Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped more than 7 million books to 22 African countries. The books are on once-empty library shelves, in classrooms in rural schools, and in the hands of children who have never before held a book. Children who are hungry to read, hungry to learn, hungry to explore their world in ways that only books make possible.

Dear Friends,

The theme of this year’s annual report is personal encounters, which might seem a bit strange for an organization that serves millions of children thousands of miles away. Personal encounters aren’t limited to sitting down to a meal with someone or even seeing them face-to-face. A letter, a message, a photograph, a story related by a friend or relative—these are the things that bring world events closer to home. As we’ve discovered since Books For Africa began with a personal journey to a small East African town with empty library shelves, it’s all about the people.

People all over the U.S. who donate books and raise funds to ship them and convince all their friends to get in the act. People in the Peace Corps and at rural schools in Africa who ask for the books and find ways to get them delivered to the most remote and out-of-the-way locations. People like the students at Bujubi Primary School in Mityana, Uganda, who read the books and say many, many thanks, but please, can you send some more?

People like a young couple from Ethiopia who moved to Bolingbrook, Illinois and a family in San Jose, California, whose son joined the Peace Corps. They’re people just like you, and their stories are told in this report. As you get to know them, we think you’ll want to know more about how you can get involved—personally. When President Benjamin William Mkapa of Tanzania addressed this year’s annual gala—albeit by letter as he was unable to attend at the last minute—he said: “My wife and I had looked forward so much to being with you on this special day. As Africans, we cherish the warmth that personal encounters bring to friendships and partnerships as we in Tanzania have with Books For Africa.”

Books For Africa has—personally—sent many containers of books to Tanzania, with more on the way. When President Mkapa described his regular visits to rural libraries where more than half of all the books were from Books For Africa, he also described the light in the eyes of the students. And when he spoke of what he called the greatest human achievement—the ability to share feelings and thoughts through language—he recognized the books you send that bring knowledge and ideas to the children of his country.

Join us this coming year in supporting exciting projects that will start reference libraries in Malawi, build a research library in Tanzania, and continue to send more than a million books to people in Africa. We can’t do it without you—personally.

Sincerely,

Lane Ayres
President

Robert Kowalczyk
Executive Director

“The secondary students come and read books to us during lunchtime. The stories are funny.”

MUTOME FRANCES
PRIMARY 2,
NSOGA PRI. SCHOOL
Not long after making the move, they established the Ethiopia-America Community Service Agency (EACSA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and development in Ethiopia. Asratie found a job and divided his free time between classes at a local college, working with his church, and making contacts and connections. When he and Askale discovered Books For Africa, they knew they’d found what they were looking for—the perfect partner for EACSA.

After less than five years in the Chicago area, they had developed enough of a network to help them support a shipment of 25,000 books to Ethiopia. One of Asratie’s professors at the College of DuPage helped organize books and financial contributions from students and faculty. The Teferra’s pledged a portion of their own income, even though it made coming up with a down payment for a house that much more difficult. In March of 2002, an entire container of books headed from Books For Africa’s warehouse in downtown St. Paul to a partner organization in Ethiopia. The books have been distributed to 23 schools and libraries in the towns of Dese and Kombolcha. This fall, the Teferra’s are following the books back home, just for a visit. They’re sure to find the books in good condition, and use, and as with all these stories, find the need for more.

ALL IN THE (EXTENDED) FAMILY

When the Peace Corps assigned Jerry Montgomery to the Buyei Primary School near Mityana, Uganda, he didn’t just get Jerry. His parents Les and Pat Montgomery, along with the rest of the family and friends in the San Jose area, got into the act. The result is what Les estimates to be roughly $2 million worth of books and materials in the hands of students in primary school books in the San Jose area and shipped to a partner organization in Uganda.

Along the way, they involved the Peace Corps, schools and churches on both sides of the Atlantic, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Embassy, and of course, Books For Africa. While many of these partners are typical of Books For Africa projects, all of them at once gave new meaning to the term “extended family.”

Pat Montgomery left her classroom after 35 years teaching and said, “Let’s send my stuff to Jerry.” That’s how it all got started. After sending half a dozen boxes of Pat’s books and teaching materials and hearing how much they meant on the other end, the Montgomery's sponsored a shipment through Books For Africa in November 2001. They decided to combine a visit to Jerry with the arrival of the books, meeting up with David Seagala of Bega, Kwa Bega, who had arranged to transport the books to Jerry’s school.

The back-breaking work of loading the books from the sea container into the trucks was followed by a long, dusty pothole-filled trip to the school near Mityana, more than two hours from Kampala. Students in their pink school uniforms came to meet them, excited by these giant trucks full of books. The plan was to unload all the books here for sorting, then distribute them to about 20 schools in the area. Jerry and the other teachers and students from the school all pitched in with the unloading, helping to empty the trucks in little over an hour.

When Les and Pat returned to the states, they started gathering more books in the San Jose area and shipped them to a partner which arrived in July 2002. Those were followed by two additional containers to Uganda cosponsored by Books For Africa which arrived in September 2002, with all four containers being shipped via the U.S. Department of State’s Humanitarian Assistance Program. All told, the Montgomery’s had a hand in over 100,000 books making their way to Africa.

