

Dear Friends,

It's been another great year at Books For Africa! As we look back on 2003 we see many great accomplishments in our continuing efforts to ship more and more donated books to schools and libraries in Africa, and we are pleased to showcase some of these accomplishments for you in this year's annual report. Specifically, in 2003 Books For Africa shipped 55 containers of books (approximately 1.4 million) valued at over \$18 million. And with our first ever shipment to the Democratic Republic of Congo, this brings to 23 the total number of African countries served by BFA since its establishment in 1988. None of this would be possible without the support of our many, many donors. Your support and efforts for the children of Africa are greatly appreciated as we continue in our core mission of working to end the book famine in Africa.

Additional achievements accomplished in 2003 include the signing of a formal partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the completion of the Malawi Project to place reference libraries in all 800 secondary schools in that country; execution of a \$96,000 grant from USAID to ship 12 containers of books; and much, much more.

So what do we have to look forward to in 2004? We at BFA are pleased to formally unveil our new Kilimanjaro Society. You will see in this year's annual report a listing of the charter members of the Kilimanjaro Society. Thank you to these supporters of Books For Africa, and please consider joining as a charter member of the Kilimanjaro Society in 2004. Kilimanjaro Society members are those supporters of BFA who provide \$1,000 or more in annual financial support to the organization. Kilimanjaro Society members will take the lead as BFA hosts the visit of the President of Rwanda to Minnesota in April of 2004, and also as BFA celebrates the shipping of its 10 millionth book later this year.

Join us this coming year — as individuals and as organizations – in supporting exciting projects that will bring millions and millions of more books to schools and libraries across Africa. Education is the great equalizer in this world, helping people everywhere to rise above adversity and history. BFA can help in this great effort for the children of Africa, but only with your help.

Sincerely,

Lane Ayres

Jone Oyres

President

Pat Plonski

Executive Director

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03 HIGHLIGHTS

On July 1, 2003, Books For Africa completed its 2003 Fiscal Year. A number of new milestones were reached. For FY 03, almost 1.4 million books valued at over \$18 million were shipped to schools, libraries, and universities throughout Africa. Books For Africa has served a total of 23 African countries and shipped over 9 million books since its establishment in 1988. Additional key accomplishments included the following:

A formal PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT was signed with the UNESCO Division of the United Nations;

A SPECIAL GRANT of \$96,000 was secured from the EDDI Division of USAID to ship 300,000 books to 11 African countries;

The Malawi Project was completed, placing REFERENCE LIBRARIES IN ALL 800 SECONDARY SCHOOLS throughout this Southern African country in partnership with many local Rotary clubs, Rotary International, the U.S. State Department, and World Book Inc;

Signature of a special Memorandum of Understanding with the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation in Abuja, Nigeria to SHIP ONE MILLION BOOKS to Nigeria over the course of 24 months. BFA's participation in the Sullivan Summit in Nigeria also resulted in a greatly increased profile for BFA presenting potential collaborations with key organizations such as the African Development Bank; and

Development of a partnership with Campus Community Outreach to provide FINANCIAL SUPPORT for Books For Africa through internet book sales. Other key partnerships were developed with Minnesota Goodwill-Easter Seals, the Brother's Brother Foundation, the Bethany Foundation, the Aid to Africa Federation, and the University of Minnesota.

USAID & BFA PARTNER TO SHIP 12 CONTAINERS OF BOOKS TO AFRICA

Books For Africa was proud to partner with the EDDI Division of the United States Agency for International Development to ship 12 containers of books (approximately 300,000 books) to 11 African countries. BFA was the recipient of a \$96,000 USAID grant to ship schoolbooks, with special focus upon women's non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and schools serving girls. Under this special grant, books were shipped to Botswana, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Kenya, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Many of the recipients of these books were in poor, remote areas of Africa that have not been able to secure book donations from other sources.

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"We have been trying to start a library for some time and with your generous donation to Zambia we benefited from it."

Sr. Pauline, Sister of Presentation, Mongu, Zambia



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\$162,812

Tew Foundation

\$45,000

Ghana Book Trust

\$32,000 EDDI USAID

\$8.000

Hagen Family Foundation Horn Aid UK

House of Hope Presbyterian Church

Human Rights Focus
Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Medtronic Foundation

Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund

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Alice M. O'Brien Foundation City of St. Paul - Star Grant FACSA

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\$1,000-\$2,499

Alsadu Campus

Campus Community Outreach Carleton College Friends of Nigeria George Rogers Clark School H. E. and Helen R. Warren Foundation

Homedale Foundation Katherine B. Nason Charitable Lead Annuity Trust

Kelen Family Foundation Kenya Book Trust Kopp Family Foundation

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A special thank you is in order to Rudy & Carol Sundberg for their generous donation of warehouse and office facilities, without which BFA could not operate.

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World Vision
Up Front Productions

U.S. Departments of State and Defense

Follett Educational Services McGraw Hill

Office of the President of the University of Minnesota

"The books are amazing. So many of them were brand new and from a variety of subjects. I received some editions in large numbers such that a teacher could assign books as a teaching aid to lead classes."

Kelly Paige Stenhoff, Nangwa, Tanzania

Books For Africa would not be able to continue its mission without all the generous in-kind support from individuals and organizations too numerous to list. BFA ships exclusively donated books from numerous book donors-both large and small. Thank you to all.

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