to Africa at Annual Fundraising Events



Above: Ambassador Odembo greets BFA Board Member, Rosie Owens, as her husband, Isaac Owens, looks on after lunch at the Town & Country Club of St. Paul (MN).

Below: The sun was shining brightly at the St. Paul Town & Country Club. From left to right: Asratie Teferra (BFA Board), Mike Essien (BFA Board), Minister Ibidapo-Obe (Embassy of Nigeria), Alemayehu Haile (BFA Ambassadors Circle), and Ambassador Odembo.

Books For Africa has shipped more than 26 million books to 46 countries in less than 25 years. BFA celebrated the support that makes those shipments possible at annual fundraising events in early May.

BFA guests and supporters heard about the impact books make in Africa from several very special guests. His Excellency Elkanah Odembo, Kenyan Ambassador to the U.S. affirmed, "There is not a single more important investment than that which we are making in education, absolutely none." Ambassador Odembo worked as a teacher in Nairobi when he first graduated university. He understands the incredible impact of books on development in Kenya and all of Africa. He noted that in order to eradicate poverty in Kenya, "There will be no shortcut; we will need to be able to read."

Minister Oluwasegun Ibidapo-Obe, making remarks on behalf of the Nigerian Ambassador to the U.S., affirmed that books provide more than classroom smarts by "molding the character [of students] and providing skills for life." Former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Howard Jeter, also announced that the Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation, having sent 32 containers of BFA books to Nigeria over the last year, would like to send 32 more containers before 2012 comes to a close.



"As much as we would like to see every boy and every girl receive a first class education, this is proving to be very challenging. This education that we want for our children is looking for books, desks, classrooms, and teachers. It does not get more basic than that."

His Excellency Elkanah Odembo, Kenyan Ambassador to the U.S.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Right: Norm Linnell (BFA Board President) and Tom Vernage at the University Club of St. Paul (MN).



Buy new and used books at Better World Books, or run a book drive on your college campus, and help BFA!
www.booksforafrica.org/index/bwb



Books For Africa Hosts “Doing Business in Africa: Education and Workforce Development” with the Corporate Council on Africa



Above: The event, held at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, brought in a large audience of individuals interested in business opportunities in Africa.

In December 2011, Books For Africa and the Corporate Council on Africa brought an event to the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management that highlighted the potential for economic development in Africa. This event was sponsored by Thomson Reuters; the African Development Center; Missionary Expeditors; Bremer Bank; Cargill; Merck and Co., Inc.; Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. Law Offices; the Minnesota Trade Office; Mshale; the Minnesota International Center; and the Minnesota High Tech Association.

The Corporate Council on Africa, a Washington D.C. based organization, works to increase American awareness of business opportunities in Africa. In 2011, more than \$184 million worth of goods were exported to Africa by companies based in Minnesota.

“Doing Business in Africa: Education and Workforce Development” was a part of a lecture series hosted by the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at the Carlson School of Management of the University of Minnesota. Each year, CIBER hosts programs on topics of international business and economy to encourage future business leaders to think globally.

The lively panel discussion included Stephen Hayes, CEO of the Corporate Council on Africa; Trevor Gunn, Senior Director of International Relations at Medtronic; Kojo Amoo-Gottfried, Managing Director of Cargill Ghana; and Hussein Samatar, Executive Director of the African Development Center.



Left: Corporate Council on Africa CEO, Stephen Hayes, with Thomson Reuters VP of Government Affairs and Community Relations and Former Minneapolis Mayor, Sharon Sayles Belton.



Books Delivered to the Children of Livingstone, Zambia

Books For Africa and The Happy Africa Foundation delivered 22,000 books to Livingstone, Zambia, in January 2012. February was busy as the staff of the Happy Africa Foundation sorted all of the books to be distributed to schools and libraries throughout the region.

The Happy Africa Foundation works to empower individuals, build strong communities, and make sure projects successfully address real needs in the communities in which they work. The Livingstone Project was such a great success that several Zambian government officials have expressed interest in bringing more books to Southern Zambia.



Left: Zambian children are ready to learn from their new Books For Africa books.

Right: A Happy Africa Foundation team member reads aloud with a young student.



“Students will benefit from your contribution both now and in the future.”

Reverend Mubuyaeta Imasiku, Livingstone school official

Books For Africa Launches New Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Vocational Skills Initiative

Hunger is the number one health risk facing the world's population, which passed seven billion in early 2012 (World Food Programme). Feeding the world depends on efficient food and agricultural systems. As such, Books For Africa proudly announces the launch of our newest special interest initiative: the Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Vocational Skills Initiative.

From floods in West Africa to drought in East Africa, every African community faces unique challenges in food production. The Books For Africa Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Vocational Skills Initiative provides new textbooks focused on improving African agricultural systems. The knowledge from these books will help develop efficient food and agricultural systems for generations.



"The benefit of these books cannot be overemphasized... I can only say that our lives [revolve] around those titles."

Pastor Francis Opoku, Action Child Mobilization-Ghana

The African Book Walk: One Million Books for The Gambia

Tom Warth and a delegation of loyal Books For Africa supporters walked the 25 kilometer (15 mile) Trans-Gambian highway in February 2012 to distribute a full container of books to the children of The Gambia. The group wanted to show that if BFA can end the book famine in one country like The Gambia, we will be one step closer to ending the African book famine.



Above: Ending the Gambian book famine will be a step toward ending the book famine on the African continent.



Above: Hundreds of students joined the march to end the Gambian book famine.

"We came up with the idea of trying to end the book famine in the Gambia. The Gambia only has a million and a half people and maybe 750 thousand children, so we thought that a campaign to send one million books would be dramatic."

Tom Warth, BFA Founder

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