

THE CODE READER

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Happy New Year! As we launch together into a brand new year of changing lives through literacy, I'd like to thank you for all that you have helped us accomplish thus far. Thanks to your support, more children and youth in Africa, the Caribbean and in Canada have access to high quality, locally produced books and learning materials and are developing a love and habit of reading through the guidance of better skilled teachers and librarians.

Reading meaningful and engaging stories and accessing relevant learning materials, in one's own language, stirs the imagination

and awakens the mind. It also opens so many doors. An educated child grows up to be an informed adult who can positively contribute not only to their family's welfare but to the wider world and make it a better, safer place. Your continued support and belief in our work provides children with this opportunity. I wish you all the very best for 2017 and invite you to reflect and celebrate with us, through this newsletter, the milestones, accomplishments and events of 2016 and the new initiatives that will be possible thanks to supporters like you.

- Scott Walter, Executive Director, CODE



"More Tablets Please!"



INNOVATION IN ETHIOPIA

"More Tablets Please!" - that's what several community librarians enthusiastically expressed after participating in an innovative pilot tablet-training workshop in Addis Ababa. It's all part of a special partnership with Beyond Access, CODE-Ethiopia, the National Archive and Library Agency and Ethiopia Reads. The idea is to give young readers and their families an opportunity to have access to technology (tablets) through community

libraries. The lack of books in local languages is one of the main challenges facing Ethiopia's schools. This program is using technology to develop e-books, reading apps and games, which will give communities access to a variety of learning materials to support the development of new skills and advance life-long learning. So far, 25 community libraries have received the tablets and we hope to work with many more.



6,933
BOOKS
DELIVERED
TO 824
LOCATIONS

HEALING AND HOPE

through Burt Books for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Literature

CODE's Burt Literary Awards continue to foster a love of reading amongst young adults in Africa, the Caribbean and in Canada. The theme of this year's prize winners of the Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Literature was one of truth and reconciliation. *The Education of Augie Merasty – A Residential School*

Memoir by Augie Merasty and David Carpenter – and *The Outside Circle* written by Patti LaBoucane-Benson and illustrated by Kelly Mellings – both deal with the difficult issues of intergenerational residential school trauma. At a moving ceremony held at First Nations University in Regina, you could hear a pin drop when hip-hop

story-teller Brad Bellegarde performed his powerful song "I remember." These are the kinds of incredibly important stories that are being developed and shared. This life-changing award program and its book distribution element are just one example of how your belief in literacy is making a huge difference.

BURT AWARD ROUND-UP

First offered in Tanzania in 2008, the Burt Literary Award is now also offered in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Canada and the Caribbean and has resulted in the printing of **over 300,000 copies of 75 new titles** for young adult readers.

Administered by CODE and made possible through the exceptional generosity of William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation, the Award addresses an ongoing shortage of relevant, quality books that resonate with young people.

Pictured here is Nicholas Kamau who took first prize for his book *Ghost and the Fortune Hunters* at the September 23rd Burt Award ceremony hosted by CODE's local Kenyan partner, the National Book Development Council of Kenya (NBDCK). For more information visit code.ngo/burt-award.



Nicholas Kamau wins first prize at the 2016 Burt Awards in Kenya.

"I'm so happy and grateful! I intend to support reading by donating these books to schools – of course beginning with my former school" - Nicholas Kamau



"Everyone has their tools... a painter has brushes; a cook has pots. Students have their tools too - they need pens, books, notes and... one more thing they need to help them learn – FUN!"

-Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND CODE IN LIBERIA

Once a teacher, always a teacher.

CODE and its partner in Liberia – The WE-CARE Foundation – were honoured in November to have PM Justin Trudeau see first-hand the impact of their work on young Liberians. A former teacher himself, Mr. Trudeau

performed his role as guest teacher with gusto – leading an excited group of Slip Way Public School grade 5 students in a book reading from one of CODE’s locally produced Reading Liberia collection.

CODE was one of only two NGO’s whose work the PM chose to include on his first official visit to Africa. Thank you Prime Minister Trudeau!

LAST YEAR
YOU EMPOWERED
OUR PARTNERS TO
PUBLISH
BOOKS IN
9 COUNTRIES
IN 17 LOCAL
LANGUAGES

Wendy Saul, Chair of IBB, and Scott Walter, ED of CODE, signing the Memorandum of Understanding in support of Reading Liberia 20/20.



