

BOOKS FOR AFRICA

SPRING 2004

NEWSLETTER

Peace Corps Connection

(Photo: top right) Kelly Paige Stenhoff, a Minnesota native serving in the Peace Corps in Tanzania, is pictured unloading books from Books For Africa. Serving in a remote village in Tanzania, Kelly secured a Peace Corps grant to build a library. With financial assistance from her family in the United States, Books For Africa coordinated the delivery of 5,000 books for the establishment of a village library. "The books are amazing. So many of them were brand new and from a variety of subjects," Kelly said.



Somali Immigrants Deliver Books to Their Home Town

(Photo: bottom right) Books For Africa recently partnered with the Nobir Valley Development Center and USAID to ship a 20-foot container of schoolbooks to Qardho, Somalia in East Africa. Somali immigrants in the United States originally from the Qardho area raised funds and coordinated this successful effort. Minnesota is home to the largest concentration of Somali immigrants in the United States. BFA worked with Abdikadir Mohammed, Director of the Nobir Valley Development Center from Mankato, Minnesota in this effort. "Thanks for your assistance and collaboration" wrote Qardho District Mayor Osman Buh Ali in a letter to Books For Africa.





Rwanda

In April of 2004 Books For Africa hosted a visit to Minnesota of a presidential delegation from the Republic of Rwanda. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, President Paul Kagame spoke about efforts to rebuild schools and infrastructure and increase levels of education and human development. Pictured above at a special reception at the Eastcliff residence of the President

of the University of Minnesota are Dr. Robert Jones representing the University of Minnesota; Winston Hewett representing Lawson Software; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; and Pat Plonski representing Books For Africa. In a collaborative effort University of Minnesota students will collect books that will be shipped to Rwanda by Books For Africa with financial support provided by Lawson Software. Books For Africa has also submitted a proposal to USAID to ship 15 containers of books to Rwanda over the

course of three years.

"I wish to thank you for spearheading the collaborative effort between Books For Africa and students of the University of Minnesota to collect textbooks for students in Rwanda," Kagame said. "Improving our human resources through education is our government's priority and we therefore look forward to a partnership with Books For Africa to provide textbooks to schools in Rwanda."

Letters to BFA

The students from Scott Highlands Middle School in Apple Valley collected money from a hat day to donate to Books For Africa. The books we collected will be donated soon.

Can you please send us a receipt for our bookkeeping records?

Thank you.

Beth Roberts

Trevor Hemphill

Scott Highlands Middle School
Apple Valley, Minnesota

Each year, in honor of "Read Across America" week, the junior high students in Sauk Centre donate money

to Books For Africa. The idea is that kids across the world should have the opportunity to read.

This year I am proud to say we collected \$310.00!

Sincerely,

Donna Blachette

Sauk Centre Junior High

Sauk Centre, Minnesota

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Equal Opportunities For All Trust Fund (EOTF) and on my own behalf, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the generous donation of books from your organization which we received two weeks ago.

Your spirit and the continued cooperation is much cherished and

appreciated. The lives which will be transformed as a result of your giving bears testimony to what a true partner in development ought to be.

I would like to thank you once again and in particular for the continued interest and support in terms of books, which through EOTF are distributed to schools and other educational institutions. May the good Lord who has given you a caring spirit for the poor and the lowly shower and His abundance blessings upon you all.

Yours Sincerely,

Equal Opportunities for All

Trust Fund

Anna Mkapu

Chairperson

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

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

E-mail: info@booksforafrica.org Web: www.booksforafrica.org



Campus Community Outreach

Campus Community Outreach continues to provide outstanding financial support and book donations to Books For Africa. So far in fiscal year 2004 Campus Community Outreach has provided \$40,000 in unrestricted cash donations to BFA. "This financial support has enabled us to ship thousands of additional books to Africa and we greatly appreciate this support, and the partnership that we have developed

with Campus Community Outreach," said BFA Executive Director Pat Plonski. Pictured above from left are Christopher Fuchs and Aaron King of Campus Community Outreach and Pat Plonski of Books For Africa. The team attended a youth activist conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where they registered college students to implement book drives on 40 college campuses across the United States.

Kilimanjaro Society

Mount Kilimanjaro is famous, as it is the highest point in Africa. With this in mind, Books For Africa is pleased to formally announce the creation of its Kilimanjaro Society which represents its top donors. Kilimanjaro Society members are those supporters (individuals or organizations) of Books For Africa who donate or pledge \$1,000 or more per fiscal year. Kilimanjaro Society members took the lead in April of 2004 in welcoming His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda to Minnesota at a special reception at the Eastcliff residence of the University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. "BFA is pleased to announce that we had a very successful event and introduced 12 new members to the Kilimanjaro Society." Please consider becoming a charter member of the Kilimanjaro Society this year. Books

For Africa's fiscal year ends on July 1, 2004 with donors listed in our annual report. A list of current donors as of May 10th is included in this newsletter. Your end of the fiscal year gift is a great way to help us end this year strong! If you have made a contribution and are not listed, please call us at 651-602-9844 so that we can correct our records. Thank you to all BFA donors large and small. Without your outstanding support nothing could be achieved.

BFA Warehouse Tours

Interested in touring our BFA warehouse? We are open for tours and everyone is welcome. Please call Ginger Wange at 651-602-9844 to RSVP for a tour on any of the following dates: June 16, July 28, or September 8. Our warehouse is located at 253 East 4th Street between the depot and the farmers' market in Lowertown, St. Paul. Tours begin at 12:00 noon.

Board of Directors

Doris Pagelkopf, President
Lane Ayres, Past President
Ronald Aminzade, Vice President
Daniel Abebe, Secretary
Carol Birkland, Treasurer
Thomas Warth, Founder
Kojo Amoo-Gottfried
Nance Anders
Jan Clymer
Gena Doyscher
Michael Henley
Emma Kasiga
Wil Ofori
Carolyn Sanford
Alan Sickbert
Pam Pappas Stanoch

Advisory Board

Eugene Allen
Frank Babka
Larry Bakken
Charles Brown
Carol Engebretson Byrne
Gerald Caputa
Patrick Harris
Robin Hartwell
LaJune Lange
James Lenfestey
Norman Linnell
Vivian Mason
Suzanne McCarty
Dan Melin
Erich E. Mische
Jerry Peterson
Neal Porter
Rachel Riensche
David Schafer
Joe K. Selvaggio
Cynthia Luck Shearer
John Vreyens
Karen Wallin

Staff

Patrick Plonski, Executive Director
Deb McDonald, Assistant Director
Ginger Wange, Program Associate for Development
Tom Parry, Warehouse Manager
Keith Feldbrugge, Warehouse Assistant
Michael Johnson, Warehouse Assistant



Books For Africa
253 E 4th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 4593

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.

Come Cruise With Us and Support BFA!

What: **BFA/Rotary Boat Cruise on the St. Croix River** to raise funds to send 100,000 books to schools in South Africa.

When: **Sunday, August 15, 1:30–4:00 p.m.**

Where: **Stillwater, Minnesota.**

Cost: \$50/Adults; \$10/Kids under 15. Cash bar. Food and music provided.

To get tickets for this fun Summer boat cruise, e-mail BFA at **info@booksforafrica.org** or send checks directly to BFA.

Tickets will be mailed out in advance, or can be purchased the day of the event.

Call BFA at **651-602-9844** for more information about this fun Summer event!

Come and hear a BFA update from our founder, Tom Warth.