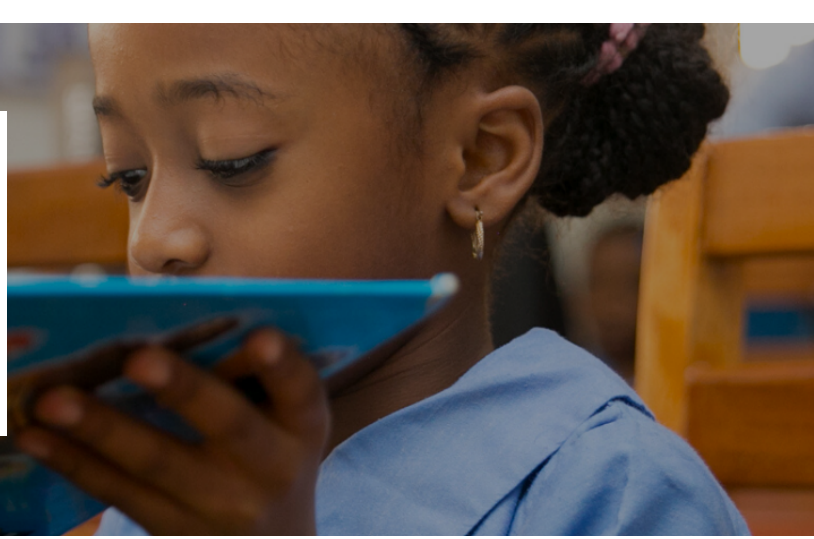




INT'L BOOK PROJECT

THE GLOBAL FLYER

Summer 2020



THE SUMMER OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

Connecting communities through books

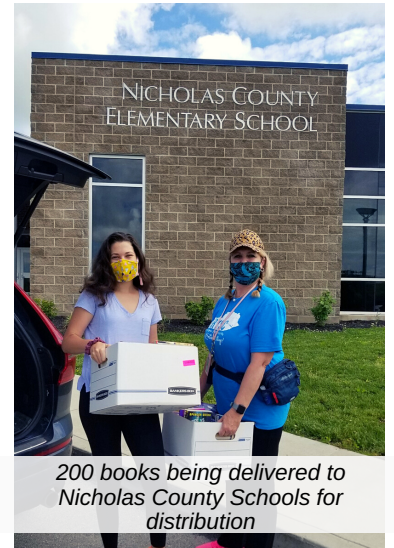
Around the world, international shipping activity has been halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the industry works hard to get back to normal, International Book Project is taking the opportunity to shift its focus toward working with teachers, schools, prisons, hospitals, and organizations across the United States to get partners the books they need to keep everyone reading! Educators worry that a summer without books will exacerbate the traditional “summer slide” that furthers achievement gaps between groups of learners. Research shows that children from low-income households are more impacted by the summer slide than their more affluent peers so giving them access to books can make a huge difference in mitigating the slide’s effects.

In response to this worry, we have received an influx of requests from educators both here in Kentucky and across the country looking to encourage reading at home. Kelly Haynes, a teacher at Kingston Elementary in Berea, Kentucky reached out to get books for the school’s 700 students to take home for the summer. Teachers are not the only ones working to bridge the gap between students and access to books. We were also inspired to provide books to summer feeding sites after college student Claire Mulhollem, the granddaughter and daughter of longtime IBP supporters, returned home to Kentucky early due to COVID-19 and wanted to make sure children in her hometown had access to books outside of school. She contacted IBP and organized distribution with Nicholas County Schools to provide books alongside meals that students and their families were picking up each week.

The impact of this pandemic is not exclusive to students—inmates are also experiencing increased isolation as a result. Locally, we work with Fayette County Detention Center to provide library books for inmates each year. Due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions, the detention center was forced to quarantine the 300 books they had available. Officer Leroy Byrd immediately reached out and requested our assistance to get books back into the hands of the inmates, safely. We sent more than 1,000 books for the 836 detainees. Speaking about the partnership, Officer Byrd added “85% of my inmates are male and they love to read, they just don’t like the romance novels”. We packed this shipment carefully with exciting westerns, mysteries, thrillers, and some classic literature to appeal to the inmates’ interests.