New Path for Long-Time CODE Partner IBB

Longtime partner IBB (The International Book Bank) has shifted its focus from world-wide book shipping to supporting the creation and distribution of engaging, culturally relevant books. IBB will work with CODE and the WE-CARE Foundation in Liberia to support the *Reading Liberia 20/20* program.

MILESTONES

25 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP IN MOZAMBIQUE

The state of education in Mozambique has changed significantly over the last 25 years. A dramatic expansion of its national education system has brought many challenges. Among these — meeting the capacity required to provide an increasing number of students with quality education. Throughout this evolution, CODE's country partner in Mozambique, Associação Progresso has remained relevant, sustainable and highly effective. The two organizations began working together in 1991 when they jointly launched several initiatives that would help transform education in Mozambique.

The Power of BETTER

Last year, as a testament to the impact of Associação Progresso and CODE's work, the Government of Canada contracted CODE to undertake a

seven-year teacher education reform program in Mozambique. Better Education through Teacher Training for Empowerment and Results — BETTER — is being implemented, together with Associação Progresso and the Mozambican Ministry of Education and Human Development, in four of Mozambique's 12 provinces. Its goal is to improve the quality of education for children in Mozambique by working with student teachers at four of the country's teacher training institutes. We're so excited to be working on this program with Associação Progresso who is known globally as a leader in making quality education accessible in Mozambique — specifically ensuring that girls have the same opportunities as boys to learn and succeed. For more information, please visit code.ngo/BETTER.

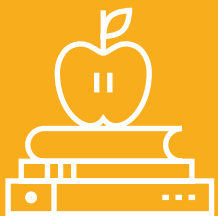


Associação Progresso has won two UNESCO Awards for its literacy work - most recently for its role in levelling the education playing field for girls in Mozambique

Collaboration, collective action, long-term vision, mutual respect, and persistency in supporting reading are key to the successful partnership with Associação Progresso.

- Scott Walter, Executive Director, CODE.

LAST YEAR ALONE
YOU **EMPOWERED**
US TO **INSPIRE** OVER
600 TEACHERS
AND NEARLY
300 LIBRARIANS
TO BE THE
BEST THAT
THEY CAN BE



