



**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 over 24 million books to 45 African countries. BFA's mission is to end the book famine in Africa.

**Spring 2011 Newsletter**

## BFA Receptions with Rwandan and Ethiopian Ambassadors a Huge Success

*"The only way we can transform a country is through education. Our strategy is to create a knowledge-based economy. There is nothing better than having books to achieve that objective."*

—His Excellency James Kimonyo,  
Rwanda's Ambassador to the United States

**Books For Africa** was honored to host two African ambassadors on April 21, 2011, at a morning reception at Eastcliff, the University of Minnesota President's residence, and at the annual BFA fundraising luncheon at the Town & Country Club of Saint Paul. At the events, His Excellency James Kimonyo, Rwanda's Ambassador to the U.S., and His Excellency Girma Birru Geda, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the U.S., both spoke about the importance of access to education and books in their countries.

The night before, Books For Africa hosted Ethiopian Ambassador Girma Birru Geda at an evening reception at the University Club of Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Ambassador spoke to the crowd of BFA supporters and outlined the educational goals Ethiopia has set for the next few years, such as ensuring a primary education for all students—boys and girls.

Thank you to our generous event sponsors: Land O' Lakes, Delta Airlines, and John Rupp and the University Club.



Tom Pfeifer, VP at Thomson Reuters, with the two ambassadors. Pfeifer has been instrumental in the success of BFA's Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative, which sends West law libraries generously provided by Thomson Reuters to African law schools.

Photo by Rebecca Oehrig of Liminality, [www.liminalityphotography.com](http://www.liminalityphotography.com).



At the April 21 Eastcliff reception. From left: Asratie Teferra, BFA board member; His Excellency James Kimonyo, Rwanda's Ambassador to the U.S.; His Excellency Girma Birru Geda, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the U.S.; and Siad Ali, Constituent Advocate for Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN).

Photo by Rebecca Oehrig of Liminality, [www.liminalityphotography.com](http://www.liminalityphotography.com).



**Middle right:** BFA founder Tom Warth addresses the crowd at the University Club of Saint Paul.

Photo by Patrick Kelley Worldwide Photography, [www.pk-worldwide.com](http://www.pk-worldwide.com).

**Below right:** From left: Isaac Owens, Brad Buck of Land O' Lakes, and BFA board member Rosemond Owens. The Owens have raised thousands of dollars to send BFA books to their native Ghana. Rosemond was the MC at the BFA fundraising luncheon.



Photo by Rebecca Oehrig of Liminality, [www.liminalityphotography.com](http://www.liminalityphotography.com).

## Ghanaian Ambassador to the U.S. Hosts D.C. Reception Honoring Books For Africa

His Excellency Daniel Ohene Agyekum, Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, hosted an event entitled "To End the Book Famine in Africa" at the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana in Washington D.C. last March.

Over 150 people were in attendance at the event honoring Books For Africa's Summit and Legacy Society members. The Ambassador presented BFA founder Tom Warth with an Award of Merit for his 20+ years of working to send books to African children.

At the reception, Jeff LeBlanc and Todd Lawton announced the funding of a 40-foot shipment of BFA books to Ghana in honor of Ghanaian Ambassador Agyekum. LeBlanc and Lawton are co-founders of Out of Print ([www.outofprintclothing.com](http://www.outofprintclothing.com)), a company in New York that sells T-shirts and e-reader jackets featuring iconic book covers.

Out of Print generously donates 50 cents to BFA for every T-shirt sold. To date, the company has funded four containers (over 80,000 books) to African children in Liberia, Tanzania, Cameroon, and Kenya. Thank you, Out of Print!



**Above:** Ghanaian Ambassador Daniel Ohene Agyekum presents BFA founder Tom Warth with an Award of Merit.

**Left:** His Excellency Daniel Ohene Agyekum, Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, thanks Jeff LeBlanc and Todd Lawton of Out of Print for their generous funding of a BFA container of books to Ghana in his honor.

## Three Grants Will Deliver Over 180,000 BFA Books to African Children



Buy new and used books at Better World Books, or run a book drive on your campus, and help BFA!

[www.booksforafrica.org/index/bwb](http://www.booksforafrica.org/index/bwb)

Books For Africa is pleased to announce that we recently were awarded three generous grants that will fund the shipment of over 180,000 BFA books to students in 8 African countries.

In February, Better World Books granted BFA a \$23,021 Leap Award. This grant money will fund the delivery of over 81,000 BFA books to students in Ethiopia, Cameroon, Tanzania, and Kenya. Next, funding from USAID will

send one container of BFA books each to the Ghana Library Board, the National Library Service in Malawi, and the Cross River Library Board in Nigeria.

