

## 10 Millionth Book Celebrated at Special Event

Books For Africa celebrated the shipment of its 10 millionth book to Africa since its creation in 1988 with a special tent party outside its St. Paul, Minnesota warehouse. The October 2nd event -- featuring food, music, and a special program -- was free and open to the public, and took place in front of BFA's St. Paul, Minnesota warehouse. Speakers included BFA founder Tom Warth; U.S. Member of Congress Betty McCollum; and Better World Books representatives Xavier Helgsen, Jeff Kurtzman, and Dave Murphy. BWB presented Books For Africa with a pledge of \$121,225. Congratulatory letters to Books For Africa from various dignitaries across the world were also read. Governor Tim Pawlenty declared October 2nd "Books For Africa Day in Minnesota" and the St. Paul City Council declared it "Books For Africa Day" in Minnesota's capitol city.

"This is a great opportunity to celebrate with the community the tremendous achievement of Books For Africa shipping 10 million books to the African continent over the course of 16 years," said Books For Africa founder Tom Warth.

Since its establishment in 1988, Books For Africa has grown to become the largest shipper of donated schoolbooks to the African continent. 23 African countries have received book shipments from Books For Africa. Last year approximately 1.4 million books valued at almost 13 million were shipped by Books For Africa.



Member of Congress Betty McCollum, keynote speaker for the 10 Millionth Book Celebration, visits with BFA board member Daniel Abebe.

## FY 2004 Another Record-setting Year at BFA

It was another record-setting year as Books For Africa exceeded its shipping goal for fiscal year 2003 by sending a total of 56 containers of books valued at almost \$13 million. Books For Africa also raised a record \$523,000 in cash to ship these 1.4 million books. The shipment of large quantities of donated schoolbooks to schools, libraries, and universities throughout Africa

is the core mission of BFA, and serves as the key measure of the organization's success. Funding from individuals, organizations, and key sponsors allows BFA to pay the costs of book shipments to Africa. Thank you to all BFA donors for helping make this effort possible. Without the large and small donations by BFA donors none of this would be possible!



In July of 2004 Books For Africa Vice President Ron Aminzade and Executive Director Pat Plonski met with government officials, school officials, and BFA book partners in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya. Books For Africa maintains a close working relationship with numerous partners throughout Africa who distribute books to schools and libraries. Pictured above from left at a meeting at the parliament building in Dodoma, Tanzania are Kajia Mjema, Executive Director of the Tanzania Book Support Trust; Ron Aminzade; the Honorable Joseph Mungai, Tanzanian Minister for Education and Culture; the Honorable Frederick T. Sumaye, Prime Minister of Tanzania; and Pat Plonski. "This trip was important to tour sites where schoolbooks are being shipped in Africa, and to lay the groundwork to ship many more containers of books in the future," Plonski said.

## BFA to Co-host Visit of South African Ambassador

On Tuesday, October 26th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Books For Africa is co-sponsoring a reception and presentation with the Minnesota International Center by Her Excellency Barbara Masekela, South Africa's ambassador to the United States. The presentation will take place at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota (registration \$10 – BFA supporters). Entitled "Reflections on a Decade of Democracy in South Africa", this presentation will touch on events since 1994 when South Africa held its first democratic elections and transformed the country from apartheid to a democracy. A former college professor of English Literature and former President Mandela's chief of staff, Ms. Masekela has served as South Africa's ambas-

sador to the U.S. since 2003. Books For Africa has shipped 41 containers of school books to South Africa since 1988, and is planning to ship an additional five containers in the fall

of 2004. Join Books For Africa and the Minnesota International Center in hosting Ambassador Masekela and hearing what promises to be a most informative discussion.



A recent shipment of books from Books For Africa to the Poverty Eradication Network generated excitement in Dodoma, Tanzania.

If you would like to learn more about Books For Africa please call 651-602-9844 (fax 651-602-9848).

E-mail: [bfa@booksforafrica.org](mailto:bfa@booksforafrica.org) Web: [www.booksforafrica.org](http://www.booksforafrica.org)



The Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club based in California sponsored with BFA the delivery of 25,000 books to Ukweli Training Center (a project and orphanage of Empowering Lives International) in rural Kenya. Dee Matreyek of the Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club met the container in Nairobi and assisted in the book distribution process.

