

# BOOKS FOR AFRICA



SPRING 2006

NEWSLETTER

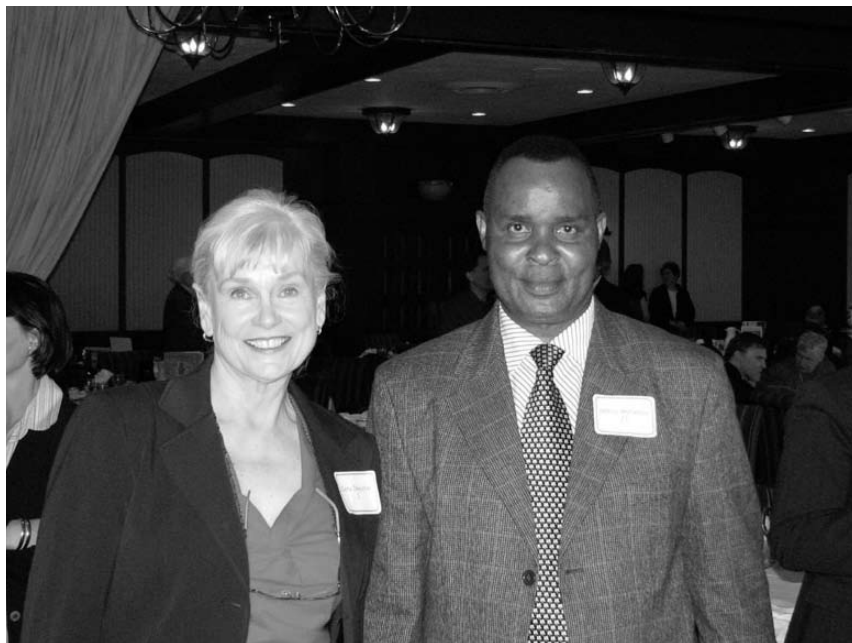
**Books For Africa** is the largest shipper of donated textbooks to the African continent. Books For Africa shipped over 13 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 26 countries since 1988. BFA has received the highest ratings from the Minnesota Charities Review Council.

## Books For Africa fiscal year ends July 1, 2006

Thank you to all BFA donors for your outstanding support. Without your support we would not be able to achieve our mission of helping the children of Africa through ending the book famine. If you have not already donated to BFA in this fiscal year, please consider a donation at this time. All donations of \$50 or more received by July 1st will be recognized in the BFA annual report for 2006.



A school outside of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



BFA President Gena Doyscher and recent guest of BFA in Minnesota, Mr. Jethro Mdlalose, Principal of Thembalesizwe Primary School in the Eshowe area of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa.

## Warth Reaches Iowa

BFA Founder Tom Warth will complete his two-year trek from the Canadian border to Iowa on June 25, 2006. He will reach the Iowa line on the Mississippi in the Southeast corner of Minnesota just North of New Albin Iowa on that day. It is planned that the border crossing will be followed by a party at Fred's East Side Bar. If you would like to join the celebration email him at [te@warth.name](mailto:te@warth.name) or call him at 651-433-3027 or cell 612-801-5335.

## Kilimanjaro Society Reception

Tom and Zantha Warth, co-chairs of the Kilimanjaro Society of Books For Africa, cordially invite all Kilimanjaro Society members to a special reception at their home on Saturday, July 1st from 4 to 7 p.m. The address is 200 2nd Street, Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota, 55047. Please RSVP with BFA offices at 651-602-9844 for this fun event which will feature tales of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, plenty of good food, African beer, and ..... well, ..... Just plain fun!



**Former Tanzanian First Lady Mrs. Anna Mkapa**, with assistance from the U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, presented birthday gifts at a special reception in honor of the BFA delegation. Pictured from left are U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Retzer; BFA Executive Director Pat Plonski; BFA founder Tom Warth; and Tanzanian Former First Lady Mkapa. Mrs. Mkapa also serves as Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities For All Trust Fund, one of BFA's book distribution partners in Tanzania.

## BFA Trip to East Africa in February 2006

BFA Founder Tom Warth invited friends and supporters to join him in celebrating his seventieth birthday on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, on February 5th, 2006. A hearty group of climbers joined in on the trip and made it to the summit. The group then traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for meetings with BFA partners who distribute books and tours of several schools.



**Above: BFA Founder Tom Warth and fellow BFA climbers successfully climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in February of 2006. The climb was timed to coincide with the 70th birthday of Warth. The BFA group is pictured above at Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro. The delegation then traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for visits with book distribution partners and school visits.**



**Left: BFA Founder Tom Warth and Better World Books co-founder Xavier Helgesen at the top to Mount Kilimanjaro ceremonially presenting the one millionth book donated to the people of Tanzania to their Tanzanian guide.**

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)



Greetings from students near Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



A typical classroom near Dar es Salaam



The BFA delegation to Tanzania visited the Children's Book Project in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which publishes books in Kiswahili. Books For Africa presented a grant to assist in defraying the costs of printing books in this local language.

