



INT'L BOOK PROJECT

# THE GLOBAL FLYER

Summer 2021



## CLASS HALF FULL

### New Books to Enrich Classroom Learning

For the past 55 years, International Book Project has made it our mission to promote literacy in underserved areas around the world. We work directly with partners in-country, as they strive to create lasting change in their communities. These partners understand the unique literacy needs of their residents; and that knowledge informs our curation process, ensuring we send the most useful and appropriate books possible.

A great example of this process in action comes from our recent collaboration with Circle of Hope International (CoHI). CoHI, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Wilmore, Kentucky, is working to improve the lives of young people in Malawi through its in-country programming. Its mission is to empower community transformation through holistic services; focusing on education, economic development, and comprehensive health care programs. As part of the organization's focus on education, they have built a school in central Malawi to serve students in preschool through 8th grade. The drop-out rate for primary school students in Malawi is a staggering 46%. Though resources are limited, CoHI is working to keep classes full. They have tried to create a space where children want to come to school each day and can ask questions, solve problems, and become lifelong learners; however, one thing is missing— books.

CoHI has partnered with International Book Project to ship a pallet of books to fill the empty shelves in their classroom libraries. A total of 3,000 children's books is currently en route and set to arrive at the school in late August, just in time for the next school year to begin. Karen Roller, Executive Director of CoHI, spent time with IBP staff handpicking all of the books that would go into this shipment, ensuring that the students in Malawi would enjoy every single title. Karen says, "The goal is to make sure every student leaves school able to read." In fact, all students in Malawi must pass a standardized test on English to obtain their Primary School Certificates. CoHI teachers in Malawi have designed daily reading centers for all grades to improve students' exposure to, and understanding of, the English language.

Books will be made available in each of the classrooms to encourage students to read and so that teachers may utilize them during lessons. The shipment also included lots of dictionaries and reference books to supplement traditional textbooks. The library at the school will house the remaining books and be a space for students and their family members to practice their reading. As with all of our shipments, we hope the books make the classroom more fun and welcoming and are enjoyed by students for years to come.



*CoHI students eagerly waiting for their next lesson to begin*



*Primary students are all smiles during their classes*



*Students are excited for the books to arrive to fill these empty shelves*

# LEXINGTON GOES GLOBAL

During the 2020-21 school year, our Book as Bridges program faced many challenges as COVID-19 affected the entire world. Some classrooms opened and closed as breakouts occurred, while others were virtual for the entire year. We adapted by offering virtual, interactive lessons and dropped off craft supplies and native snacks for Lexington classrooms still meeting in person, like halva for students learning more about their partners in Bosnia & Herzegovina. The hallmark of the BAB program, the letter exchange, also went virtual. Students traded emails which gave them the opportunity to attach pictures to their letters to show off their favorite sports team or animal. This summer, the world slowly returned to normal and we hosted two sessions of our free educational camp, Globetrotters. During the week, students immersed themselves in different cultures by participating in traditional songs and dances, tasting international cuisines, and learning about different customs and traditions through presentations and hands-on activities.



*Globetrotters receive atlases, foam globes, and tote bags for their week of "traveling"*

**Thank you to our Globetrotters sponsors, LG&E and KU Energy Foundation and the Junior League of Lexington and to our Books as Bridges sponsor, Toyota Manufacturing of Kentucky.**

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

### Creating Opportunities for Low-Literate Adults



*Adult learners at their evening English lesson in Taquarivaí*

Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you did not know how to read? For 773 million adults around the world, being unable to read is their reality. Simple tasks such as reading instructions, warning labels, or filling out job applications can be stressful and challenging for adults lacking the required literacy skills needed to do so.

An English teacher in the small town of Taquarivaí in São Paulo, Brazil witnesses firsthand the challenges their low-literacy community faces— "we offer evening literacy classes for adults. Some of my students can read on a first-grade level; some cannot read at all. There are many reasons why they never learned how to read, creating just as many problems now because they can't read. Simply stated, illiteracy limits every social, economic, and domestic aspect of a person's life. Our classes open a new world of independence for many people and, as such, we would like to expand their horizons and frontiers with books that bring them new experiences and tales from far away lands."

**MORE THAN**

**50%**

OF RURAL ADULT WOMEN  
in developing countries lack basic  
literacy skills

**THE DROP OUT RATE IS**

**46%**

HIGHER IN POOR STUDENTS  
than for students from wealthier  
households

**IN BRAZIL**

**1 IN 3**

STUDENTS REPEAT A GRADE  
contributing to many children  
not finishing school



*Parents taking books home after class to practice their reading*

Adult literacy does not only affect adults, it affects everyone. A mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income. Adults with low literacy levels are more likely to be unemployed resulting in lost annual income for their respective countries. Understanding the importance of adult literacy, IBP packed several boxes filled with books for the various levels, ages, and interests of the adult learners in Taquarivaí.

After receiving the books, the teacher wrote "Your support turned our dream into reality. The books you provided will allow each student their own book to take home and read, something we did not have before. The look on my students' faces when they saw all the books they would have to choose from was indescribable. You did not just send books, you sent hope to my students."