## BFA Joins Federal Combined Charities Campaign

Federal employees are now able to contribute directly to BFA under the Federal Combined Charities Campaign. Books For Africa is included under the umbrella of the Aid to Africa Federation and carries a donation number of 9954. Books For Africa's participation in the Federal Combined Charities Campaign is in partnership with the Aid to Africa Federation ([www.africacharities.org](http://www.africacharities.org)). The Federal Combined Charities Campaign is the world's largest workplace giving fundraising drive and will increase opportunities for individuals to directly support Books For Africa through workplace giving.



## Holiday Gift Cards

Tired of giving more things during the upcoming holiday season to friends and family who already have enough "stuff"? How about giving the gift of education to children in Africa in honor of the people you love?

Once again this holiday season Books For Africa will allow the sponsorship of large and small quantities of books to Africa in honor of your gift recipients. So instead of giving solely material items this holiday season, consider giving the gift of education. For more information about how you can participate in this effort, watch for more information next month or contact BFA direct.

## BFA Partners With World Food Programme

Books For Africa kicked off a new partnership with the United Nations on September 22nd by shipping the first of 12 40-foot containers of textbooks to the World Food Programme in Africa. The first shipment left the Books For Africa warehouse in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 22nd bound for Lesotho, Southern Africa as part of the United Against Hunger Campaign. The United Against Hunger Campaign, headed by the World Food Programme, is an effort to draw together many partners from across the United States to address the issue of global hunger.

Students from Macalester College and Hamline University helped pack the first container of books shipped to

Lesotho, Southern Africa under this partnership. Over the next 12 months, a total of 12 40-foot sea containers of books will be shipped to schools across Africa in partnership with the World Food Programme School Feeding Program. Over 400,000 books valued at \$2 million will be delivered under this project. USAID is providing financial support for this effort.

"Books For Africa is proud to work in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme, and the United States Agency For International Development to pool our resources and simultaneously improve education and nutrition across Africa," said Books For Africa Executive Director Pat Plonski. The World Food Programme is the United Nation's front line in the fight against hunger. In 2003, WFP fed 104 million people in 81 countries, including 15.2 million school students in 69 countries through its global school feeding programs.





## Letters and Proclamations

"Kamwago Primary School and all its stake-holders wish to thank you most sincerely for donating books to our school. Through your generous donation I wish to inform you that the standard of English in our school will improve. We also thank you for the "Aids In Africa" textbook, this will give us the information we need now that AIDS has become a threat to the people here ..."

Mrs. Ronoh Salina, Teacher,  
Kamwago Primary School, Kenya

"On behalf of Africa Centre for Geoclassical Economics, Earth Rights Institute and the Government and people of Bayelsa State, I wish to, first of all, acknowledge receipt of all the donated books by Books For Africa to the people of Bayelsa State, and secondly, to express deep appreciation for such a great gesture. ... As you would read from the attached report and photos, both political and educational authorities in the state expressed total satisfaction at the quality of books and look forward to further benefiting from your organization. ..."

Gordon Abiama,  
Bayelsa State, Nigeria

"Let me congratulate you for the wonderful job you have done in succeeding to ship 10 million books to Africa. By all standards, it is a remarkable achievement for any organization to accomplish this result. ... Please also accept my special thanks for making Ethiopia one of the beneficiaries of this service. My staff and myself look forward to work with you more closely on this and other related matters. Please let us know anything we should do to make our partnership even more fruitful. ..."

Kassahun Ayele,  
Ambassador of Ethiopia to the USA

"I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate Books For Africa on the occasion of the donation of its ten millionth book to Africa. Books For Africa's contribution to the African continent has been nothing less than absolutely transforming! ... Indeed, Africa is a better place, and the world is much better off, because of the hard work, commitment, and dedication of your organization and the corps of volunteers who sustain it. I am equally pleased that the American Embassy in Kampala has just entered into partnership with Books For Africa to support

the shipment of yet another container of books to Uganda. ... Congratulations on your tremendous contribution and thank you for your work in spreading goodwill between Ugandans and American through literacy."

Jimmy Kolker,  
United States Ambassador to Ethiopia

"WHEREAS, Books For Africa was founding in 1988 by local philanthropist Tom Warth, after a visit to a library in Jinja, Uganda where he found bookshelves virtually empty; and ...

