



[*Overview*]

The International Book Project (IBP) is a Lexington-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization committed to providing free and equal access to educational opportunities to those who desire and deserve to learn. IBP promotes literacy, education, and global friendships by sending quality, needed books to schools, libraries, churches, community organizations and Peace Corps Volunteers in developing countries and throughout the United States.

[*Our Vision*]





We envision a world in which every person is literate – a world where no one is prohibited from self development due to lack of access to books or educational materials. What we see is every person, everywhere, developing a better awareness of those around them and becoming lifelong learners.

[*Our Book-Sending Mission*]

When Mrs. Hariett Van Meter visited India in 1965, she found long lines of people waiting not for food, but for books. She was so moved by her experience that upon returning home, she placed an advertisement offering to send books to those in need in an English-speaking newspaper in India. She received a phenomenal response and started sending books from her basement in 1966.

In the years since IBP began, the organization has not only grown, but also stayed true to its grassroots beginnings. We still send individually crafted small shipments of a few dozen books to small organizations. In the 1990's, we began sending sea containers of 20,000 books to organizations with the infrastructure and capacity to handle a large shipment of books.

[*Fast Facts*]

-  We have sent more than 5 million books to over 140 countries since our founding.
-  We send more than 200,000 books worldwide annually.
-  A child born to an educated mother is 2x more likely to survive to age 5.
-  A girl who completes basic education is 3x less likely to contract HIV/AIDS.



[Books As Bridges]




IBP launched Books as Bridges in 2007 as a response to the need for higher reading levels and greater cultural awareness in Kentucky. In this program, local classrooms are partnered with overseas IBP partner classrooms. This pen pal styled exchange provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about foreign cultures while sharing their own culture.

Students are encouraged to act on their compassions and design a project they can execute themselves, such as writing persuasive letters on behalf of their pen-pals to local businesses for school supply donations or organizing book drives for International Book Project shipments.

These service-learning projects benefit both the international recipient and the local classroom by creating an environment for sharing and learning.

[Our Shipments]

International Book Project prepares and sends three types of shipments; small shipments, pallets and sea containers.

-  A small shipment of books weighs approximately 35 pounds and can be shipped to any organization with a valid mailing address.
-  A pallet typically contains 700-1,000 books. It is often sent to organizations that need more books than a small shipment can provide.
-  A sea container contains 10,000-40,000 books and can stock a University library or provide textbooks for an entire school district.



INT'L BOOK PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RUN TIME: 40 seconds

INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT PROMOTES LITERACY FOR EVERYONE

DID YOU KNOW? THERE ARE MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION ILLITERATE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY OR THAT EVERY TWO OUT OF THREE ILLITERATE PEOPLE ARE WOMEN? A CHILD BORN TO AN EDUCATED MOTHER IS TWO TIMES MORE LIKELY TO SURVIVE TO AGE FIVE. HARRIET VANMETER BEGAN THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT IN 1966 WITH THE HOPE THAT SOMEDAY ILLITERACY WOULD NOT EXIST. TODAY, HER DREAM CAN COME TO A REALITY WITH YOUR HELP. AT THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF ONE PERSON, ONE IDEA, ONE VISION. YOU CAN HELP THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT END ILLITERACY. DONATE ONLINE, DONATE BOOKS TO OUR WAREHOUSE OR VOLUNTEER IN OUR WAREHOUSE. TOGETHER WE WILL END ILLITERACY.

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For Immediate Release

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INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

International Book Project's (IBP) Board of Directors and staff are pleased to announce Kristen Svarczkopf as the new Executive Director. Svarczkopf has loved reading from childhood and has seen firsthand that books change lives.



Before assuming her role as Executive Director at IBP, she was working for the Department of Defense in International Armaments Cooperation in Washington, D.C., but she has been involved in international development for nearly a decade. With brief stints living in China, Eastern Europe, and Zambia, Kristen understands both the challenges and incredible opportunities IBP faces throughout the developing world. She holds a Bachelor's in Philosophy and a Master's in International Development, both from the University of Kentucky.

Svarczkopf is happy to be back in the Bluegrass state as she leads IBP into the future. She said "I wouldn't have guessed five years ago when I came to IBP as a volunteer that I would someday be named Director. I'm thrilled and honored to help IBP execute its mission, along with such a dedicated staff, Board, and supportive Lexington community." Svarczkopf was chosen as the successor of former Executive Director, Tracy Taylor in an extensive search process.

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