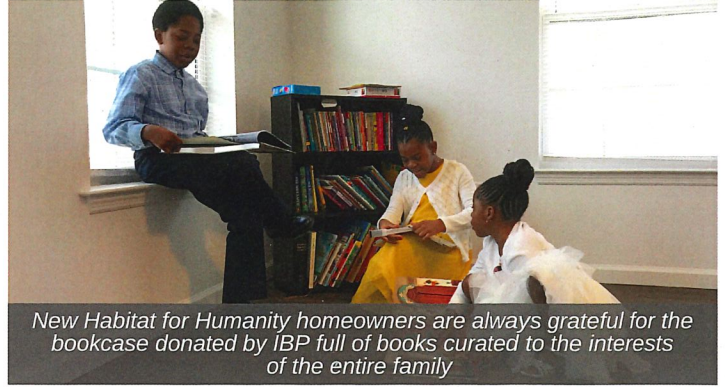
# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## 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 IBP. Hearing about the impact and seeing partners' smiles reminds us that books really do change lives.

Dear  
international book Project

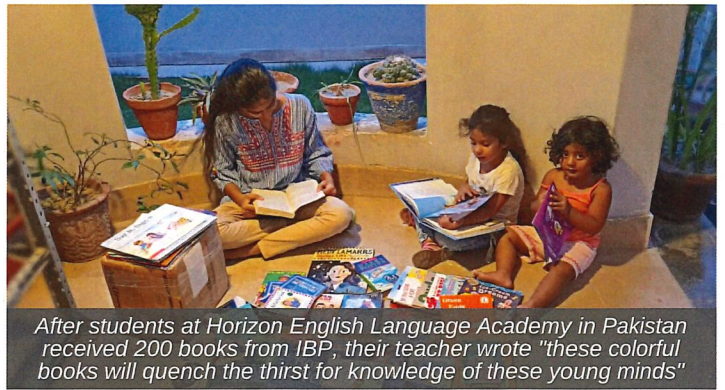
My name is Lester I want to say thank you thank you for the books i really love them. I have my first book track paw patrol it is about 30 amazing stickers it also includes card games my aunt said it is very coll also  
thank you  
yours truly  
Lester



New Habitat for Humanity homeowners are always grateful for the bookcase donated by IBP full of books curated to the interests of the entire family

"I simply cannot find the words to express my gratitude. I thank you for my students, who sorely needed the resources; I thank you for myself, who sorely needed the support."

- Wonorejo Elementary School, East Java, Indonesia



After students at Horizon English Language Academy in Pakistan received 200 books from IBP, their teacher wrote "these colorful books will quench the thirst for knowledge of these young minds"

## LETTER FROM IBP BOARD PRESIDENT WILL GLASSCOCK

Dear Friends of IBP,

We are back! While the work of International Book Project has continued throughout the pandemic, the availability of the vaccine and lower number of cases has allowed us to begin returning to pre-pandemic activities. Shipments are again reaching the far corners of the globe, the bookstore is open, and volunteers have returned to the warehouse.

Just as everyone will be forever changed by the pandemic, so will IBP. Our commitment to addressing domestic and local needs of families throughout the past 18 months will remain, even as our international work returns to its pre-pandemic levels. The achievement gap in education was exacerbated by COVID-19 and students across the globe are facing unprecedented levels of learning loss due to remote learning. We know that literacy is the key that unlocks so many of life's opportunities and the need for books and library donations has only increased during this time.

We have missed seeing and hearing from our dedicated supporters. As you feel comfortable, we hope that you will reach out to schedule a book donation, ask about volunteering opportunities, visit the bookstore, or make a monetary donation. Many people consider charitable giving when they do their estate planning. For more information on this process please call Executive Director Lisa Fryman at 859-254-6771 to discuss or set up a meeting with her and IBP's endowment manager.

Thank you for your support as IBP continues to promote the power of literacy.

Sincerely,

Will Glasscock

### Board of Directors

#### President

Will Glasscock

#### Vice President

Susannah Stitzer

#### Treasurer

Austin Tucker

#### Secretary

Lindsay Wright

#### Members

Angene Wilson

Ashley Lewis

Dabney Parker

Gregory Hall

Ollie Rashid

Hannah LeGris

Dan Sprague

Alice Bowen

Kelly Broadbent

David Cobb

Sarah Laren



# INT'L BOOK PROJECT

1440 Delaware Ave.  
Lexington, KY 40505



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

## Stay Connected

[www.intlbookproject.org](http://www.intlbookproject.org)

859 - 254 - 6771

@intlbookproject



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

# CHANGING LIVES FOR 55 YEARS



### 1966-1976

After being inspired by her trip to India, Harriet Van Meter starts IBP from the basement of her Lexington home



### 1976-1986

With an increasing demand for books, IBP moves to its permanent location, a large warehouse on Delaware Ave.



### 1986-1996

IBP grows exponentially, shipping its first sea container and hitting the milestone of sending 1,000,000 books overseas



### 1996-2006

As shipping expands, IBP begins to fill book requests from partners working in underserved areas of the United States



### 2006-2016

IBP launches its school-based outreach program Books as Bridges to promote cultural awareness



### 2016-Present

IBP continues to grow—renovating its facility, shipping 7.5+ million books to 167 countries, & will keep changing lives, one book at a time