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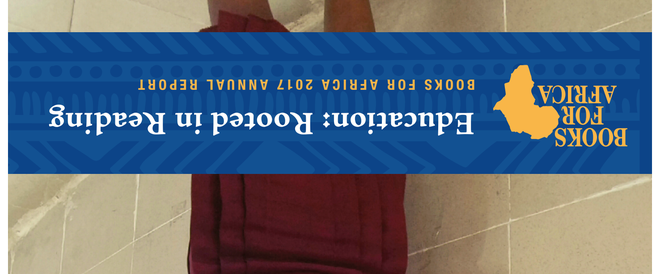

Front Cover: Photo courtesy of Sierra Leone Book Trust

Photo Credit: Zambezi Schoolbook Project

Education: Rooted in Reading

BOOKS FOR AFRICA 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for another outstanding year here at BFA! Your generous support in 2017 will allow us to make great strides in fighting the Global Book Famine. We are pleased to share with you some of what we achieved in 2017:

- **We shipped books by the tons (per again!):** BFA continues as the world's largest shipper of donated books in the U.S., shipping over 80 million books to 52 African countries in our 29-year history. This has garnered us a perfect 100 out of 100 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator (which named BFA on top for U.S. charity) 93 consecutive and e-crates containing 225,000 digital books, and 10 Worldcat Libraries, with a total value of over $33 million in 18 countries. More than 2.5 million was raised in 2017 to help these materials to Africa.
- **We continue to think Globally:** In our ongoing efforts to serve every country in Africa, we are proud to share that we have now shipped containers to Libya, Somalia, and Zimbabwe in 2017 and continue our work to end the book famine across the African continent.
- **We met the right people:** We interacted with numerous members of the African diplomatic corps in 2017 to collaborate on activities. His Excellency Robinson Cirhine, Ambassador de Kenya to the U.S., hosted BFA's annual Summit Society reception at the Kenyan Embassy in Washington, D.C., with numerous African ambassadors in attendance. In May, His Excellency Cardos Dos Santos, Ambassador de Mozambique to the United States, delivered a keynote speech at our annual luncheon, which was also attended by His Excellency Moussa S. Kaidi, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan. We also discussed strategy with His Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of Rwanda, as well as Tamara Carmichael, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
- **We met (even more of) the right people!** In addition to cultivating relationships with Ambassadors, we were honored to host 28 young African leaders from Presidents Obama's Mandela Washington Fellowship program, who attended a reception at Minneapolis Society reception and volunteered at our Minnesota warehouse on Nelson Mandela International Day in July. The Mandela Fellows also assisted in distributing e-readers pre-loaded with books of local Medical Manuals for medical practitioners in their home countries through a BFA partnership with Merck & Company!
- **We organized visits with key partners:** BFA participated in the Rotary Presidential annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, the Corporate Council on Africa's Annual Business Summit in Washington, D.C., a reception for Embassy Nominee in the Embassy of Alexandria Library in Egypt. We also implemented large scale partnerships through USAID-funded projects in Uganda and Ethiopia.
- **We heard from our African partners:** 29 recipient organizations from 13 African countries completed our post shipment survey. We are proud to have 100% of respondents agree that the books received are very relevant to their programs for the second straight year! Additional positive feedback was received from 33 medical professionals in 7 countries who received e-readers with a digital copy of the Merck Medical Manual.

In 2017 we engaged our partners on all levels in order to deliver a record number of books. Next year will mark our 30th Anniversary of working towards our vision of children reading in every African country. This was the dream of Nelson Mandela, who famously declared, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." It is our dream – and we know it is yours as well.

Sincerely,

Luanne Nyberg
President

Patrick J. Plonski, PhD
Executive Director

Books For Africa Financial Information

Statement of Activity

	2016	2017
SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Contributions	2,642,983	2,278,253
Interest Earned	51,482	53,358
Books Contributed	33,973,549	33,434,957
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	36,668,014	35,766,568
EXPENDITURES		
Program Operating Expenses - Overseas	34,283,458	36,090,296
General and Administrative Expenses	88,940	103,038
Fundraising Expenses	232,907	223,412
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	34,615,305	36,416,746
Change in Net Monetary Assets	$2S3,498	$1,718,210
Change in Book Inventory		($431,779)
		$123,988

Cash Gifts

Cash, check or credit card gifts to Books for Africa can be designated for a specific program or directed to where the need is greatest. All gifts are tax deductible. To be specified by law, You must commence gifts by credit card can be made directly online at **www.booksforafrica.org.**

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You can donate appreciated stock to Books for Africa and receive tax deductions for the full value of the stock.

You have held the stock for 18 months or longer). You can eliminate capital gains taxes, avoid income tax on the gifted stock, and receive tax deductions

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Many companies match employee donations dollar for dollar or the charity of the employee's choice. Check with your employer about matching your gifts to Books for Africa.

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If your company, club or group would like to learn more about Books for Africa's mission and work, please call **(651) 602-9844** or email **bfa@booksforafrica.org.**

Wills and Other Planned Gifts

Books for Africa can be named a beneficiary in your will and receive other deferred gifts such as life insurance. These gifts are not subject to estate taxes.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers have helped Books for Africa become the world's largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. Volunteers help sort and pack books, plan special events, and raise funds. Contact BFA today to find out how to put your skills to work!

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