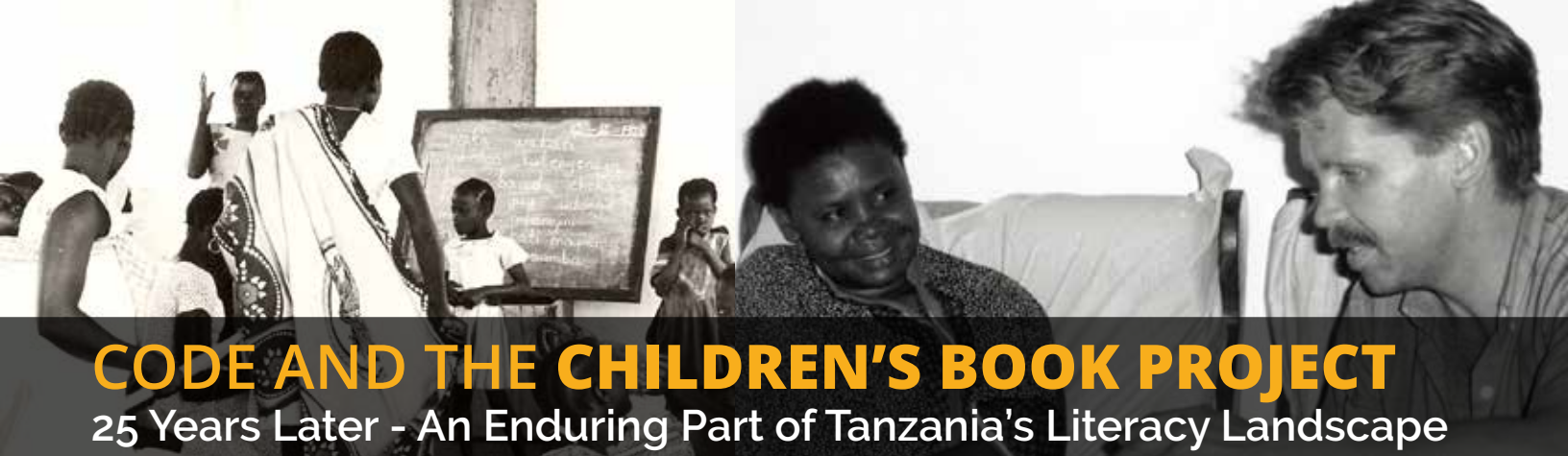
Rewriting the story
for global literacy

CODE ON CAMPUS SERVES UP SUPPORT FOR LITERACY

When not helping us out at UNESCO events, the CODE on Campus chapters are busy helping raise awareness and funds for our literacy work. This was their fun 'Breakfast Bar' set up just before the Carleton University Fall term ended. All money raised this year is going to the Fitch Community Library in Ethiopia as part of their CODE Adopt-a-Library initiative. Interested in starting your own CODE on Campus? Visit code.ngo/oncampus.

CODE on Campus volunteers from Carleton University





CODE AND THE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

25 Years Later - An Enduring Part of Tanzania's Literacy Landscape

By Scott Walter, Executive Director, CODE

When I arrived in 1988 as CODE's new East African Director, Tanzania was one of the poorest and most foreign aid-dependent countries in the world. Schools were functioning, but were in decline. Gross primary school enrolment had dropped from 100 to 71%. My job was to support programs that improved the quality of education with a particular focus on developing in children a "habit" of reading. This required that they encounter as wide a variety of books in Swahili as possible -- books that could entertain, arouse interest and excite curiosity. The problem was that Tanzania -- the epicentre of Swahili culture -- didn't publish children's books, Swahili or otherwise.

Quality Books

Over time, and with much consultation, a plan was crafted that would produce a sustainable supply of relevant, high-quality children's books in the Swahili language. Publishing would be recognized as an entrepreneurial activity with the publisher as architect of the book, responsible for a process that starts with research and financing and ends with selling a finished product so the cycle can begin anew. From writers to booksellers, we would support every link in the 'book-chain' to create and sustain an entrepreneurial publishing sector. Thus was born Mradi wa Vitabu vya Watoto or the Children's Book Project (CBP), not as a Publisher but as a mechanism to activate a book trade by subsidizing demand while supporting skill development.

Trained Teachers

Producing and distributing quality, locally produced books was a remarkable accomplishment of the CBP. But, to create a true reading culture in Tanzania, educators needed to help children get the most out of those books. In 1997, CBP, with support from CODE and multiple government and education partners, embarked upon a National Reading Campaign. It focused on the professional development of teachers - training them in the teaching and acquisition of reading and writing skills and promoting an understanding and adoption of progressive, child-centred teaching methodologies. Launched in 2012, *Reading Tanzania* was first implemented in 75 of the 105 primary schools in the Kongwa District of the Dodoma Region in central Tanzania. A 2016 evaluation revealed that measures of reading fluency, reading with understanding, writing coherently and correctly, and overall scores of children in the project schools were far

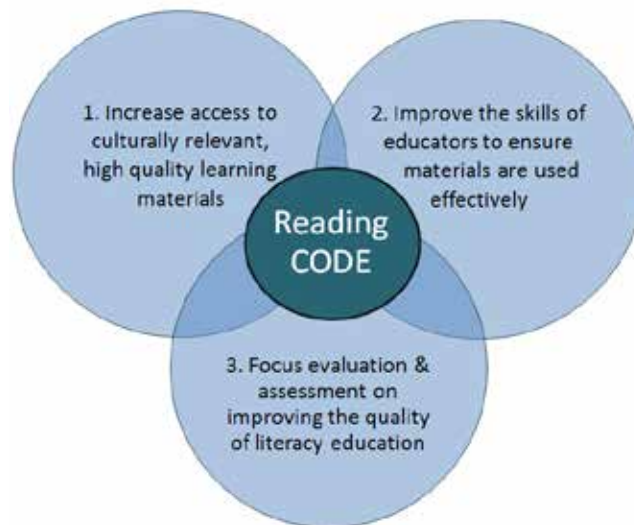
superior to those of children in control schools, by as much as three to one.

Effective Partnerships

What CBP has long understood is that the supply of suitable learning materials is as vital to educational quality as are qualified teachers and there is no substitute for the development of authentic, relevant books and production by local publishers who know the requirements of their educational and cultural base. This formula of great books, put in the hands of trained educators, and buttressed by effective local partners, is the core of CODE's award-winning development model, the locally branded, comprehensive readership approach called "*Reading CODE*".

