



INT'L BOOK
P R O J E C T

International Book Project
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"One child, one teacher,
one book, and one pen
can change the world."
- Malala Yousafzai



GLOBAL IMPACT

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

I am humbled and amazed by our organization's long-standing success at putting books into the hands of people around the world who need them most. International Book Project was started in founder Harriet Van Meter's basement in 1966, and in 2016, celebrated its 50th anniversary – truly an impressive benchmark for a small non-profit with a global literacy mission spanning over 70 countries. I witnessed first-hand as a Peace Corps volunteer in the early 1960's the importance of books and education to individual empowerment and economic mobility in developing countries, particularly among women and children eager to learn to read.

With great optimism for the next 50 years, the Board of Directors and staff leadership at International Book Project have started a new chapter in the organization's future with a complete renovation of our Lexington, Kentucky warehouse and a strategic visioning process which increases our global impact by shipping up to 500,000 books per year by 2020. We proved this goal attainable by shipping a record-breaking 407,355 books in 2016. Looking forward, we aim to strengthen existing relationships and build new networks to increase our impact and reach. The improvements to our warehouse and offices will enable us to achieve these goals – we will be able to streamline our collecting, sorting, and shipping operations while creating an inviting and secure space for volunteers and patrons to support our much loved organization. This is the first large-scale renovation of our facilities since International Book Project moved into the warehouse in 1983. We are funding this project partially from our endowment, whose growth has positioned us well for this expansion, and through the launch of **The Next Chapter Fund**, a capital campaign designed to both transform and grow our organization.

We welcome the thoughts and suggestions of our donors and volunteers about our future. Your input is always welcome as we collectively work to position International Book project for continued success.

Sincerely,

Dan Sprague
President, International Book Project Board of Directors



HISTORY

1966: After a trip to India, Harriet Van Meter writes a letter to the *Hindu Times* offering to send books to anyone who writes her. Within weeks she receives 400 letters. Her Lexington, Kentucky home on Mentelle Park becomes a center for collecting, storing, and packaging books for shipment all over the world. International Book Project becomes a clearinghouse for requests, encouraging individuals and groups in and beyond Lexington to send books.

1972: 56,548 books are sent by volunteers located throughout the US, Canada, Australia and Europe, and 47,857 books are sent from Lexington. 1970s monthly newsletters state:“People like to help themselves and are eager for books and technical publications... If you have books to recycle through their minds, IBP will tell you where and how to send them directly to those who will use them.”

1980: IBP uses YMCA warehouse. By mid-1981, more than 1.5 million books/journals had been sent to countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. More than 100,000 books waited in the warehouse for “SOMEONE to send shipping funds.”

1983: Present location on Delaware Avenue is purchased.

1992: Peace Corps recognizes IBP as one of 20 Partners for Peace. First PCV described her Kenyan students’ “incredible thirst for reading” in 1972 newsletter. In a typical year, 20% of IBP small shipments go to Peace Corps Volunteers.

2000: Goal is changed to “promoting literacy in developing countries and in areas of need in the United States.” By 2002, IBP partners include Eastern and Central Kentucky county public libraries and Habitat for Humanity.

2004: Books as Bridges begins, developing into a program by 2007 that links students and schools in Kentucky with students and schools in other countries.

2012: Legacy of Literacy renovations include IBP bookstore and offices.

2016: International Book Project celebrates its 50th Anniversary year! Record-setting 407,355 books shipped to 61 individual countries.

2017: International Book Project warehouse renovation begins.

