

Providing Books and Exchanging Culture in Ghana

"Akwaaba! You are Welcome!"

This is the refrain we heard time and time again as Tracy Nearhoof, IBP's Books as Bridges Coordinator, and I visited over 10 partner schools throughout the West African country of Ghana. At times we were overwhelmed by how welcoming our partners were to us. Hope International School and Crossover International Academy both gave us a wonderful taste of Ghanaian culture through food and elaborate dances. We also did our best to explain a bit of American culture through American food, silly bands, and games.

A hallmark of IBP is that we provide books to small schools in rural areas where other aid organizations do not typically work. In Ghana, this is particularly true. The only books our small shipment partners had were those donated by IBP. Even a small number of books can have a big impact as Dave Lee, Founder of Crossover



Books as Bridges Coordinator Tracy Nearhoof with Books as Bridges students at St. Mary's Anglican School in Kasoa, Ghana.

By Rachel Lewis, Executive Director

International Academy explains, "The benefits Crossover students derive from IBP and Books as Bridges are many. The vicious cycle of illiteracy is totally broken and the children are now emancipated from ignorance."

Tracy and I were excited to be able to make a face-to-face connection with our partner

teachers and administrators to learn how we can serve them more effectively. Because of our dialogue, IBP plans to focus on improving communication with teachers by using cell phones and text messaging which is much more accessible for most of our partners than email. Since most of our Books as Bridges schools receive no other foreign assistance, IBP plans to concentrate more resources to make a larger impact at these schools. Additionally, IBP will work to find ways to make electronic communication, such as email, Skype, and digital pictures more accessible for our Books as Bridges schools. These changes will strengthen IBP's programs in the coming year and make literacy more accessible to our Ghanaian partners.



Tracy receives a lesson on how to pound fufu at Crossover International Academy in the Volta Region of Ghana.



Books as Bridges teacher, Ernest Agyemang, discusses how teachers use the books donated by IBP at his school and what books the school most needs for their book shipment this fall.



From Our Book Recipients



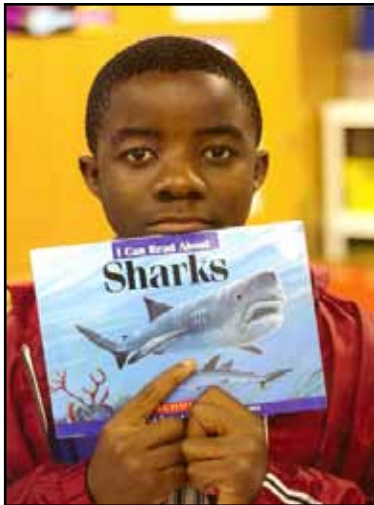
Our school was established three years ago to provide education in English for foreign students living in Katowice. Your donation will help us in our literature classes. The fact that the books arrived close to Christmas makes it so much more special.

Abigail Forest and Oscar Karkut
Students at Silesian International School, Poland



When I was growing up, I always had books around me, and I always wished the same for my students. However, my students never had an opportunity to enjoy reading books until we received a book donation from IBP. I believe that reading is very educational for children and that a book has the power to provide them with a dream.

Shihoko Numa
Executive Director at Rainbow House, Uganda



Thank you for your generous donation of books. Many of the students come from refugee families that are also struggling to learn English. These books will be an opportunity for the whole family to improve their language skills for years to come.

Isaac Jensen
AmeriCorps Volunteer at
Tates Creek Middle School, KY



I wrote you these few lines to say thank you so very much for all the books you sent for my friends and I to read. I liked the books that taught me about horses and Dora. She is my favorite cartoon character! I will take care of all the books.