CBP more than "a Project"

The success of the Tanzanian-owned and diversely funded CBP can be attributed to highly capable and passionate Executive Directors and the teams they inspire. CBP leaders have come from various backgrounds - each in their own way cultivating the reading landscape in Tanzania. A landscape that will continue to expand and enrich because of CBP's ability to adapt with the times and technology by offering not only culturally relevant books but accessible books -- including those in braille and digitized e-titles -- and opportunities for young Tanzanians to tell-and-share their own stories. CODE is proud to be celebrating this milestone with CBP and looks forward to many more years of collaboration.



Reading CODE's comprehensive readership approach model



Asanko Gold Expanding Reading Ghana to Amansie West Region of Ashanti

On October 5th, World Teacher’s Day, Asanko Gold and CODE’s country partner, the Ghana Book Trust, launched a new, six-year partnership which will extend CODE’s world class “Reading Ghana” literacy and education program in Ashanti to include the Amansie West District of that region. Over the next six years, Asanko will invest **\$600,000 CDN to implement the program in 32 schools and will train over 150 teachers and head teachers** of the Ghana Education Service. The Reading Ghana initiative works to train educators to become more effective in teaching reading and writing, to supply schools and libraries with desperately needed books that aim to nurture a love of reading, and to build sustainability in the program for the future. For more information, visit code.ngo.

“I leave Ghana feeling deeply impressed by the talent and commitment of the Reading Ghana trainers who are supporting the teachers and head teachers, and by the interest and skill of the teachers who participated so fully in the workshops.”

- Dr. Alison Preece,
CODE volunteer expert.

CODE CO-LAUNCHES UNESCO GEM 2016 REPORT



CODE was honoured last fall to partner with Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO to jointly launch the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2016. The event highlighted key findings from the 2016 GEM Report and Gender Review presented by the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI). It also featured a high-level panel of education experts, practitioners and government representatives from Global Affairs Canada, the Global Partnership for Education and the Council of Ministers for Education,

Canada (CMEC).

A big thank you to our CODE on Campus students from both the University of Ottawa and Carleton University for representing CODE so well by helping greet panelists and guests and by acting as the session’s “Youth Respondents”. When Ottawa U’s Lydia Callies and Caroline Trippenbach asked the panel what young people could do to help support education, Sarah Fountain Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Affairs Canada, had this to say: “Stay engaged, share on social media, keep caring”.

TOP: CODE on Campus representatives from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University with Sébastien Goupil, Secretary General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO

BOTTOM: Lydia Callies and Caroline Trippenbach, youth respondents, ask what students can do to support the global education goals.

STAY ENGAGED, SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA, KEEP CARING

- Sarah Fountain Smith,
Assistant Deputy Minister
for Global Affairs Canada

MAA BOOKS!

In Kenya, CODE produced and launched the first of nine books in the local language Maa - spoken in parts of Kenya and Tanzania by more than a million Maasai people. The storybooks were launched at the Nairobi International Book Fair Week. Kenyan librarians are eager to share them with students who will be so excited to read books in their local language.



During the same week, a second cohort of 9 trainers and 150 teachers was awarded Reading Kenya teacher training certificates. Because of your support, expert volunteer trainer, Dr. Pamela Winsor, was able to lead specialized teacher-training workshops which focused on best-practices in child-centered learning!

"The teachers and trainers expressed sincere appreciation. I honestly think the majority went home motivated to do differently in their schools!"