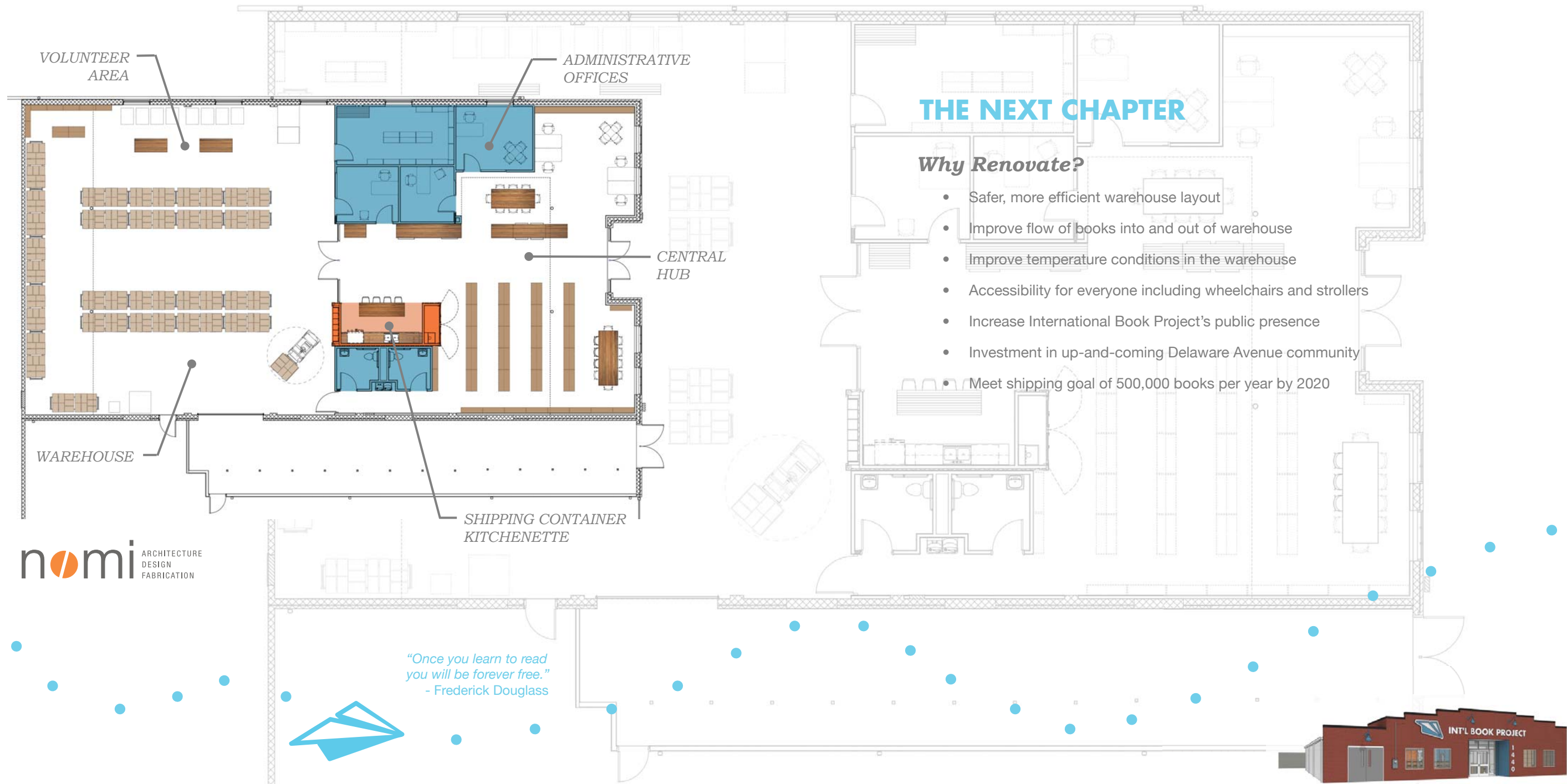
- Compiled from the IBP archives by Board Member Angene Wilson, Professor Emeritus University of KY

CHANGING LIVES AROUND THE WORLD



HARRIET VAN METER
Founder

“Literacy is a bridge
from misery to hope.”
- Kofi Annan



VOLUNTEER
AREA

ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Why Renovate?

- Safer, more efficient warehouse layout
- Improve flow of books into and out of warehouse
- Improve temperature conditions in the warehouse
- Accessibility for everyone including wheelchairs and strollers
- Increase International Book Project's public presence
- Investment in up-and-coming Delaware Avenue community
- Meet shipping goal of 500,000 books per year by 2020

CENTRAL
HUB

WAREHOUSE

SHIPPING CONTAINER
KITCHENETTE

nomi ARCHITECTURE
DESIGN
FABRICATION

"Once you learn to read
you will be forever free."
- Frederick Douglass



BUILDING RENOVATION FEATURE ITEMS



EXPOSED TRUSSES & GLASS WALL
Exposing the existing barrel vault roof trusses will allow the space to feel more expansive. And, the glass wall at the entrance to the warehouse makes the packaging and shipping process visible to all revealing the “life cycle of the book”.



MOVABLE WORK TABLES
Salvaged wood work tables will provide a flexible and comfortable sorting and packing surface for volunteers.

Big Ass Fans
84” Haiku fans will circulate air in the warehouse aiding in temperature control and providing a more comfortable work environment.



PALLET RACK STORAGE
Existing pallet racks will be refurbished and reconfigured to allow for forklift accessibility and a new level of organization and efficiency.



BUILDING SIGNAGE AND WALL GRAPHICS
New building signage and interior wall graphics will both provide a street front presence and exhibit the organization’s mission.



