Back To Where It All Began

In 1988, BFA Founder Tom Warth visited the city library in Jinja, Uganda. He was dismayed to see the nearly empty shelves and the few scattered, tattered books that were all at least 25 years old. Upon his return to the U.S., Tom met with a group of publishers, booksellers, and librarians in Minnesota, and a handful of people from this group of book lovers formed what would become Books For Africa. In January 2016, Tom returned to the Jinja Library with Executive Director Pat Plonski to celebrate the creation of BFA 28 years ago! In honor of this momentous visit, BFA worked with long-time Uganda partner Agnes Igoye to send more BFA books to the Jinja Library, ensuring that the library would remain plentiful and robust for students in Jinja for years to come.

Zambia

There was jubilance as a container of 27,000 brand new French-language books arrived in Zambia this year to support the library programs of African Vision of Hope, based in Lusaka, as well as schools sponsored by Dream Livingstone Zambia. "Your process of delivery is excellent. Our distribution of the books has brought happiness in the schools we partner with. They have spent every night in the UCBC library," said UCBC Economics Faculty Secretary Papy Anguezu, holding a financial management book. "I think I will remain plentiful and robust for students in Jinja for years to come.

Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa. www.BooksForAfrica.org

Partnership With David Robinson, Son Of Baseball Legend Jackie Robinson

David Robinson, the son of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, returned from his home on a coffee plantation in Tanzania to Minnesota in September to talk about his work with BFA. Robinson, who has lived in Tanzania for over 30 years, also joined Tom Warth on the field across Zanzibar in January. During his visit he threw the first pitch at a Minnesota Twins game on “Books For Africa” night at Target Field, met with officials from Thomson Reuters (including Tom Warth, president), and attended a fundraising reception at the home of former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Tom Kaplan and his wife, Africa. He worked with Africa to send over 66,000 books to schools and communities across Tanzania!

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

There was jubilance as a container of 27,000 brand new French-language books, shipped from a BFA partner warehouse in France, arrived in Kinshasa, DRC last fall. BFA partnered with the Books for Eastern Congo initiative, which exists to improve access to quality books for students in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to develop a culture of reading in the region. Books For Africa has shipped more than 37 million books to 49 African countries in the past 28 years.