

THE CODE READER:

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

15,702

kits

11

countries

135

communities

REWRITING THE STORY FOR LITERACY IN WEST AFRICA

Home School Kits of Hope: An urgent response to Ebola crisis injects hope

Michael's tone was urgent, breathless.
"You must send help. We must help. Please."

When the Ebola crisis hit West Africa, Michael Weah, the Executive Director of CODE's Liberian partner the WE-CARE Foundation, didn't ask for surgical masks or a medical outpost. He asked for books. Michael watched in desperation as schools were closed and barricaded, entire neighbourhoods were sealed off with plastic sheeting and panic was rising as fast as hope was fading.

Michael and his team promised to deliver "Home School Kits of Hope" to as many children as he could reach who were housebound with nothing to do. Each kit contained books, notebooks, pencils and information about protecting oneself from Ebola.

In less than three months, CODE donors and partners came together and with your amazing support we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$60,000 and distributed 15,702 kits to 135 communities in 11 counties in Liberia. Thanks to this incredible support, children going through a very difficult time were able to take their minds off the devastation around them by diving into entertaining stories.

Today, schools in Liberia and Sierra Leone have reopened and kids are back in class. But our work is not over. Kids need to catch up on the education they missed so they can continue to learn, hope and dream.

With the generous support of two private donors, we have developed six new supplementary reading books for primary school children, all written and illustrated by local Sierra Leone talents and featuring stories, poetry and informational text that builds on ideas and themes from the story. Here's an example: *I Fooled You!* features four texts connected to the theme of tricking and tricksters:

- *Monkey and Shark* is a retelling of a traditional folktale
- *Ami and Sali* is an original work of animal fiction
- *The Tricky One* is a poem emphasizing the concept of opposites
- *Magic Tricks* is an informational piece that shows two clever magic tricks children can learn and perform

You see, CODE's intervention in the Ebola crisis was not only an urgent and immediate response to keep children engaged in learning during the crisis, but it was also an injection into rebuilding the education system in these fragile states. Your support provides books, empowers teachers and, one step at a time, we are bringing sustainable and engaging education programs back to Liberia and Sierra Leone. Thank you! ■





“MEET UNDER THE SHADY TREE!”

Girls Reading Clubs Thriving in Tanzania

“Reading club today after school. Meet under the shady tree and bring your ideas for acting out your favourite scenes!”

It all happened organically. We learned from a partner in Tanzania that girls were getting together before and after school for informal reading clubs. Older girls would help younger students with their reading, and all the girls would share ideas and learn from each other.

With support from CODE donors like you, we helped organize and expand a Literacy Coach program. We provide leadership training to enthusiastic older girls so that they can better lead a series of enriching activities including reading books, dramatization, drawing, story and poem writing and more. This provides experience and confidence

for the Coaches, and ignites a passion for reading in younger girls.

Mariam Mgata and Mariam George are Literacy Coaches in Kongwa, Tanzania. They start each day looking after 120 preschool kids from 8:30 to 10:00AM, reading to the kids and leading fun and engaging activities. Both want to be teachers one day and are delighted to help inspire younger girls.

Reading Clubs are now offered in 20 schools in Tanzania and with more expansion plans in the works, we can reach even more girls. Your support helps make this program possible! Your gifts are also being used to publish locally-produced books that feature strong girl and women characters, which is another way we work to empower the women leaders of tomorrow. ■



Kawakoto Community Library before adoption

“Education and reading were always important to our mother, to the end of her life. She knew what education had done for her and how it had freed her from the life for which she would otherwise have been destined. As such, it freed us too. We wanted to share with others our Mother’s dedication to education, and our own as well, to reading and to libraries as essential for free thought. Adopting a library through CODE is something we are proud to have done.”

– Erin Moure, who, with her family, adopted a library in memory of their mother, Mary Irene Moure

LIBRARIES: ESSENTIAL FOR FREE THOUGHT

One Family Adopts a Library in Ethiopia in Memory of Mom

There is only one thing more delightful than sharing a book with a child: sharing a whole library! And because of caring people like you, and the amazing support of The Moure Family, thousands of children in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ region of Ethiopia are discovering for the first time the joy of having their own library.

