

Books For Africa Shipment Helps Set Record For Number of Books Sent in One Year at Over 3.7 million

Contact: Patrick Plonski, 651-491-3391 (mobile) or

Doug Stone, 651-336-9907 (mobile)

May 18, 2020

Atlanta, Georgia—Books For Africa (BFA) this week is shipping 250,000 books to Zimbabwe, marking a record number of books shipped in a year at more than 3.7 million, exceeding the previous annual record last year of 3.3 million.

The books were shipped May 15 from BFA's Atlanta warehouse to the port of Savannah, where they are being loaded into three 40-foot container ships for shipment to Zimbabwe. BFA, founded in 1988, is headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota.

“It's notable that the record was achieved despite the coronavirus pandemic, which has substantially affected shipping activities,” said Patrick Plonski, executive director. “We are grateful that we are able to help our African partners get books to the students of Africa, especially in these difficult times.”

The books were shipped with assistance provided by the Zambezi Schoolbook Project in the U.S. and Zimbabwe as well as donated humanitarian shipping assistance provided by the U.S. Defense Department. The Department's Funded Transportation program provides worldwide ocean transportation of privately donated humanitarian aid originating in the United States at little or no cost to the donor.

“Every one of these 3.7 million books is making an impact on the lives of students across the African continent,” said U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, who represents St. Paul in Congress and is a longtime supporter of Books For Africa and the vice-chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. “This record is a tribute to the fierce commitment of Books For Africa and important partners, like the Department of Defense, to fulfill the tremendous need for learning materials. What an amazing record to set!”

Books For Africa: Books For Africa remains the largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent, shipping over 48 million books to all 55 countries on the African continent since 1988. BFA expects to ship its 50 millionth book by this fall.

<https://www.booksforafrica.org/>

###