Analiyaa Gangaperoo
Student at Chinmaya Vidyalaya Primary School,
Trinidad

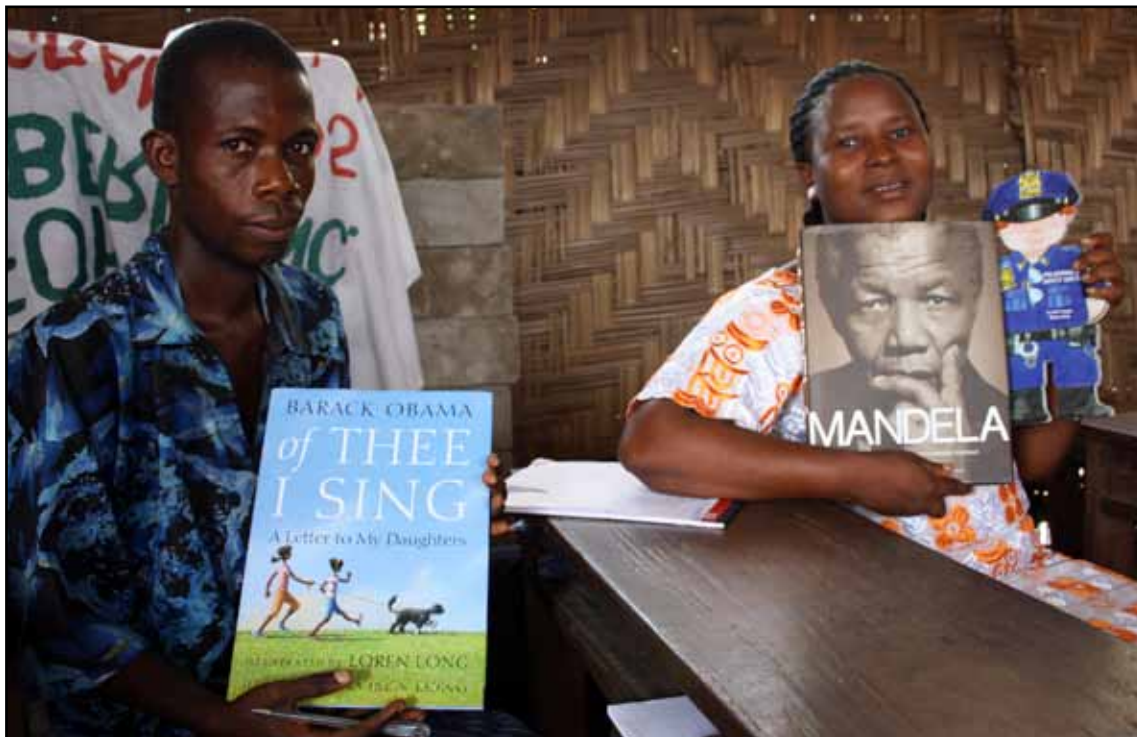


I wish to express my deepest gratitude for making our library a recipient of your books. These books are of great advantage in providing varied sources of information to our students.

Lucia V. Buaquina
Librarian at Misamis Occidental
Provincial Library, Philippines

Thank you!

Creating a Love for Literacy in Liberia



Liberian teachers from Firestone School display the new books they picked for their school's library collection during the 2-day library workshop held by African Children's Libraries in Monrovia, Liberia.

IBP has been able to provide thousands of books to the small, West African country of Liberia over the past three years through shipping assistance from Firestone Natural Rubber. Liberia went through devastating civil wars in both the 1990s and early 2000s and the country is struggling to recover. Because infrastructure was disrupted during the wars, there are many physical needs in the country – including books and instruction on utilizing books in the classroom. This spring, IBP partnered with African Children's Libraries to provide 18,000 children's books to 21 schools and libraries throughout Liberia, as well as English grammar books for ESL learners at the University of Liberia.

African Children's Libraries,

with the support of Rotary International, gives workshops to teachers and administrators about how to care for library books, manage circulation, and promote a culture of reading in their school. In a country in need of hope and a better future, demand for education is great.

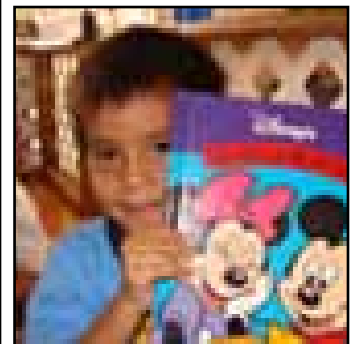
At Zorzor Central High School in Northern Liberia, students are desperate for the opportunity to learn. "We brought math textbooks from the U.S. and we have been meeting 3 students for 2 hours every morning, where we pass around a Pre-Calculus textbook. Each night, one student takes it home and furiously copies down all the notes and all of the problems in a given section and the next day the book is passed on," says Peace Corps Volunteer Scott

Kiskaddon. "In 3 months, we have been able to cover three-fourths of the book." While the challenges in Liberia are at times frustrating, it is stories like this one that reinvigorate IBP's commitment to helping this war-torn country improve its educational system.



The corporate law textbook shared by law students at the University of Liberia which is in tatters after being photocopied hundreds of times.

Did You Know...?



IBP sent a record breaking 271,000 books to 73 countries in 2010. That's more books than we have ever sent in one year in the 45-year history of the organization!