The need for books is not exclusive to our state either—in addition to requests from educators, a request came from Dr. Brittany Chamberlain at the Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, CA. The Salinas community is 78% Hispanic/Latino with a majority of its residents having limited proficiency in English. To encourage reading during child wellness visits, the hospital requested our help to get age-appropriate books for their patients to take home. IBP is sending more than 3,000 English and Spanish books to be distributed by the medical center over the summer.

For all the people we serve, books help us imagine a world that’s filled with hope, happiness, and joy—something that we can all look forward to.



200 books being delivered to Nicholas County Schools for distribution

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."
- Jhumpa Lahiri



Officers picking up books for quarantined inmates

GLOBETROTTERS SUMMER PROGRAM

Pending COVID-19 developments, International Book Project is planning to continue its free kids' summer program, Globetrotters, for the second consecutive year. Throughout the week, 4th and 5th graders will be transported across the globe through food tastings, music, dance, arts and crafts, and storytelling-- all without leaving IBP's warehouse. From painting vibrant mosaics in Morocco, to sampling delicious pierogies in Ukraine, students will learn about the multicultural world we reside in. While "traveling", each student will use their makeshift passport to collect customs stamps and their world atlas to understand the relative distance they journeyed. By the end of the five-day camp, our "globetrotters" will have acquired an increased understanding of cross-cultural awareness, developed a better sense of geographic location, and learned how unique cultures coexist in our interconnected world.



Globetrotters displaying their international crafts

This summer, IBP will host one session of Globetrotters; July 13th-17th from 9:00am to 3:00pm, open to all 4th and 5th graders in the Central Kentucky region. To register for the program, please contact Mary Ford Rodes at maryford@intlbookproject.org or call 859.254.6771

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

How one small town is building a library to support its youth



PCV and her students with new books

The small town of Volcán lies in the shadow of Panama's only volcano, Volcán Baru. In 2017, Volcán, opened its first, and only, library in the Volcán Primary School. The entire community has been working to improve the library for years; the school principal has allocated a classroom and other resources and parents are donating money, materials, and their time to make this library a reality.

Unfortunately, residents are limited in what they can achieve because they lack access to books, both in Spanish and English. The students love reading and practicing English, but the library's current collection is outdated and has long been worn out by overuse. A teacher at the Volcán Primary School reports that only 30% of students from public schools passed the basic skills test to be admitted to university—the rest simply couldn't comprehend the questions. She writes, "every day I see these numbers and statistics come to life in my little town." To fight these statistics, a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) serving in the area hosts a weekly reading club.

IT IS ESTIMATED

50%

OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS fail their university entrance exam, due to a lack of access to education and ineffective instruction

LESS THAN

71%

OF FEMALES IN PANAMA are enrolled in secondary school due to teen pregnancy

AT VOLCÁN PRIMARY, ONLY

30%

OF STUDENTS passed the basic skills test issued by the government



Group photo of reading club participants in the library

A 14-year-old girl named Yerzelis drops her younger sister off for the club every week. When asked if she wanted to stay and read with the group instead of waiting outside, she got very pale and ran away. The PCV was confused because Yerzelis was typically such a sweet, polite girl. Her little sister later explained that Yerzelis can't read because she was forced to leave school at twelve because of pregnancy. We know that when students continue to have difficulties developing basic reading skills, their comprehension suffers and they will struggle to further their education, find stable employment, and thrive in our rapidly progressing global society.