Their church is processing a proposal from the local Ugandan school staff to help fund a 30 x 60 foot teacher training center, complete with solar power, as well as funds for a town library next year. Jerry has also helped his school submit a proposal to the U.S. Embassy in Uganda that will help with renovations to the existing school. Too of Jerry’s brothers have also decided to help out in Uganda. “David spent the summer of 2002 with a CrossLoads Africa project to build a hospital near Kampala, and Nathanial hopes to do a photo documentary of Uganda and the various projects this winter.”

“We would never in a million years have attempted this before Jerry joined the Peace Corps,” says Les Montgomery. “I’ve learned that a close working relationship between someone here and someone in the field can really accomplish something worthwhile.”

If you’d like to accomplish something very worthwhile, get in touch with Books For Africa. We’ll be happy to help you help the children of Africa—personally.
I believe that in Africa, in the United States, and in every part of the world, children by the age of about ten years old should and can have the tools to be life-long self-learners. But that requires that we get them into schools at an early age, and keep them there, with adequate materials... Surely, we can get every student his or her own book.

Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill from his address to the Carnegie Endowment for Peace last June

---

2003 - 2002 HIGHLIGHTS: LOOKING BACK

**ROTARY PARTNERSHIPS**

For the past 14 years, Rotary Clubs in the United States, Canada, and England, along with their respective district foundations and the Rotary International Foundation, have joined forces with Books For Africa as partners in ending the book famine in Africa. Local clubs typically raise funds as well as donating books, and members become personally involved. This past year, Rotary Clubs in Minnesota (MN), Wayzata (MN), Sun Lakes (AZ), Fall River (MA), New Bedford (MA), East Providence (MA), and Dartmouth (MA) raised the necessary funds to ship containers of books to Rotary Clubs in The Gambia, Uganda, South Africa, and Ghana.

**TANZANIA INITIATIVE MEETS GALA GOAL**

On May 13, 2002, Books For Africa celebrated its Tanzania Initiative with a gala event at St. Paul’s Radisson Riverfront Hotel featuring drumming and dancing from Kwasi Nunyakpe’s Oak Park students and the Hayor Bibimma Dance Theatre. Honored guests included Tanzanian Ambassador Mustafa Niyang’anyi, Kenyan Ambassador Yosef Nibbs, and Minnesota’s Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum. Over 300 guests were welcomed with greetings in absentia from Tanzania’s President Benjamin William Mkapa and his wife First Lady Anna Mkapa. The initiative’s goal—raising enough money to ship 10 containers of books to Tanzania—was met by the proceeds from the event.

**MALAWI PROJECT**

Begun in 2000, Books For Africa’s Malawi Project reached a major milestone in 2002 and will continue in 2003. One of the project goals—a new 25-book reference library in every secondary school in Malawi—is being met with a $50,000 grant from Rotary International, matched by $50,000 from Rotary Clubs in Minnesota and Wisconsin and their respective district foundations. The books are being made available to the project by World Book, Inc., at 50 percent of their production cost and represent more than $7 million dollars in retail value. Shipment from the United States to Malawi by the U.S. Department of State is scheduled for late 2002 or early 2003. Funding for the primary school libraries is pending with Coca-Cola Africa.

**BFA’S ILLINOIS PROJECT**

A partnership is being developed between Books For Africa and Follett Educational Services of Woodbridge, Illinois, which could enable Books For Africa to quadruple the number of books it ships annually. Follett is the largest buyer and seller of used textbooks in America and has donated thousands of books to Books For Africa in the past and will continue to do so in the future. These donated books are currently being shipped from Illinois to Minnesota for eventual transport to Africa, which is costly and time consuming. A study exploring the feasibility of establishing a satellite program in Joliet, Illinois, is underway and includes identifying funding sources for startup costs and initial operations.

**NYERERE LIBRARY**

“When we get to the position where a man and wife can sit together in the evening each reading or reading to each other, when their children are encouraged to learn out of school by reading books which are easily available, then we shall have made a big breakthrough in our development.”—Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, founding president of Tanzania

Books For Africa is working closely with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and the Equal Opportunity for All Trust Fund in Tanzania to create a Presidential Memorial Library and Resource Centre in honor of the late Julius Nyerere, the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania. The library will be both a lending and research library and will include papers, photographs, and other artifacts of Nyerere’s legacy, as well as a conference and training center. Books For Africa is the fiscal agent for tax deductible donations to the Nyerere library in the U.S.

---

“Looking Back” for 2002

**2002**

- **HIGHLIGHTS:**
  - Today’s headlines: Books For Africa’s Tanzania Initiative celebrates a gala event.
  - Malawi Project reaches a major milestone.
  - BFA’s Illinois Project.
  - Nyerere Library.

