

THE CODE READER:

YOUR "FUTURE" GIFTS IN ACTION

MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

Our future is bright thanks to the generosity of donors like you. As you read the stories in the pages that follow, you will see all that is possible thanks to your commitment to rewriting the story for global literacy. Whether we're in Sierra Leone training teachers, working with authors like Watchen Johnson Babalola in Liberia, or showing donors the impact of their gifts first-hand in Ghana, it is all possible thanks to you. Your support is truly appreciated - thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Scott Walter, Executive Director

A READER GROWS UP TO BE A WRITER

Watchen Johnson Babalola is a mother of four girls. A business executive. A writer at heart. And, she has written four books for CODE's *Reading Liberia* collection.

Reading and writing have always been a big part of her life – starting with fond memories of reading time in the 2nd grade and writing rhymes as soon as she could hold a pen.

"My favorite period was reading. My teacher was magical. She would read a story to the class and I could hear the dripping of rainwater from the roof into an old metal bucket and feel the soft mud squish through the toes of the character as she walked barefooted through a puddle on a dirt road. I lived for reading period. I read every book twice."

She remembers fleeing the war in Liberia - waiting in a queue of people trying to cross the border on foot. Every individual had big bags or boxes on their heads carrying their most precious possessions. And what was in the box on Watchen's head? Books!

She knows first-hand the impact reading and writing can have on the lives of young people.



Watchen with just some of the children she visits weekly in one of the villages in Bomi County to teach spiritual and life lessons.

"I feel humbled to realize the responsibility that comes to someone with a gift like mine in a country like my own. Millions of children, especially girls, could be encouraged, empowered and inspired to great achievements by the words we put on paper. The importance of empowerment for girls in Africa can never be over-emphasized."

Watchen has participated in many of CODE's writers' workshops and credits several of the poems and short stories that she has written to working sessions with CODE and the WE-CARE Foundation. We can't wait to read and share her next book!

A young student is eager to write her story to share with you.



SEEING IS BELIEVING - A SUCCESS IN GHANA

On February 15th, CODE welcomed twelve of its thoughtful donors to Ghana to spend ten days touring the country and most importantly provide participants the opportunity to witness the impact of their support first-hand by visiting program schools.

The highlight of the school visits was the interaction the tour participants had with students and teachers and the small booklets which had been assembled with stories from donors like you, (thank you for sending these in last December!).

The tour participants were so excited to be able to share their love of stories with the students in the classrooms. Everyone was truly inspired and these shared memories will be long remembered.

Thank you for helping to make this happen.
For more information on the success of the tour,
please visit CODE's website code.ngo



"We found it deeply moving to visit schools where beautiful, exuberant children danced for us, read to and with us, and shared with us - drawing stories about reading or shyly telling of dreams to be a doctor, nurse, scientist or actor.

*Every moment was charming
and exhilarating because
every moment was true.*

Bravo CODE! I was enormously proud of the role CODE plays in changing lives and bringing educational opportunities to African kids."

Jamie Cameron

Seeing is Believing traveler, 2017

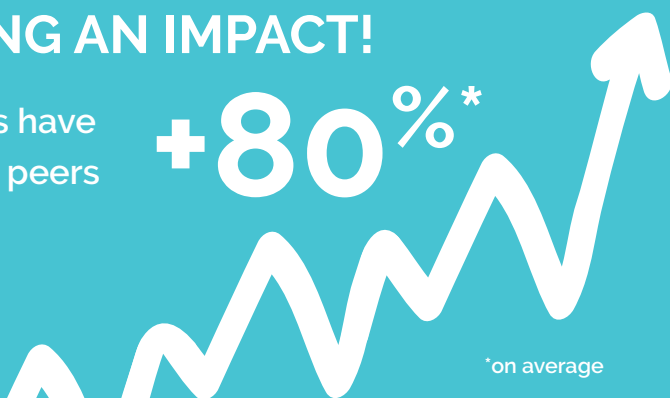


Chris Bredt trying his hand at reading a book written in the local language Twi.

IN KENYA WE'RE HAVING AN IMPACT!

Grade 1 *Reading Kenya* students whose teachers have received **code** training are outperforming their peers in English, Kiswahili and Maa by...