CONFERENCE TABLE
Large conference tables made from wood beams salvaged from the existing building will capture a part of the history as the organization looks to the future.



SHIPPING CONTAINER
A repurposed shipping container will contain a kitchenette for both employees and volunteers and represent International Book Project’s global shipping mission.

CENTRAL HUB

Updates to the International Book Project warehouse will be apparent from the moment visitors arrive at 1440 Delaware Avenue in Lexington, Kentucky. Throughout the design and planning process, it was important to us that the front entrance to International Book Project be welcoming and identifiable to book donors, volunteers, bookstore patrons, and other potential partners. We are replacing the opaque garage door entrance with a double-door storefront, transparent from the street, plus new signage that creates a stronger public presence for our non-profit among our residential and industrial Delaware Avenue neighbors. While we often feel like International Book Project is among Central Kentucky's best-kept secrets, we hope our new entrance will draw attention to our unique mission and engage visitors more readily to support our organization.

Inside the front entrance will be an expanded bookstore and a designated service area with large tables and sorting bins that improves the intake of donated books. The expanded bookstore will be an open, flexible space, accessible to wheelchair patrons and guests with children in strollers. All areas will receive upgraded heating and cooling systems for a more comfortable environment when spending time at International Book Project, whether shopping in the bookstore, donating books, or visiting the warehouse to learn about receiving books as a potential partner. A new goal for this space is to host public events, educational activities, and other gatherings, which was not possible in the previous warehouse configuration. With this renovation, we will have two new bathrooms, necessary for code compliance, and perhaps more importantly, better service for volunteers, staff, and other supporters and patrons.

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."
- Charles William Eliot



Public Space / Donation Receiving



Bookstore

Over 6.5 million books shipped in the last 50 years

407,355 books shipped in 2016 to 61 countries

WAREHOUSE

Just beyond the International Book Project welcome area will be a completely reorganized warehouse, with a new layout and floor plan designed to improve workflow and operational efficiency. Donated books will move directly from sorting bins in the receiving zone to tall packing tables in the warehouse, where boxes will be filled, labeled, and shelved for shipping. New shelving will accommodate racks of ready-to-ship boxes of books, enough to fill 84 pallets or 4 sea containers! All areas of the warehouse will have improved temperature control and be forklift accessible, which will vastly improve working conditions year-round for volunteers and staff. This is critical to attracting and retaining quality people to help and work at International Book Project. A dedicated scale for weighing outgoing shipments and a separate shipping exit where pallets can be more easily transported by forklift from the warehouse to the truck will improve the efficiency of warehouse operations. Prominent features of this upgraded warehouse will be large Big Ass Fans for airflow, color-coded shelving, and new info-graphics tracking the progress of ongoing shipments to partners around the world.

*"My best friend is a person
who will give me a book I
have not read."*
- Abraham Lincoln



Warehouse Storage / Shipping and Receiving Hub

10,000 - 25,000 Books per shipping container.

"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to let in more light."
- Vera Nazarian



SHIPPING CONTAINER

One of the most exciting aspects of our renovation is the opportunity to convey International Book Project's unique story and mission through its physical environment. We are especially excited by the inclusion of a repurposed shipping container within our warehouse space as a structural component to house a kitchenette and break area for employees and volunteers. This shipping container will not only provide a striking visual detail in the renovated warehouse, it will provide the sense of volume that shipping a container of books entails. How better to represent the work International Book Project does around the world than to incorporate an actual shipping container within our facility?! The kitchenette enclosed by the shipping container will contain a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee station plus large counter area for employee and volunteer seating. As a small non-profit that relies heavily on volunteers to assist with our mission, we place a high priority on volunteer appreciation and retention efforts. Sometimes a cold drink, hot cup of coffee, and/or a light snack or sweet treat can go a long way to making our volunteers feel appreciated and supported while they are lending their time and energy to packing boxes or sorting books at International Book Project. The kitchenette will also serve as the greeting and training area for volunteers and serve as an informal epicenter of our operations.



Employee and Volunteer Kitchenette



Volunteer Work Zone

25,000 books delivered to domestic partners in 2016

"The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, And all the sweet serenity of books."
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



VOLUNTEER AREA

International Book Project relies upon 2,000+ volunteer hours per year to accomplish our important work of collecting, sorting, and shipping books based on requests we receive from around the world. International Book Project volunteers range in age and background but in general, they all share in common a passion for international education and literacy. One of the highest priorities in our large-scale warehouse renovation is a designated, permanent zone for volunteers to store their personal belongings and a centralized location for communicating and tracking volunteer tasks each day throughout the year. Included in this area will be cubbies and coat pegs along with a white board for instructions plus a special infographic on shipments in progress to help volunteers see the value of their work as it corresponds to particular partners and shipments.




ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

While employees at International Book Project generally spend much of their time in the warehouse, in the field, or out in the community, there are many important administrative responsibilities associated with operating a global non-profit that require a supportive office environment for employees. We are delighted that the renovation to our facility will include five distinct work areas for our full-time and part-time employees, including an upgraded computer system and other technology for improved operations and communications. These new work areas also will be temperature and climate controlled, which is an improvement over our facilities prior to the renovation.



OFFICES



*“Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home”
- Anna Quindlen*



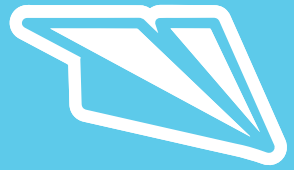
Books Change Lives ... Cameroon

"I'm a volunteer with Peace Corps and work with the Lycee de Wassande in the Adamawa Region of Cameroon. On behalf of myself, the principal of the school, and all the other teachers and students, I would like to express how much International Book Project has truly done for us. Upon my arrival at the school, all the books we had were in English while Cameroon is a bilingual country in theory, this is not so much the case in practice, and our students couldn't actually do much with the books they had on hand), with only a few outdated textbooks in French. While our school does work with students to try to encourage a love of reading and create a reading culture – Cameroon is unfortunately a country where such a thing is sorely lacking – it is very difficult to do this without books that are in our students' primary language.

Now, thanks to your gift, our students have nearly fifty works of fiction in French – books they can understand, that will help them grow, and that will hopefully show them just a little more of the world outside their village. We truly cannot thank International Book Project enough. The opportunities you have helped provide for these children are immeasurably large."

Best,

Candide Thielen
Peace Corps Volunteer
Lycee de Wassande



INT'L BOOK PROJECT

Books Change Lives ... Philippines

"Son-Rise Child Development Center is a mission school. Most of our students are sponsored by our faith partners. Many of them are not used to reading. Although the school provides quality books for them to read, they still lack the love of reading. When we received a box of books last January, our pupils were so excited to start reading them. The books are colorful, really amazing, and are of so much help to our pupils to embrace the habit of reading. Our Fifth and Sixth graders, for example, do not want to read some of the books/novels lent by one of the teachers because they are often too long or too thick or too difficult for them. Happily, you have sent two stories in the *Magic Tree House* series. The pupils have finished the two books in one week -- just after we received the package! Our other pupils enjoy the storybooks so much because they are big and have vivid colors. While this may seem insignificant to others, this is an achievement for them. That is why we and our pupils are full of gratitude for International Book Project's generosity. Thank you very much for your kindness. God's blessings be upon you!"

Best always,
Ms. Eva S. Morsiquillo,
School Head, Son-Rise Child Development Center



"A book holds a house of gold."
- Chinese Proverb

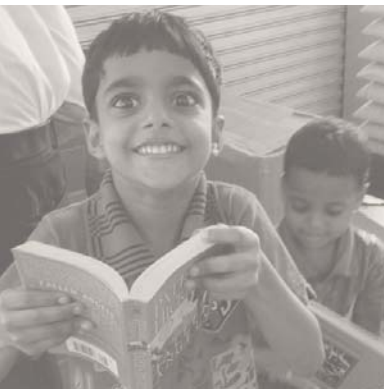
*"I have always imagined that
paradise will be a kind of library."*
- Jorge Luis Borges



Books Change Lives ... India

"Since 2013, it has been a magical and amazing partnership with International Book Project enhancing the core vision and mission of promoting knowledge through the donated books in many parts of the world. International 'We Serve' Foundation intends to set up 120,000 Free Public Libraries all over India, especially in rural schools, to eradicate illiteracy in 270+ million children, youth, and adults. Starting in October 2013, fourteen containers with 361,703 books have been dispatched from International Book Project to India. 803 free public libraries, in public schools and colleges, police headquarters, passport offices, public libraries, are operational now, thanks to the incredible dedication of thousands of volunteers and 1,570+ Rotary Clubs in India. On behalf of the 750,000+ poor students enrolled in these public educational institutions, now directly benefiting from the donated books. International 'We Serve' Foundation salutes the International Book Project!" --

