

THE CODE READER

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YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Winter 2019

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Scott Walter, Executive Director

“Everyone has the right to education.” So declares the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights, establishing education as both a means to an end – fundamental to the realization of all other rights – and an end unto itself. This right also lies at the heart of CODE’s creation in 1959 – 60 years ago.

This past year was a reflective one for CODE. As we approached our 60th Anniversary, we took stock of the impact of our work to date and considered how best to direct our energies going forward as

part of our new Strategic Plan. In this plan, which will be publicly available in the spring, we redouble our efforts towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and renew our commitment to a world where every young person can pursue their education and realize their full potential as literate, empowered, self-reliant citizens.

To deliver the high-quality learning outcomes children deserve, we know that the right to education means the right to a qualified teacher. To sustain change we know reform must include building local, institutional capacity and ensuring that the empowerment of women and girls is at the very heart of our approach. I hope you will join us as we embark on this new chapter.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Bruce Montador, CODE Board Member

In November I was fortunate enough to visit CODE-supported schools in Liberia for the first time, giving me a chance to see CODE’s work in action.

During my visit I met with local artists preparing illustrations for a new book being published by CODE’s local partner, the WE-CARE Foundation. It told the story of a bus full of students visiting the National Forest and featured a beautiful drawing of the West African pygmy hippopotamus – sure to excite young Liberian readers.

But for many children in this country, learning to read is not easy. Years of civil conflict and the deadly... *(Keep reading on Page 2)*



REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED...

2014 Ebola outbreak have had a tragic impact, keeping many children out of school. Girls in particular struggle with access to education. Many are forced to miss school or start late due to domestic responsibilities.

This is where CODE's Girls Accelerated Learning Initiative (GALI) comes in. This program provides extra tutoring for these girls, giving them a chance to keep up. The groups are small – only five students per teacher – and in the school I visited, took place during lunchtime. Last year's program helped 173 girls at five project schools. Of these, 86% were advanced one or two grade-levels. If the program can successfully keep girls in school for even

just one extra year, research shows it will improve both their prospects and those of their families.

I also had a chance to meet Anita – one of the first teacher-librarians in Liberia ever trained by CODE! I had the pleasure of watching her skillfully motivate her class of well-over 40 students to learn to write stories of their own – stories just like the one she read aloud to the class; stories made possible thanks to your support.

I have been a CODE donor for 20 years, and a Board Member for three. This chance to see CODE's amazing work was truly rewarding.

DONORS CLIMB MT. KILIMANJARO TO RAISE \$180,000 FOR CODE'S PROGRAMS IN AFRICA



In July 2018, 16 supporters made the difficult nine-day trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, to support CODE's 2018 Summit for Literacy campaign. The team was led by Chris Bredt, a Toronto-area lawyer and Director of the CODE Foundation, who completed his fourth successful climb for CODE! Also making the journey was our youngest climber ever, David Grace, a 13-year-old, grade-nine student from Toronto who made the journey with proud parents, Elizabeth Grace and Susan Vella.

Asked to reflect on the adventure, and on why supporting children's education in Africa should matter to us all, the climbers demonstrated the compassion, insight, and generosity characteristic of so many CODE supporters. "I'm a young person," said David, "and knowing that other young people don't have opportunities to be literate, to have doors opened to them to learn... this made the issue feel personal to me." By participating in something like this, he added, "you feel like you are doing your part to help other people access something that you have, that you have to share."

We are so humbled by the climbers' dedication and generosity. Not only have they triumphed over immense personal and physical challenges on the climb, they are – as a direct result of their hard work – making a very real difference in the lives of African children and their families.

Thank you to all of the climbers and donors who made the 2018 Summit for Literacy one of our most successful yet!

“DO YOU WANT TO MARRY ME? YES, BUT ONLY AFTER I GRADUATE.”



Keeping girls in school longer substantially increases not only their own health and prosperity, but also that of their families and communities. And yet, expectations around early marriage still prevent millions of girls all over the world from accessing the quality education that they deserve.

A new book, published as part of CODE’s Better Education through Teacher Training and Empowerment for Results (or BETTER) project in Mozambique, looks to change that by supporting the fight against early marriage.

Written in local languages, using easy-to-understand words and



compelling images, this new book helps girls in Mozambique understand what early marriage is, while at the same time helping their families to see the benefits of supporting their daughters and sisters to study and graduate *before* getting married.

Together with local partners, Associação Progresso and Mozambique’s Ministry of Education and Human Development, and thanks to the generous support of Global Affairs Canada and supporters like you, CODE’s BETTER project supports the publication and distribution of this new book and many more like it.

CELEBRATING CODE’S BURT AWARD FOR FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS LITERATURE

“I can still see the smiles and feel the pride in the room for everyone who was here.”

Richard Van Camp, Tlicho Dene from Fort Smith, North West Territories.

Cherie Dimaline’s celebrated book, *The Marrow Thieves*, won the 2018 CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Young Adult Literature – Canada’s most important prize for Young Adult literature – during a recent ceremony hosted by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community, near Maniwaki, Quebec.

Cherie accepted her prize alongside shortlisted authors Richard Van Camp, Monique Gray Smith, and Adam Garnet Jones (all award-winning authors in their own right) and 200 excited students and teachers from Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School, Manawaki’s Woodland High, Ottawa’s Immaculata High School, and Rapid Lake’s Rapid Lake High.

Thousands of copies of all three shortlisted titles will soon be making their way to young Indigenous readers in communities across Canada.



PLANNING TODAY TO HELP BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

At CODE, we value stories. We know that stories can engage, educate, and inspire. Some of the stories that inspire us the most are those told to us by our donors. Leaving a legacy to CODE is exceptionally meaningful. We love the opportunity to work with individuals and families to nurture the story behind the life that inspires such compassion and generosity.

Thanks to donors like you, CODE's own legacy will continue for years to come with your estate gift – no matter how large or small. Your gift will allow CODE to continue to share more engaging books with even more boys and girls; empower teachers to improve the quality of education they provide to their students; and invest in transforming schools and libraries.



Leaving a gift in your Will is one way you can act today to help rewrite the story for global literacy. Together we can help build a better world for future generations.

For more information please contact Andrea Helfer, Director of Fund Development and Marketing at 1 800-661-2633 ext. 232 or email at ahelfer@code.ngo

CODE's 2017-2018 Impact Report now available online!

We invite you to review our 2017-2018 Impact Report online at code.ngo/annual-reports or contact info@code.ngo for a print version.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO THE CODE FAMILY!




Lynne Dean is the new Chair of CODE's Board of Directors and **Jacques Bérubé** is Past Chair.

We would also like to extend a welcome to two new Board Members, **Mike Meneer** and **Vincent Greaney**.

You can find the complete list of CODE's Board of Directors online at <https://code.ngo/our-people>

LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH?

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 Celebrating 60 years
of excellence (1959-2019)

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