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 2, 2004, Books For Africa will be hosting a block party in celebration of the shipment of their 10 millionth book to the African continent; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul wholeheartedly and enthusiastically congratulates Books For Africa on this truly historic milestone and thanks them for their unique and important contribution to our global community; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that Saturday, October 2, 2004 is hereby declared BOOKS FOR AFRICA DAY in the great City of Saint Paul, Minnesota

Saint Paul City Council Resolution

"WHEREAS: Books For Africa, a non-profit organization located in St. Paul, is the largest shipper of donated books to the African continent, and

WHEREAS: Books For Africa has shipped 10 million books since its founding in 1988; and

WHEREAS: Last year, Books For Africa shipped one and a half million books valued at over \$18 million; and

WHEREAS: Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped books to schools, orphanages, refugee camps, libraries, and universities in 23 sub-Saharan African countries; and

WHEREAS: Books For Africa works with individuals in Minnesota to positively affect children and adults a world away in poverty-stricken areas of Africa, ...

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 2, 2004, to be BOOKS FOR AFRICA DAY in the State of Minnesota.

State of Minnesota Proclamation



## Staff Corner: Welcome to Brad Mattson

BFA is proud to welcome new Warehouse Manager Brad Mattson (pictured above at left with staff and volunteers). Brad was hired this past summer and has been kept very busy receiving donations at an unprecedented level this past summer; coordinating with BFA's second donated warehouse facility in Fridley; and streamlining BFA's inventory controls and shipping request forms to help ensure that recipients of BFA books are getting exactly the kind of books they will find most useful. September 2004 was a record-setting month at BFA's St. Paul warehouse with seven containers of books shipped – the most ever in BFA history. Welcome Brad!



## Better World Books to Become BFA's Largest Donor

BFA continues to develop its strategic partnership with Better World Books (formerly known as Campus Community Outreach). Better World Books helped celebrate the shipment of BFA's 10 millionth book on October 2, 2004 with a special presentation of a pledge in the amount of \$121,225 for FY 05. Xavier Helgesen, who has recently joined BFA's board of directors, Jeff Kurtzman, and David Murphy from Better World Books were on hand to present the pledge and a \$20,000 check to BFA. This pledge makes Better World Books the largest single donor to BFA for FY 2005. Better World Books has already provided BFA with cash donations totalling \$67,100 as well as book donations.

"This level of support by Better World Books is critical to Books For Africa to enable us to continue our mission of serving the children of Africa," said Books For Africa Executive Director Pat Plonski. "The unrestricted donations and pledges by Better World Books to Books For Africa represent approximately 23% of our annual operating budget. We will have the capacity to ship hundreds of thousands of books to Africa as a direct result of this generous support by Better World Books," Plonski continued.

Better World Books is an organization that utilizes the value of the used book to fund socially responsible literacy initiatives worldwide. Books are collected from schools, individuals, and universities and sold via the internet and other mechanisms with the profits used to benefit Books For Africa. For more information about Better World Books visit their website at [www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com).

## Kilimanjaro Society Off and Rolling

The Kilimanjaro Society, representing BFA's top financial donors, has been officially commissioned. Kilimanjaro Society members are those individuals or organizations who give or pledge at least \$1,000 annually to BFA. Kilimanjaro Society members were hosted

at a wine and cheese art show on October 2, to celebrate the shipment of BFA's 10 millionth book to Africa. Additional events are planned for the months ahead. Consider joining the Kilimanjaro Society today and see what all the excitement is about!



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Brad Mattson, Warehouse Manager  
Kwame Ahelegbe, Warehouse Volunteer Coordinator  
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#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NOTE:** If your name and/or address is incorrect or if you no longer wish to receive BFA's newsletter, please make name and/or address corrections or write "delete" on your mailing label and return it to BFA.

## Volunteer Appreciation Days

BFA would not be able to function without the generous support of so many volunteers who sort and pack books, deliver books, host events, provide speaking opportunities, and many other activities. BFA volunteers are invited to an informal volunteer appreciation lunch at the BFA warehouse at 12:30 p.m. on November 10th; and/or a volunteer appreciation breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on December 4th. Thanks to all of you BFA volunteers who help make it all happen!

**Join Books For Africa** in a trip to South Africa in June of 2005. The Kilimanjaro Society of Books For Africa is organizing this trip to Africa and more information will be provided in the month ahead. Contact BFA at **[bfa@booksforafrica.org](mailto:bfa@booksforafrica.org)** for more information about this exciting opportunity to visit the African continent and observe firsthand BFA book distribution activities.