International 'We Serve' Foundation,
Lexington, KY



Books Change Lives ... Nicaragua

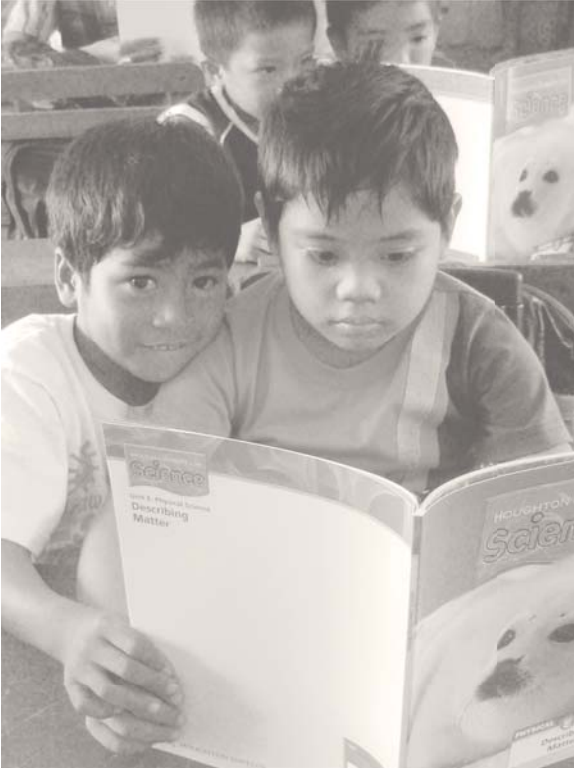
"Because of International Book Project's support we've been able to build and fully stock a library in Sta. Enriqueta primary school and distribute books to two other schools, La Aurora and La Palestina. These schools are located on remote coffee estate farms in Nicaragua where individuals typically live on less than \$1 US per day, qualified by the World Bank as being in extreme poverty. Kids rarely have the opportunity to know life beyond their farm or the reality beyond their poor pueblos. School supplies are scarce and story books nonexistent ... The IBP book donation has helped make education and literacy a priority in these struggling schools. To support IBPs generosity, Project Alianza built a library and bookshelves, and our staff visits the schools twice weekly to read to children. ... I recently sat in on one of the literacy activities led by a Project Alianza staff member, Analy... While Analy was reading aloud, you could have heard a pin drop. She was reading a large picture book about ships in Boston, so the kids were immediately transported to a new time and place, and they were engaged for nearly an hour. Getting kids in our schools to focus even for 30 minutes is a win, but they are intrigued by these new books and focus so deeply they become lost in the story. "

Kristin Van Busum
Founder & CEO of Project Alianza, Nicaragua



**INT'L BOOK
PROJECT**

DONATE NOW



Books Change Lives ... Kentucky

"Few amenities make a house a 'home' more than books. Lexington Habitat for Humanity has been working with International Book Project for several years to provide our new homeowners with donated books to give their new lives a lift. Studies show that more than 60% of low-income families in America have no age-appropriate books in their home. In many low-income neighborhoods, the ratio of age-appropriate books to children is 1 to 300. One in six children who are not reading proficiently by third grade do not graduate from high school on time. Among those who reach adulthood with the lowest level of literacy proficiency, 43% will live in poverty.

We at Lexington Habitat for Humanity believe that having access to books in the home is vital to family stability and long-term success. We are particularly interested in offering families served by Habitat for Humanity access to home maintenance and repair books to build confidence and self-sufficiency in their home ownership experience. These books, along with the other age-appropriate books that International Book Projects provides, are of enormous benefit to Central Kentucky families seeking to start new homes, improve their lives, and enhance their economic opportunities."

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Hendricks
Lexington Habitat for Humanity



**INT'L BOOK
PROJECT**



"Be awesome! Be a book nut!"
- Dr. Seuss



INT'L BOOK PROJECT

Our Vision:

International Book Project promotes literacy in underserved areas of the world, both domestic and abroad.

Our Mission:

International Book Project collects, sorts, and ships donated books in response to requests from around the world.

Our Values:

We believe:

- Literacy empowers individuals and provides opportunity.
- In building relationships with local and global organizations.
- In a grassroots donor base.
- Everyone deserves access to books.
- Worthy books deserve a second life.

Each day, International Book Project receives photos and letters from partners whose lives have been changed by books, such as this photo from a school in Cameroon. UNESCO describes the “multiplier effect” of literacy, which empowers individuals to create better lives for themselves and their communities. At International Book Project, we believe that the “multiplier effect” begins with books. One book gets shared many times over. Once one person in a household learns to read, he or she teaches others, accelerating the cycle of literacy. The World Bank and other experts cite education as the most effective catalyst to improve global living conditions. Your investment in this next chapter at International Book Project will transform lives beyond each and every book received.