Follow IBP on...



Facebook

Like the International Book Project and learn about volunteer opportunities, events, and view picture updates.



Twitter

Follow us @intlbookproject to get fast updates and links to our e-newsletters.



Blog

Read recent thank-you notes and view pictures from book recipients at intlbookproject.wordpress.com



The Peace Corps Celebrates 50 Years!

A Snapshot of IBP's Peace Corps Partners from Around the World

"Our librarian, Victor, is still unpacking boxes and dreaming of all the people who will enjoy these gifts. The English teachers are excited and seeing possibilities to enrich their classes. One of them spent two hours browsing through the books!"

- Peace Corps Volunteer Dianne Carlin, Macedonia



"With only 60 students, our school is the smallest on the island. We lack many amenities the larger schools have including a library. The books you sent is a wonderful start for building a literary collection!"

- Peace Corps Volunteer Amanda Korell, Micronesia

"Your books form part of an effort to construct and finish a school library. The books are not only a key factor in the attraction to the new library, but a crucial piece in the development of the community!"

- Peace Corps Volunteer Derrick Lewis, Dominican Republic



Peace Corps Volunteer Brendan Hughes received Spanish children's books for his students at San Miguel Arcangel Elementary School in Paraguay. In the picture, Hughes stands with students who are members of the newly formed Reading Club.



Peace Corps Volunteer David Hartness wrote to IBP requesting books for the teacher training school where he taught English. IBP was able to successfully raise enough money to send a pallet of over 2,000 books to the school located in Namaacha, Mozambique. The books included English grammar books, children's literature and library books to help the students improve their English skills.

Legacy of Literacy Capital Campaign



As IBP has grown and shipped more books in recent years, our facility has not changed. In fact, little has been updated in our 63-year old warehouse since IBP moved here in 1983. This is especially difficult in the winter as no part of the warehouse is heated except for the offices. Improvements are also needed to make the warehouse more accessible for packing and moving large pallet and sea container shipments of books.

After considering several options, the International Book Project board of directors decided that making upgrades to our current facility was the best choice, especially since IBP owns the building and property outright. IBP is embarking on a 2-phase *Legacy of Literacy* capital campaign to improve our warehouse facility. The total cost of both phases is \$105,107. Consider giving a special gift for these much-needed updates for our facility.

Phase 1	\$53,639
Phase 2	\$51,468
Total \$105,107	

- Construct walls, insulate, and climate control warehouse space for sorting and packing books
- Climate control and insulate bookstore
- New insulated front garage door
- Bookshelves for bookstore
- Build loading dock for sending and receiving large shipments
- Drywall and insulate two offices
- Replace flooring in offices
- Replace sign on front of building



IMPROVED BOOKSTORE SPACE
IBP's current bookstore is part of the main warehouse and is not heated in the winter or cooled in the summer.



HEAT FOR VOLUNTEERS

As this picture from a Martin Luther King Day volunteer group illustrates, volunteering in IBP's warehouse during the winter can be a bone chilling experience! It is hard to sort books and pack books while bundled up and wearing gloves.



LOADING DOCK FOR LARGE SHIPMENTS

Winter shipments are especially difficult at IBP. This sea container shipment sent in December 2010 to Sierra Leone had to be rescheduled because we could not load due to snow. A loading dock at our warehouse would eliminate problems shipping in the winter and make receiving and sending large shipments much more efficient.

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF

- Lena Bagdasaryan
- Janet Barbeau
- Marion Beasley
- Stephanie Brewer
- Richard and Rollie Butler
- Ann Caudill
- Betty and Donald Coonrod
- The Dygert Family
- Crayon Fetell
- Carol and Charlie Hall
- Gail Hart
- Val Hollingsworth
- Eric James
- Sheila Kalas
- Enid and Kent Keyser
- Margit Kohl
- Anna and Homer Lane
- Rachel Lewis
- Virginia Q. Litsey
- John L. Molla, Jr.
- Joan Stewart
- Dorothy Swope
- Dr. Gayatri Varanasi
- Jim and Nita Voorhees
- Rick and Diana Wolterman

Shop at IBP's Book Store!

Open 9 am to 5 pm,
Monday through Friday.

We are Lexington's
CHEAPEST book store!

2011 Half Price Book Sale Weekends

July 15 and 16
October 14 and 15



Double Your Impact!