**MALAWI PROJECT**

Begun in 2000, Books For Africa’s Malawi Project reached a major milestone in 2002 and will continue in 2003. One of the project goals—a new 25-book reference library in every secondary school in Malawi—is being met with a $50,000 grant from Rotary International, matched by $50,000 from Rotary Clubs in Minnesota and Wisconsin and their respective district foundations. The books are being made available to the project by World Book, Inc., at 50 percent of their production cost and represent more than $7 million dollars in retail value. Shipment from the United States to Malawi by the U.S. Department of State is scheduled for late 2002 or early 2003. Funding for the primary school libraries is pending with Coca-Cola Africa.

**BFA’S ILLINOIS PROJECT**

A partnership is being developed between Books For Africa and Follett Educational Services of Woodbridge, Illinois, which could enable Books For Africa to quadruple the number of books it ships annually. Follett is the largest buyer and seller of used textbooks in America and has donated thousands of books to Books For Africa in the past and will continue to do so in the future. These donated books are currently being shipped from Illinois to Minnesota for eventual transport to Africa, which is costly and time consuming. A study exploring the feasibility of establishing a satellite program in Joliet, Illinois, is underway and includes identifying funding sources for startup costs and initial operations.

**NYERERE LIBRARY**

“When we get to the position where a man and wife can sit together in the evening each reading or reading to each other, when their children are encouraged to learn out of school by reading books which are easily available, then we shall have made a big breakthrough in our development.”—Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, founding president of Tanzania

Books For Africa is working closely with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and the Equal Opportunity for All Trust Fund in Tanzania to create a Presidential Memorial Library and Resource Centre in honor of the late Julius Nyerere, the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania. The library will be both a lending and research library and will include papers, photographs, and other artifacts of Nyerere’s legacy, as well as a conference and training center. Books For Africa is the fiscal agent for tax deductible donations to the Nyerere library in the U.S.

---

**2003**

- **LOOKING FORWARD:**
  - Malawi Project.
  - BFA’s Illinois Project.
  - Nyerere Library.

---

54
"My favorite subject is math. It is fun to be able to use these books with my studies. I like taking the books home and even show my parents what I am doing. I shared my one book with 6 other students before. Now I have my own."

KAIIRANGA EPY, NAKIRUNGU PRIMARY SCHOOL, MBELE, UGANDA

**FINANCIALS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$325,578</td>
<td>$222,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Property and Equipment</td>
<td>$30,722</td>
<td>$14,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$356,300</td>
<td>$236,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$39,479</td>
<td>$27,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$316,821</td>
<td>$209,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$179,259</td>
<td>$121,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$127,362</td>
<td>$97,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$316,821</td>
<td>$209,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions</td>
<td>$464,508</td>
<td>$384,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Interest</td>
<td>$5,020</td>
<td>$4,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse/Office space contributed</td>
<td>$7,420</td>
<td>$7,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books contributed</td>
<td>$9,161,568</td>
<td>$8,031,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>$9,871,016</td>
<td>$8,659,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative expenses</td>
<td>$118,448</td>
<td>$94,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program operating expenses – overseas</td>
<td>$9,595,750</td>
<td>$8,477,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>$9,714,207</td>
<td>$8,572,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$107,430</td>
<td>$46,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-Year ended June 30, 2002

*Copies of the full audit and the IRS 990 are available upon request*

**How to Help**

For every $50 you contribute, Books For Africa can send 160 high-quality new and used books to Africa to be read by approximately 4,000 children. Here are the many ways you can help:

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Books For Africa relies on volunteers to help sort and pack books, plan special events, produce publications, raise funds, and speak to groups. If you would like to put your special skill or talent to work for the children of Africa, please call us at 651-602-9844 or email info@booksforafrica.org.

**CASH GIFTS**

Your cash, check, or credit card gift to Books For Africa can be designated for a specific program or directed to where the need is greatest. All gifts are tax deductible as specified by law. For your convenience, gifts by credit card can be made directly online at www.booksforafrica.org.

**MATCHING GIFTS**

Check with your employer about matching gifts. Many corporations and other organizations match employee donations dollar for dollar to the charity of the employee’s choice. Some employers match gifts of retired employees and employee spouses. Others also make financial contributions to match employees’ volunteer hours to the charity of their choice.

**GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK**

Books For Africa and you can benefit from gifts of stock (provided you have held the stock for 18 months or longer). You can eliminate capital gains taxes, avoid income tax on the gifted stock, and receive tax deductions for the full value of the stock.

**WILLS AND OTHER PLANNED GIFTS**

Books For Africa can be named a beneficiary in your will and receive other deferred gifts such as life insurance. These gifts are not subject to estate taxes.

**speakers bureau**

If your employer, club or group would like to learn more about Books For Africa’s mission and work, we are happy to present our program in person. For additional information, please call 651-602-9844 or visit our website at www.booksforafrica.org.

**MAKE IT PERSONAL:**

Support Books For Africa

**MBALE, UGANDA**

“I shared my one book with 6 other students before. Now I have my own.”

**Our science teacher’s lessons are better and more interesting now that he has some good books to get more information from.”**

**Namirembe Regina- P.R. 7**

**Bujubi Primary School**
A simple name,
for a simple organization
with a simple mission:
We collect, sort, ship, and distribute
books to children in Africa.

That’s all we do.