+80%*



*on average



We will change the future of Sierra Leone simply by helping one child at a time learn how to read and write!

Teachers working hard during a recent training workshop where 21 teachers were certified.

TRAIN A TEACHER, CHANGE A GENERATION

Willy Rangira, Senior Program Manager at CODE recently returned from visiting CODE programs in Sierra Leone and each time he travels it's like the first time; his enthusiasm is ignited and he experiences true joy when seeing the impact of CODE's programs. On this particular trip, Willy worked to empower teachers through training and professional development.

"CODE is already having meaningful impact on the way in-service teacher development is being conducted. We also know that in order to improve learning, students and teachers should have access to great books."

To date, CODE has jointly published (with local partners) 14 titles which are being enjoyed in program schools. We continue to hear that these books are by far the most read and relatable; everyone loves them!"

Thanks to your generosity, CODE is currently facilitating teacher workshops in 25 schools in Port Loko (the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone). Together, with your support, we will change the future of Sierra Leone simply by helping one child at a time learn how to read and write! You can learn more about our work in Sierra Leone here: code.ngo

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?



Communication is at the heart of all our relationships. And human beings are fortunate to have many and varied ways to communicate and connect with one another. Communication allows us to tell our stories.

The possibility of fostering relationships and the joy and pleasure of reading have prompted me to leave funds to CODE in my Will.

Having witnessed and taken part in the transfer of knowledge and skills since the late 60s in sub-Saharan Africa, I can speak personally of the transformation of individuals and communities when they are given the opportunity to read and write. I still remember my first weeks of teaching in Uganda and our need to find common ground, in order to learn from one another.

As we attempt collectively to address very urgent questions for our planet and our world, it is important that young people are engaged and recognize that they, too, can make a difference in reaching the goals and plans of future generations. **Books and the joy of learning are fundamental to our future.**

Communication brings us together and stimulates learning and our imaginations.

I encourage you to think about what you want your legacy to be.

"I want my legacy to inspire future generations to achieve their highest potential and through CODE I know that will be possible."

-Gwynneth Evans

To discuss your legacy gift with CODE, please contact

Natalie St Amour
nstamour@code.ngo
613-232-3569 x 250



Margaret and John Casey – long-time CODE supporters.

A MONTHLY GIFT MEANS SO MUCH...

At CODE, we know how lucky we are to have some incredible supporters. One of these amazing individuals is Margaret Casey. Margaret has been a CODE supporter for more than two decades and knows that literacy is fundamentally important in addressing many of the world's challenges.

An avid reader, Margaret has fond memories of reading as a child, a student, a mother and now as a grandmother.

"I started donating to CODE so that I could help children in the developing world learn to love reading. So many children in developing countries face many challenges that we in the developed world have no understanding of. Since then, I know that CODE has made a difference in the lives of many children in Africa. I can't imagine experiencing life around the world without books as my guide. I think CODE is an excellent NGO to support."

Margaret knows that supporting CODE on a monthly basis allows CODE to plan and implement programs more effectively.

"I used to make an annual donation but I am sure I missed a couple of years due to forgetfulness. Monthly donations provide CODE with a dependable revenue stream - which is important for all NGO's. It also makes it easier for my budgeting and I was actually able to increase my total donation amount!"

Thank you Margaret for your wonderfully thoughtful, long-time support! To become a monthly donor yourself, call Geneviève or visit us at code.ngo.

MEET GENEVIÈVE!

Have you ever called CODE to make a donation or update your information?

Well, if you have, you've likely spoken to Geneviève Perras – CODE's wonderful Donor Relations and Database Administrator. "Gen" has worked for CODE for over 13 years in a variety of roles and loves talking with you, accepting your donations and answering your questions about the impact you have with your gift to CODE.

It's always nice to put a name to a face – and now you can.



"I'm always excited to hear from donors about why they support CODE and why our work is so important to them. Thank you for making coming to "work" everyday meaningful for me."

Geneviève

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CELEBRATE THAT SPECIAL PERSON IN YOUR LIFE

Whether it's Mother's Day, Father's Day, your birthday or celebrating your teacher at the end of the school year; let that special someone know how much they mean to you with the gift that has no bounds – the gift of literacy!

Visit code.ngo today and give the gift that will last a lifetime, and change a child's future.

The joy of learning is contagious!