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF

John E. Brown
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 Irene Sabastian Cox
 Donald Deane
 Mrs. Dye
 Clare Feldman
 Marilyn Galdi
 Pamela Hanes
 Clark Heiple
 Melvyn Richard Kalas
 Mary Helen Lecklider
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 Douglas McCay
 Rene Miville II
 Joy Robinson
 Oliver Schaufelberger
 Bob Sexton
 Nancy Silverman
 Chuck Stone
 Harriet Van Meter
 Lucy Bryans Van Meter
 Richard Waguespack



Check out the article on IBP in the spring issue of Keeneland Magazine.

Matching Grant Opportunities at IBP

1. Gregg New Donor Matching Grant



While you may not be a new donor, you may have friends, family, and neighbors who would be interested in helping IBP provide books to schools and libraries in the developing world. As an incentive, a long-time IBP supporter is matching all contributions from new donors up to \$7,000. We are especially targeting businesses, so talk to your employer about donating to IBP and taking advantage of the match!

2. Gregg Matching Grant for Former Soviet States



Students at Galkynysh Etrap Library in Turkmenistan read their new books from IBP provided through the Gregg Matching Grant for the Former Soviet States. As is the case with many shipments to the region, the books were requested by a Peace Corps Volunteer working as an English teacher in the community.

Thanks to a grant by long-time donor, Kate Kinley Gregg, the International Book Project is able to offer matching grants for schools and libraries in the former Soviet States. These Central Asian and Eastern European countries have traditionally aligned with Russia and in the past have mostly spoken Russian as their second language. However, learning English and understanding Western culture has become increasingly important to the new generation of students who are eager to widen their educational and job prospects in the West. IBP is helping English teachers throughout the region by providing English language resources.

3. Employer Match

Many employers will match the contributions of their employees to nonprofit organizations. The following are just a few employers who do match donations: Toyota, Home Depot, Exxon Mobil and Fannie Mae. When making a donation to the International Book Project, ask your employer if your company has a matching gift program. If they do, there is usually a simple form to fill out to take advantage of the match. Just think if your employer has never donated to IBP before, your donation could be tripled with the Gregg New Donor Match Grant!



Events & Volunteers



MAXWELL STREET ELEMENTARY

Tracy Nearhoof, Books as Bridges Coordinator, helps two students from Maxwell Street Elementary School pick out Spanish books to send to their pen pals in Ecuador.



SPRING BOOK SALE ALTRUSA VOLUNTEERS

Sheri Seckman and Patricia Wilson help customers at IBP's Spring Book Sale. Both women are members of Altrusa which is an international association of professional women who are volunteers dedicated to improving their community.

SMASHING TOMATO FUNDRAISER

Leanna and Nowal Allouch enjoy their dinner at Smashing Tomato along with their friend, Camille Bradley. Smashing Tomato restaurant partnered with IBP to hold a fundraiser to help raise money to send books to a college library being built in Nyahururu, Kenya.



CHIRO ONE VOLUNTEERS

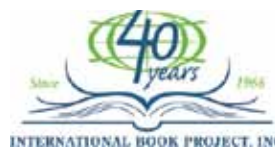
Chiro One employees organize books for domestic donation in the warehouse during a company-wide volunteer day.



FALL FUNDRAISER AT PORTOFINO

IBP Board Member Kwaku Addo and IBP Board President Dorothy Swope pose with guest speaker, Frank X. Walker, at IBP's Fall Fundraiser at Portofino restaurant in downtown Lexington.

Note From the Director



As you have read, I traveled to Ghana and Liberia in March to visit IBP partners, learn about West African culture, and find out how we can better serve our partners in the region. The lessons we learned in West Africa will benefit all of our partners around the world.

In the coming months, IBP will be emphasizing providing larger quantities of books to partner schools who demonstrate the capability to utilize the books effectively. Additionally, IBP will be adding information on our website to better describe types of

books we have and explain how international partners can use the various types of books in the classroom. Finally, the Wesley Girls' Secondary School is the first IBP partner to receive a Kindle pre-loaded with over 70 classic English tomes. This is IBP's first test of using digital books to provide a "library" for a partner school.

At IBP, we are in a phase of improving the efficiency of our warehouse and the effectiveness of our overseas partner schools through the *Legacy of Literacy* capital campaign. Thank you for your continued support of IBP. I hope you catch our excitement as we prepare IBP's facilities and programs to excel for the next decade!



Executive Director Rachel Lewis donates a Kindle loaded with over 70 ebooks to Wesley Girls' Secondary School in Kumasi, Ghana -- IBP's first e-book donation!

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