IBP sent more than 100 books to the Volcán Primary School library to update and grow their collection. As with all small shipment partners, the library will continue to receive books from IBP for the next three years. Once the collection is larger, the library will start a lending program so that the students can take books home and share them with their families, spreading a love of reading beyond the walls of the library. Working with local volunteers, International Book Project is helping to fill this library, one small shipment at a time.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Partners express their gratitude

Thoughtful thank-you notes and photos encourage us to keep moving forward, even during uncertain times. For many of our partners, the only books they have are provided by IBP. Hearing about the impact and seeing partners' smiles reminds us that books really do change lives.

Dear International Book Project,

We would like to take a moment to thank you so much for your generosity in sending over 400 books to our government secondary school in Wassande, Cameroon!

The reading-culture in Cameroon as a whole makes it very difficult to find books even in larger cities, and the price of these books is often much more than the school could ever hope to afford. Due to your graciousness our small library has now doubled in size, and we have a larger and more interesting stock of books.

I wish it were possible to put into words just how much this gift truly means. Please believe me when I speak on behalf of the students, administration, and myself and say this gift will truly do great things and benefit many people both in our school and community.



6th-grade students from the Marshall Islands received a small shipment with 80 library books. The teacher reported that "while it was a small shipment, it was a big step toward improving our resource base and will go a long way in helping us build our library!"

"The only problem with our library was that the same books had been on the same shelves for 20 years. What a joy it was to open two boxes full of books written in Spanish for the families of San Jose de Gracia to enjoy!

- San Jose de Gracia Biblioteca Pública, Jalisco, Mexico



A secondary school in Uganda received a small shipment of 162 textbooks and library books. The headteacher stated, "The books sent get our school one step closer to a friendly reading environment, and for that I thank you."

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of IBP,

I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the tiny town of Ngoro, Jombang located in East Java, Indonesia from 2012 to 2014. In my first week at the school where I would spend the next two years of my life, I visited our library and discovered that it only contained student workbooks. In my classes, I noticed that the same ragged novel would show up in the hands and backpacks of different students from week to week. Working with IBP, I received a donation of books that created libraries at three schools in Ngoro. Immediately, I saw a difference as students began checking out books, sharing stories with their friends, and telling me about what they were reading. It wasn't just the students—teachers also dove into the abundance of books in our library. One of my favorite memories was the excitement and enthusiasm of a teacher discovering that there were two more books in the Hunger Games series after finishing the first. Now, I am honored to serve as the board president at IBP because I know the difference that the organization makes in places like Ngoro, all around the world. It isn't just global outreach; IBP makes a difference here at home as well. IBP partners with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Kentucky Refugee Ministries to make sure that everyone has access to a lifetime of literacy. There are schools all over the world that face the same challenges that my school faced. Despite the pandemic, the IBP staff are adapting and hard at work to ensure that the organization's critical mission continues. I invite you to join me and the hundreds of other individuals who have made donations to support IBP, its mission, and communities around the globe that will benefit from the gift of books and literacy.

Sincerely,
Will Glasscock



Will with his students in Indonesia

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International Book Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization | EIN: 61-6039627

2019 RECAP



UNIQUE COUNTRIES REACHED

In 2019, International Book Project shipped books to 224 partners in 64 unique countries. IBP shipped to a small rural school in Ireland—the first shipment to that country in our history!



BOOKS SHIPPED DOMESTICALLY

Domestic shipments benefit prisons, veterans hospitals, Title I schools, and other non-profits. We worked with partners such as WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks and El Paso Public Libraries in 2019 to get books to communities in need.



PEOPLE SERVED AROUND THE WORLD

Each small shipment benefits around 250 people on average, while a container is able to reach up to 50,000 people. Our biggest impact in 2019 was in India—we sent books to benefit almost 200,000 people across the country.



BOOKS SHIPPED INTERNATIONALLY

International shipments serve a multitude of partners. In 2019, IBP shipped to 8 universities, 64 NGOs, and 95 schools around the world—67 of these partnerships were facilitated by Peace Corps Volunteers serving at one of these sites.