



# Literacy : A Gift of Hope

BOOKS FOR AFRICA 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

PHOTO BY BETTY PRESS





# How To Help Support Books For Africa

\$75 provides a new atlas or 200 student dictionaries  
\$210 purchases and sends a new encyclopedia set to a school or library  
\$2,500 provides enough books for five rural schools  
\$9,800 supplies a full sea container of 22,000 books—enough for 20 schools



Dear Friends,


We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our donors, and all supporters of Books For Africa for another outstanding year. 2009 was a challenging year for many nonprofits due to the worldwide recession. However, thanks to the continued generosity of donors and volunteers, we were able to send more books to more countries and continue to work towards our goal of providing books to all children throughout Africa. In 2009, we shipped 176 container units of books to Africa. This represents approximately 1.8 million text and library books valued at over \$21 million shipped to 31 African countries. \$1.7 million was raised to ship these books. 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.

Books For Africa is also proud to report that in 2009 the following was achieved:

- BFA retained its position as the largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent, shipping over 22 million books to 45 African countries since 1988.
- In April, BFA welcomed to Minnesota Tanzanian Ambassador to the U.S. Ombeni Sefue and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, in partnership with the University of Minnesota.
- In May, BFA opened a new 20,000-square-foot warehouse in Atlanta, Georgia, dramatically increasing our ability to ship more books to Africa with greater cost-effectiveness and providing an opportunity for BFA to interact with partners in the Southeastern part of the United States.
- In October, BFA held special literacy conference events in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Key participants included the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, the Tanzanian Ambassador to the United Nations, the President of Somalia, and representatives from the World Bank, South Africa, and the U.S. House of Representatives.
- In November, BFA-commissioned research documenting the positive impacts of book availability upon student literacy and reading achievement levels was presented at the annual African Studies Association Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

It has truly been a great year, with so much achieved for the children of Africa. This is very exciting to us and we are proud to report these milestones to you as Books For Africa continues to strive to end the book famine in Africa. Thanks to your compassion, many children will have the opportunity to improve their lives through education and increased opportunity. Thank you for your support. Nothing could have been achieved without the support of you, our faithful donors.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Henley  
President

  
Patrick Plonski  
Executive Director



## 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](http://www.booksforafrica.org).

## Matching Gifts

Check with your employer about matching gifts. Many companies match employee donations dollar for dollar to the charity of the employee's choice.

## 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.

## 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.

## Speakers Bureau

If your employer, club, or group would like to learn more about Books For Africa's mission and work, please call 651-602-9844 or visit [www.booksforafrica.org](http://www.booksforafrica.org).

## 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. Put your special skills to work!

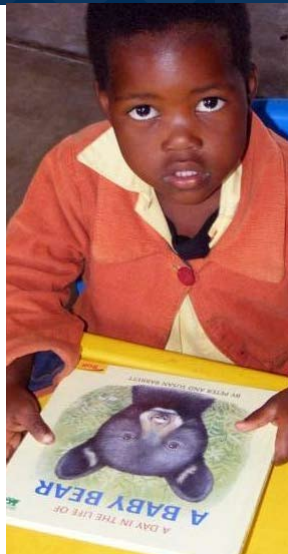
## Books For Africa Financial Information

### Statement of Financial Position

	2008	2009
ASSETS		
Current Assets	961,059	741,364
Book Inventory	9,082,095	3,274,145
Net Property and Equipment	54,601	45,724
TOTAL ASSETS	10,097,755	4,078,366
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	17,196	19,345
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	543,808	473,079
Temporarily Restricted	9,536,751	3,585,942
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10,080,559	4,059,021
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>10,097,755</b>	<b>4,078,366</b>

### Statement of Activity

	2008	2009
SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Contributions	1,806,353	1,825,935
Interest Earned	1,516	4,912
Books Contributed	20,269,072	18,312,001
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	22,076,941	20,133,023
EXPENDITURES		
Program Operating Expenses – Overseas	21,714,062	25,855,752
General and Administrative Expenses	88,833	140,628
Fundraising Expenses	148,882	158,181
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	21,951,777	26,154,561
<b>CHANGE IN NET MONETARY ASSETS</b>	<b>125,164</b>	<b>(70,729)</b>
<b>CHANGE IN BOOK INVENTORY</b>		<b>(5,950,809)</b>





2009 CONTRIBUTORS

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

SUMMIT SOCIETY

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BFA would like to thank the 630 households who donated \$5-\$99 in fiscal year 2009. We regret that space limitations prevent the full listing of these names. We also thank the 525 donors that provided books to our warehouse.

\*\* Denotes donations from large numbers of individuals

This list is current as of June 30, 2009. Every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies and contact our office at 651-602-9844.

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\* Legacy Society members have included Books For Africa in their estate planning.

“Books For Africa not only reinforces the importance of children learning, but helps adults to fulfill their dream of living in a country full of hope and opportunity.”





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### Office location:

253 East 4th Street, Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55101 USA

### Warehouse locations:

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### Key Partners :



“Thank you to Books For Africa for making a difference in the lives of adults and children in Africa. You really don’t know how much it means to us to have a book.”

—Gillian Motlhamme, South African Vice Consul General

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