Finally, a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) will deliver general education books, human rights books, and law books to Somalia.

Thank you to Better World Books, USAID, and NED!

## Help Books For Africa End the Year on a Strong Note

Although Books For Africa has shipped over 1.8 million books so far this fiscal year, there are still many schools and communities waiting for books. You can read about some of these future book recipients on Books For Africa's website, by clicking on the "Donate to a Project" button. Once you've read their stories, we hope you'll consider helping us meet some of those pending requests before the end of our fiscal year in June. The children of Africa will thank you!

*The students in this classroom in Googo village in northern Ghana have no books. Francis Opoku of Action Child Mobilization is raising funds to provide BFA books for these children—and for many more students in the region just like them. Visit the BFA Projects page for more details & projects.*





# Go to Africa with Books For Africa and Africa Classroom Connection

Here's your chance to tour South Africa and Malawi off the beaten path! Books For Africa and Africa Classroom Connection (ACC) are teaming up for two trips this September and October. BFA board member and ACC founder Henry Bromelkamp is leading the tours. The itinerary includes:

- Four days in the region of Zululand near Eshowe, South Africa, to visit schools and teach classes.
- Four days on safari in two wildlife parks: St. Lucia wetlands and Hluhluwe large game park.
- Two days in Johannesburg and Pretoria, including Soweto and the Apartheid Museum.
- Recommended: Four days in Malawi, including the capital Lilongwe, Lake Malawi, Mua Mission, and Museum, and perhaps Zomba, the original capital.
- Not included but a worthwhile add-on: Cape Town.

“On our first visit to a rural classroom, the students sang to us. I was moved to tears by their song of welcome. It was so easy to form friendships during the short time that we were together.”

*Ellen Kester, traveler from 2009*



*Matamzana Dube School dancing.*

The two tours will repeat the same itinerary: September 23–October 10 and (tentatively) October 7–24. The cost per person is \$4,500 (including airfare) plus a \$1,000 tax-deductible contribution. These tours will result in building two new classrooms, or enough for a 40-foot container of 22,000 BFA books serving 20 or more schools.

This will not be a conventional package tour of Africa. While you will see wild animals on safari (a treasure of Africa!), most of the tour will be philanthropic and cultural. You will meet wonderful people and learn about the promise and challenges of education. Imagine 300 Zulu school children putting on a dance and music performance for their American visitors! You will be surprised. You will have fun. You will see the world in a new way.

For more information, please email [info@africaclassroomconnection.org](mailto:info@africaclassroomconnection.org).

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## 2010-2011 Ambassadors Circle Members

**The Honorable Daniel Ohene Agyekum** *Ghana's Ambassador to the United States & Honorary Chair of BFA's Summit Society*  
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253 E. 4th St., Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55101 USA  
(651) 602-9844  
bfa@booksforafrica.org  
www.booksforafrica.org

“The famine for English dictionaries is over and Nsangi Secondary School will never suffer from such hunger again. Long live Books For Africa! Long live Silkon Community Library!”

*Mrs. Bagonza, Head Teacher at Nsangi Secondary School in Uganda*

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Books For Africa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving as the world's largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped over 24 million primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community library books to 45 African countries. Books For Africa has received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator and the Minnesota Charities Review Council. The mission of Books For Africa is to end the book famine in Africa.

## MKIDA & MoneyGram Send 20,000 BFA Books to Schoolchildren in Rural Kenya

Libraries at 41 of Kenya's rural schools are being created or enhanced with the 20,000+ BFA books sent thanks to Minnesota Kenyans International Development Agency (MKIDA) and MoneyGram International.

For many years, Gusii Kenya's rural schools have been severely underperforming in national examinations as compared to other schools in the region and Kenya as a whole. Paul Morande, executive director of MKIDA, wants to change this: “Our goal was to make a difference across all of Kisii. Many Kenyans in Minnesota supported this effort to provide books for the poorest schools in the country.”

Anton Luttig, MoneyGram's regional director for East and Southern Africa, said: “We're proud to help make the dream of these libraries possible and to be part of introducing 20,000 young people to the knowledge that these books offer.”



*Students at Borangi Primary School in Kenya and their teacher unload their new BFA books provided by MKIDA and MoneyGram. MKIDA is currently fundraising to send another BFA shipment of books to Kenya.*

“We wanted to help everyone in these communities, not just the children but also the parents, to experience the hope and opportunity that arrive when one has books to read.”

*Paul Morande, executive director of MKIDA*