

2008 CONTRIBUTORS July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008



Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our faithful donors, and all supporters of Books For Africa for another outstanding year. 2008 was another record-breaking year, with more books shipped to more countries and more funds raised than ever before. In 2008, Books For Africa celebrated 20 years of serving the children of Africa. Since 1988, BFA has shipped over 20 million high-quality text and library books to African children.



"Books For Africa is a simple idea, but its impact is transformative. For us, literacy is quite simply the bridge from misery to hope."

—Kofi Annan, former U.N. Secretary-General

In 2008, we sent 176 container shipments, a 48% increase over 2007. This represents approximately 2.7 million text and library books valued at over \$20.2 million shipped to 24 African countries. \$1.7 million was raised to ship these books. Books For Africa is also proud to report that in 2008 the following goals were achieved:

- First-ever containers were shipped to Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Tunisia, and Western Sahara, bringing to 45 the total number of countries served by BFA since 1988.
- On September 12, 2008, over 350 Books For Africa supporters from across the United States, along with African diplomatic representatives, gathered at the History Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, to celebrate 20 years of service to the children of Africa.
- Oprah's Angel Network awarded BFA a generous \$95,000 grant, which will send nine 40-foot container shipments to school-age children in Liberia, Tanzania, and South Africa who currently have little or no access to books.
- A \$90,000 grant from the OPEC Fund for International Development is funding the shipment of ten containers of books to Arabic-speaking students in Chad, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and Western Sahara who are eager to learn English.
- In 2008, Books For Africa launched the Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative to address Africa's scarcity of law and human rights books in law schools, libraries, and government offices. Honorary co-chairs are Kofi Annan, former U.N. Secretary-General, and Walter Mondale, former U.S. Vice President.

It has truly been a great year. Thank you, everyone, for your help in sending more books to the children of Africa where they are so needed by people who want to learn and improve their lives and their countries. With your support, we will help create a culture of literacy and provide the tools of empowerment to the next generation of parents, teachers, and leaders in Africa.

Sincerely,

 Michael J. Henley
 President

 Patrick Plonski
 Executive Director



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"Make no mistake, there are hundreds and thousands of people [in Africa], young and old, who aspire to an education so that they can become their own agents of change and lead themselves out of the trap of poverty that has kept them down for much too long." —His Excellency Welle Ntsho, South African Ambassador to the U.S.

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