



"The Power of Literacy"
a mural donated by artist
Brett Hartsfield

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

BOOKS CHANGE LIVES!

Mission

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

Vision

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

Values

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

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

In 2017, Professor Jim Omatseye visited us with the dream of starting a university in the Warri area of Nigeria. The Itsekiris, a minority group in Nigeria have one of the oldest histories of western education in West Africa. However, Prof. Omatseye says "Itsekiri are the only ones who neither own nor control any university in their homeland." At last, his dream is becoming a reality and this spring IBP shipped about 8,000 college-level Humanities and STEM books for their new library at University of Warri!

THE GLOBAL FLYER



A child alone, afraid, far from home. With a mother, maybe – and a father left behind. In a time like this, research shows, a book can offer “a moment of peace, a way to forget,” said Maria Deskur, CEO of Poland’s Fundacja Powszechnego Czytania (Universal Reading Foundation).

FINDING PEACE IN THE PAGES OF A BOOK

International Book Project quickly anticipated a need for books when Russia invaded Ukraine and millions of Ukrainians fled into surrounding European countries, especially Poland. We reached out to Kasia Pater, a Polish native living in Lexington, who connected us with The Universal Reading Foundation in Krakow, Poland. Founded in 2018, this organization aims to raise the level of readership in Poland and is leading an effort to supply books to Ukrainian refugees. The Universal Reading Foundation became the perfect partner to receive and distribute a large shipment of books to help ease the burden on the Polish education system.

Since early May, we have reached out to book donors, volunteers, and financial supporters - and everyone stepped up! Books have flooded in from school book drives, teachers, libraries, and central Kentucky citizens. Our volunteers have also contributed to this “all hands on deck” effort - unloading books, sorting, and packing. To date, International Book Project has raised close to \$18,000 to ship a sea container of 50,000+ children's books to displaced Ukrainian school children currently living in Poland. In addition to the books in English being shipped, the additional funds raised in this campaign will go to Polish printers to print additional books in Ukrainian to support the survival of Ukrainian culture. The 40' container ships out early July to arrive in Krakow sometime in August.

According to UNICEF, Poland has welcomed 3.6 million Ukrainians and absorbed 1.1+ million students into their schools. Most refugees left Ukraine with few personal belongings and certainly not books. Poland has done their part to welcome Ukrainians into their country and as an international organization, we wanted to do our own small part to provide support.

Lisa Fryman, International Book Project's Executive Director, commented, "The impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine on Ukrainians, especially the children, has been incredibly heartbreaking to watch. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Poland and surrounding countries for their generosity and spirit. Decades of research have proven the importance of literacy for children and how it affects their entire lives, not to mention the immediate comfort an escape into a good story can provide. Thanks to Kasia Pater and the partnership with the Universal Reading Foundation she helped us create, we are able to do our small part to help."



PROGRAMMING IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Our **Books as Bridges** program pairs local classrooms with international classrooms to partner in a cultural literacy exchange. The coordinator works directly with each classroom, teaching a fall class about the history and geography of their partner country. In the spring, we return with a hands-on class focused on culture; arts, food, costumes, or music representative of the partner country. During the year, students write and send three letters to each other allowing for an organic friendship while strengthening the writing skills of every student. Students also exchange a cultural package that includes pictures, small trinkets, and toys that represent life in their respective countries.

***Since 2007, we have partnered with 642 classrooms and connected more than 12,000 students.**

Sponsored by **TOYOTA KENTUCKY**

To help promote literacy, we founded **Books in the Bluegrass** to provide at-home libraries to the clients of Habitat for Humanity, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, DV8 Kitchen, and many others. Each family receives 100+ books that meet the academic needs and personal interests expressed by the families. As families master the books, they are invited to exchange them for new, more advanced books at no cost. This program seeks new partnerships to improve educational outcomes for children from families with low-income by providing books in the home.

***Since 2011, we have provided more than 76,000 books to households throughout the state of Kentucky.**

Sponsored by **Believe In Reading**

Inspired by Books as Bridges, **Globetrotters** summer camp was founded with a seed grant from the Blue Grass Community Foundation to pilot a FREE one-week program at our facility. Campers ages 8-11 "travel" the world from here in Lexington and explore various cultures, customs, and traditions through books, crafts, activities, dance, food, and music. Globetrotters hosts two sessions for 10 campers to attend for one week in June and July. For this summer, we added a third week in Sharpsburg, Kentucky with funding from the Blue Grass Community Foundation.

***Since 2019, almost 100 children have benefited from this free program.**

Sponsored by **ICE and KU Foundation**

Thank you to the many volunteers that share our values and the belief that the presence of books in our lives improves literacy rates, educational levels, and creates economic opportunity.



In neighborhoods with low income, the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children.



1 in 4 children in America grow up without learning how to read.



Up to 3rd grade, students learn to read. In 4th grade, students read to learn.



ON THE HORIZON FOR 2022

North Macedonia

In a project initiated by a former Peace Corps Volunteer, who received a small shipment of books from us during his service teaching in a North Macedonian school, International Book Project will ship a container of books to schools throughout the country. Schools are in the process of deciding what types of books they wish to receive so we can pack and organize the pallets by school. This shipment will be funded by a generous individual donor and a charitable foundation matching grant.

Kayas Cultural College

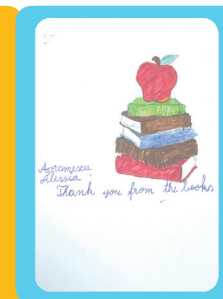
International Book Project received a request for 30,000 books to help the Kayas Cultural College stock their FIRST LIBRARY for Little Red River Cree Nation in Northern Alberta, Canada. The library will be the only publicly available collection of books within several hours' drive and serve as a resource for community members to borrow books and media, use computers for school or job searches, and participate in additional classes. To receive these books, the college has asked us to wait until December to ship - why? They need to build a government certified ice bridge that holds up to 85,000 lbs to cross the river - maybe this container will be seen on the documentary series Ice Road Truckers!

PARTNERS EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE

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



Lycée Collegial El Mouahidine, Morocco



Scoala Puchenii Mari, Romania



Mum's Care Project Asaba, Nigeria

LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT WILL GLASSCOCK

Dear Friends,

As we navigate the uncertain tail end of the pandemic, one thing that is certain is that International Book Project will emerge stronger than ever. The past two years gave the organization an opportunity to focus on the needs here at home and that work will continue. Now that international shipping is returning to full speed, International Book project has completed one of its greatest collaborative projects yet, the shipment of 50,000 books to Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

The strength of the organization is due to the continued support we have from our individual donors, corporate sponsors, and foundation support. THANK YOU to everyone whose support allows for our projects like our book shipments to Poland, our Globetrotters kids camps in Lexington and Sharpsburg, the bookshelves that fill the homes of Habitat families and resettled refugees in Central Kentucky, and the many other initiatives that bring the gift of literacy to people here at home and across the globe. As a recipient of donated books from IBP during my service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Indonesia, I have seen just how impactful a few boxes of gently used books can be.

I invite you to stop by IBP to see the latest going on with the organization. Our bookstore is open on weekdays and we are always in need of volunteers to help sort and pack boxes of books for our next shipment. Thank you again for all you have done to ensure that this critical work continues.

Will Glasscock
Will Glasscock
Board President

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Summer 2022