- Dr. Pamela Winsor
CODE expert volunteer

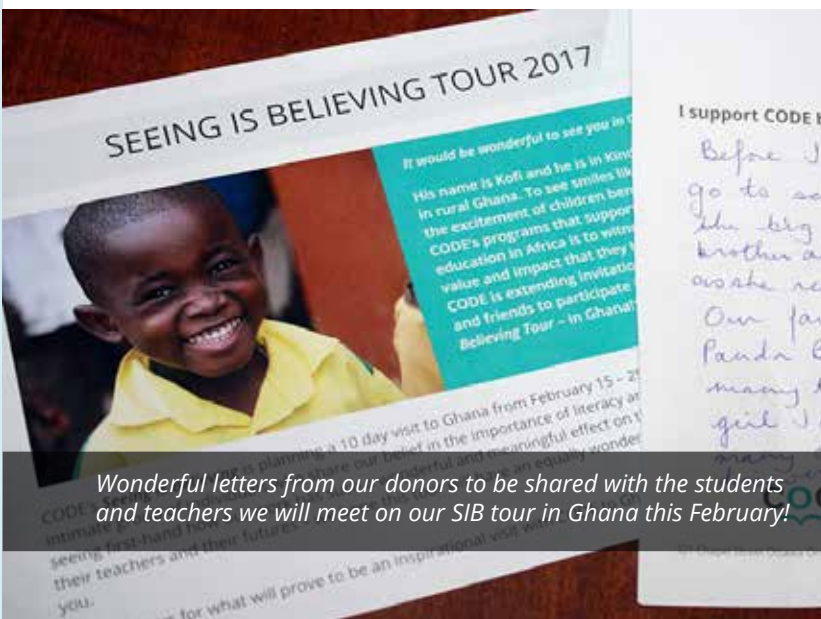
SEEING IS BELIEVING!

From February 15 - 25, 2017, a small intimate group of individuals who share CODE's belief in the importance of literacy and education will see first-hand the impact your support has on the lives of students, their teachers and their futures. We'll be so excited to share this experience with you from Ghana. Please make sure to follow our social streams for updates and photos so you, too, can see the truly inspiring impact you are helping achieve through your support of CODE.

IN 2016
YOU EMPOWERED
US TO
IMPACT
THE LIVES OF NEARLY

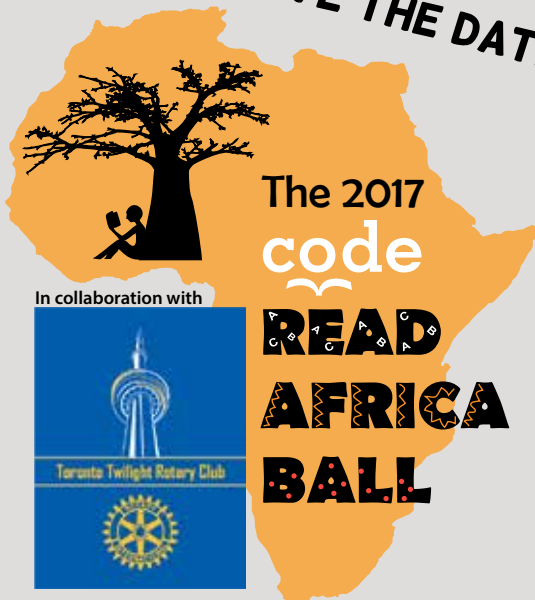


**1.6 MILLION
CHILDREN**



Wonderful letters from our donors to be shared with the students and teachers we will meet on our SIB tour in Ghana this February!

SAVE THE DATE!



The 2017
code

In collaboration with



READ
AFRICA
BALL

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES & SUPPORT LITERACY!

Save the date for the
CODE 2017 Read Africa Ball

Thursday, March 9th, 2017 at "2nd Floor"
461 King Street West, Toronto

Dr. Alison Preece
(left) with Yvonne
Capeheart and
Woryonwon Roberts
of the WE-CARE
Foundation



"I applaud CODE's approach to building close, genuinely collaborative, responsive, long-term working relationships with their in-country partners. This reflects a fundamental respect for the perspectives and capabilities of the local project participants that is not always a given in so-called 'development' work. It is hugely important to me."

- Dr. Alison Preece,
CODE Expert Volunteer

ANNUAL REPORT

We invite you to review our 2016 *Report Card* on-line at code.ngo/reports, or contact donor.donateur@code.ngo for a print version.



CHOIR!CHOIR!CHOIR!

"On the 22nd day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ... the wonderful gift of literacy!"

CODE was recently selected as a charity of choice by popular singing group Choir! Choir! Choir!. Newlyweds Mandy Hopkins and Bryan Ibeas are long-time members of the Toronto-based group and were asked by the choir's founders to select a favorite charity to receive funds through its holiday campaign *25 Days of Charity! Charity! Charity!*



"Bryan and I both work in Canada's literary community. We admire the programs that provide support to libraries, professional development for teachers, access to technology, and encourage national and local publishing."

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Interested in creating your own CODE Fundraiser?
Contact nstamour@code.ngo

Looking for other ways to support and stay engaged with CODE? Visit our website and sign up for our e-newsletter and other updates. "Like" us on Facebook and help share our story. Or, follow us on Twitter to get daily updates on our work. Thank you!



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