**Board of Directors**

- Gena Doyscher, President
- Michael Henley, Treasurer
- Emma Kasiga, Secretary
- Doris Pagelkopf, Past President
- Thomas Warth, Founder
- Nance Anders
- Lane Ayres
- Henry A. Bromelkamp
- Jan Clymer
- Xavier Helgesen
- Gerald Mrosila
- Luanne Nyberg
- Wil Ofori
- Pam Pappas Stanoch

**2005-2006 Ambassadors  
Circle Members**

- Abdurashid Ali Somali Family Services
  - Frank Babka World Population Balance
  - Henry A. Bromelkamp President, Bromelkamp Company
  - Carol Engebretson Byrne President, Minnesota International Center
  - Alan Castro Co-Founder, Academic Book Services
  - Michael Wirth-Davis President and CEO, Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota
  - Jim Dorsey Fredrickson and Byron Law Firm
  - Pat Harris St. Paul City Council
  - Karen L. Johnson President, Preferred Adventures
  - Jim Klobuchar Public Speaker
  - Harry Lerner President, Lerner Publications
  - Joseph A. Miller Vice President, Follett Educational Services
  - The Honorable Anna Mkapa Chairperson, Equal Opportunities For All Trust Fund (Tanzania)
  - David W. Murphy President and CEO, Better World Books
  - Neal Porter Center For Victims of Torture
  - Irene Silber Capella University
  - Andy Sisson Director, East and Southern Africa Regional Office, USAID
  - Carol Taylor International Education Program Coordinator, Brother's Brother Foundation
  - Brad Vogt Executive Director, International Book Bank
  - John Vreyens Director, University of Minnesota, Office of International Agricultural Programs
  - Dave Wood Editorial Services
- Paid Staff**
- Patrick Plonski, Executive Director
  - Deb McDonald, Assistant Director
  - Ginger Wange, Program Associate—Development
  - Kristin Van Blaircon, Administrative Assistant
  - Brad Mattson, Warehouse Manager

**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.



## Fundraising Lunch Was a Success

The April 12th Books For Africa's "Every Child Deserves a Book" fundraising lunch was a great success! BFA was honored to host two book donation recipients from Eshowe, South Africa—Principal Jethro Mdlalose and Rotarian Melanie Brown.

The lunch was held at the Town & Country Club in St. Paul and was a great friend-raiser. Over 200 people gathered to hear African drummers and enjoy a great program. This effort welcomed 8 brand new members into the Kilimanjaro Society and raised over \$70,000 in donations and five-year pledges!

The Kilimanjaro Society is BFA's highest giving level and now has over 60 members contributing at donations of \$1,000 and up.



**BFA warehouse manager Brad Mattson** explains book sorting and shipping activities to a Liberian delegation touring the warehouse on May 2nd. The delegation discussed a collaborative proposal to ship large quantities of textbooks to Liberia on the heels of the recent election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated banker sworn in as Africa's first female president. Alexander P. Gbayee, Liberia's consul general, as well as representatives of Better World Books and the Liberian Literacy Foundation, joined in the day's discussions about how best to combine efforts.



World Food  
Programme

Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

Programa  
Mundial de  
Alimentos

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

## Books for Africa, USAID, Mercy Corps and WFP team up to help Liberian Schools

10 April 2006, MONROVIA, Liberia — Books for Africa, a US-based private charity, in partnership with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Mercy Corps and the UN World Food Programme (WFP), announces the latest installment of books in an innovative drive that is delivering hundreds of thousands of books to African schools.

A total of three containers packed with some 70,000 new and used schoolbooks arrived in port of Monrovia in February and March 2006, destined for bookshelves in schools across the country. A large number of these books will be handed over to the Ministry of Education by WFP, USAID and Mercy Corps for distribution to primary schools throughout the country. The books will be handed over to the Ministry of Education in an official ceremony on Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 am at WFP Logistic Unit, Port.

Since 1988, Books for Africa (BFA) has shipped more than 10 million books to Africa, with

experience in many African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“Our goal is to end the book famine in Africa,” said Pat Plonski, Executive Director of Books for Africa, based in Minneapolis, MN. “This innovative partnership with WFP enables us to tap into the WFP school feeding network, penetrating even the poorest and most remote rural areas.”

The Books for Africa, USAID and WFP partnership, established in September 2004, aims to deliver more than 400,000 books worth over \$2 million during a year-long period to WFP school feeding locations across Africa.

So far, deliveries nine containers have been delivered to Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the Gambia. Each container included approximately 35,000 primary school books. The last three containers are all destined for distribution in Liberia. The overseas transportation cost of the third Liberian container, a 40-foot container holding 35,000 books, was made possible by a donation from Mercy Corps.

USAID has sponsored the project with a \$96,000 partnership grant, while overseas transport costs have been donated by shipping companies like TNT, Maersk, Mediterranean Shipping, Safmarine and Seaboard.

