



Books For Africa is the world's largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped almost 20 million books to 38 African countries. Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa.

Peace Corps Connection Leads to Libraries Across Lesotho

Brand-new libraries have been created across Lesotho thanks to a Books For Africa shipment initiated by Richard Carlson, a Peace Corps Volunteer from Minnesota. The U.S. Embassy in the Lesotho capital of Maseru sponsored the 35,000-book shipment and donated 20,000 volumes to create the American Room at the State Library of Lesotho. According to the Embassy, "This room will be used not just as a library, but as a center for the sharing of ideas, culture, and enjoyment between our proud nations."

Part of the shipment was distributed through Peace Corps Volunteers in Lesotho. Casey Bartrem, a PCV currently serving in the mountain village

of Ramabanta, helped set up the first-ever library at the Assembly of God Church. She writes: "Thank you so much for the shipment of books. We are very grateful. *Rea leboha haholo bakeng sa tuso ea hau!* (We thank you so much for your help!)"

The U.S. Embassy donated 7,000 books to children with HIV/AIDS as part of the Reach Out And Read program. This program focuses on increasing family literacy by having pediatricians hand out books at periodic check-ups and encouraging parents to read to their children. These books were donated to the Baylor Pediatric HIV/AIDS Center of Excellence, Lesotho's first pediatric HIV/AIDS clinic.



U.S. Ambassador Robert B. Nolan at the opening of the American Room at the National Library in Lesotho. The U.S. Embassy in Lesotho donated 20,000 volumes of a BFA shipment to create this center of learning.



Preschoolers and their teacher, Alinah Masekhampu, at the Assembly of God Church in Ramabanta, Lesotho. Books from a BFA shipment were used to create the first-ever library in Ramabanta at the church.



"You've helped us to start the first library in Ramabanta. Rea leboha haholo! [We thank you!]"

—Alinah Masekhampu and Casey Bartrem, Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho



Librarian training in Liberia, funded through a generous grant from the USAID Africa Education Initiative.

Librarian Training in Liberia

One million books are being distributed to primary and secondary schools throughout Liberia thanks to a generous grant from the USAID Africa Education Initiative. Visions In Action is overseeing the distribution of the books, provided by Books For Africa.



Librarians at every school in Liberia receiving books through this project will attend a two-day library management workshop conducted by Visions In Action. The workshops will be given in every county in Liberia, resulting in a total of 3,400 persons trained in the basics of library management. Each school will also receive a copy of a library management workshop booklet to be used as a reference for school librarians and teachers.

Story of a Shipment to Ghana

In early 2008, Books For Africa shipped a 40-foot container of approximately 35,000 books to Action Child Mobilization (ACM) in Ghana. Francis Opoku is the national director of ACM, an organization that provides outreach to children who are homeless in northern Ghana and parts of Togo. These are his words and pictures.



Primary students with their new handwriting books and atlases.



A teacher assists her student with handwriting.



The cooking pot used to feed over 100 children and mothers at the site of a book distribution.



Villagers wait in line for lunch. "We had a successful mission yesterday distributing books. All the children returned full of joy. Everything went right except we were short of food. Most of the villagers eat only once a day. I was very sad that we could not serve all those children and their mothers."

Book Recipients Report to Books For Africa Supporters

Over 250 guests attended the annual Books For Africa fundraising luncheon on April 30, 2008. Former Minnesota Attorney General Warren Spannaus voiced his support for the Jack Mason Law & Democracy Project, a budding nonprofit devoted to building law libraries in Africa. Adane Tilahun told the story of sending a shipment of BFA books to schools in his native Ethiopia, after a chance meeting with BFA founder Tom Warth.

BFA board member Mike Essien talked about the need for books in his homeland, Nigeria, and how he has coordinated the distribution of BFA shipments there. Tim Reneau-Major, a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, gave a moving account of how he and his wife, Anne, helped distribute a shipment of BFA books in Uganda.



Guests at the BFA luncheon.

\$75,000 in donations and pledges were received at this event. Thank you, everyone!



Gena Doycher, former BFA Board Director, and the Honorable Warren Spannaus, former MN Attorney General.

Dear Books For Africa,

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your donation of books to Cape Verde. My school received quite a few of them, which effectively doubled the size of the English section of our library. I've seen English department teachers peruse the books to get ideas for teaching their classes.



The books you've donated have gone to many schools on different islands. I know that many went to a college that's training new English teachers. Others went to secondary schools like mine on different islands, and will be great resources for students and teachers in the coming years.

Thanks again!
Com um grande abraço [With a big hug],

Emily Harris
Peace Corps Volunteer, Cape Verde

Time Is Running Out for 2008!

If you've been thinking of making a gift to Books For Africa for our 2008 fiscal year, time is running out. Our new fiscal year begins July 1, 2008, so you have only a few weeks to make your year-end gift. Please call our offices at (651) 602-9844 or visit www.booksforafrica.org and click on "Donate." Remember, since Books For Africa can ship a book for less than the cost of a first-class stamp, even a small gift can make a huge difference to many African children!

"On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Books For Africa on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management. Only 16% of the charities we've rated have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations. This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Books For Africa from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

—Michael Smith, Interim Pres./COO of Charity Navigator, April 2008



Books For Africa is a proud sponsor of
Afrifest 2008
August 12–17, 2008
www.afrifest.org
The largest Pan African Festival
in the Twin Cities

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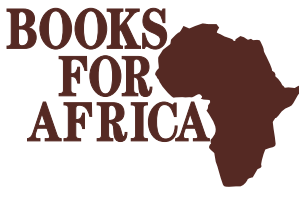
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"I would like to thank you so much for the great gift you sent us. Believe me, with all the books you offered us, I can now carry on my research and this is all thanks to your generosity. God bless you."

—Teguia Cherif, Algeria

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Books For Africa

20th Anniversary Celebration!



Minnesota History Center

September 12, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Join us for a dazzling evening!



On September 12, 2008, Books For Africa will celebrate 20 years of providing 20 million books to libraries, schools, and community centers across Africa. We hope you will join us and emcee Kerri Miller, host of Minnesota Public Radio's "Midmorning" and "Talking Volumes," for a festive evening featuring an African fashion show, African music, and a market with African crafts and wares. Ambassadors from many of the 38 African countries that we have served will also add to the international atmosphere.

Where: Minnesota History Center
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102 USA

When: Friday, September 12, 2008
6:00-11:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$100 for 1 ticket, \$75 if purchasing 2 or more tickets (includes dinner & hors d'oeuvres)

To order tickets or to get more information, please call 651-602-9844 or visit www.booksforafrica.org.



Come celebrate 20 years of Books For Africa!