Together with local partners, we create bright, beautiful and cheerful library spaces and furnish them with comfortable seating. We provide training to teacher-librarians on how to manage the library and create book management systems including book registration and borrowing ledgers for pupils,

teachers and the community. This cultivates an environment of accountability, responsibility and shared local ownership of the library materials.

And, of course, speaking of materials, we also fill the library with books—local stories by local authors, illustrated by local artists and published right in the local community. Kids are encouraged to take books home on nights and weekends, allowing them to improve their reading skills and share their knowledge with their families.

Thank you again to The Moure Family and all CODE supporters for helping build libraries and reading rooms for kids around the world! ■



Kawakoto Community Library after adoption

PASSION FOR EDUCATION INSPIRES TEAM TO SCALE KILIMANJARO

CODE's 2014 Summit for Literacy a Success!

+\$218,000

raised support for our literacy programs in Africa!

"I'm a very passionate believer in the power of education as a tool for development. I got to see the kids and how eager they are to learn. You really felt like you were making a huge difference." – Christopher Bredt, third-time Kili Conquerer

Congratulations to our 14 Kili Conquerers, whose nine-day trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro left them with incredible stories and memories

they will cherish for the rest of their lives. This amazing team raised more than \$218,000 to support our literacy programs in Africa! We're extremely proud of the climbers and their dedication to our cause. Thank you Kili Conquerers!

We'd also like to thank everyone who donated to support the climbers and who were instrumental in making CODE's Summit for Literacy a success. Thanks to their generous donations, hundreds of thousands of children in Africa will have a chance to reach their full potential through the power of literacy.

There will be another Summit for Literacy in 2018! If you would like to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please contact **Allen LeBlanc**, Director Fund Development and Marketing at aleblanc@codecan.org. ■



FLORA MACDONALD REMEMBERED

It's with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of the Honourable Flora MacDonald, a long-time friend of CODE and distinguished Ambassador.

"She was known for fostering international understanding and development, something we also aspire to do through our work in literacy and education around the world." said CODE Executive Director Scott Walter.

We extend our most sincere condolences to Ms. MacDonald's family and hope that her work both in Canada and abroad will be long remembered.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN SIERRA LEONE

A New Five Year Program

1.8 million children are returning to school in Sierra Leone. For nine months they stayed home in an effort to control the spread of the deadly Ebola Virus which claimed more than 3,950 lives in the country.

Everyone was affected but children were affected most. Getting kids back into classrooms is an absolute priority.

CODE, in partnership with PEN Sierra Leone and TALLE (The Association of Language and Literacy Educators) are preparing to make the most of the return to school. Together we will be implementing a new comprehensive readership program beginning in the Fall of 2015. Planning for the *Reading Sierra Leone*

project is underway and a lead donor has already been inspired by our previous intervention in Liberia.

Building on CODE's experience in Sierra Leone - and the success of the parallel program in Liberia - we will be training primary school teachers and developing new high quality, locally written and illustrated books for use by teachers and students. Schools in the Port Loko District of the country will benefit from the project over the next five years with the goal of improving learning outcomes and inspiring a love of reading in the area. ■

code is happy to announce our partner in Mozambique, Associação Progresso, is one of five winners of UNESCO's International Literacy Prizes. The award ceremony will take place on International Literacy Day, September 8, 2015.

Education is the
code to my future



Rewriting the story
for global literacy

codecan.org

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

CODE Talks to a Donor About Why He Gives

Every single donor, every single gift, makes an impact on the life of a child learning to read. David Malkin is a young urban planner and has been giving to CODE since 2007. We wanted to share just a little bit about David as a celebration of all our amazing and generous donors.

We asked David how he first started giving to CODE.

"For me, literacy is basic. I always had tons of books around the house, and I still do. When I thought about kids not having any that struck a chord. I remember seeing videos from CODE as a child. And once I got a job, I was looking to give back, and found that I really agreed with CODE's focus."

Thank you, David, and thanks to all of our cherished supporters! ■

MORE OF YOUR VOICES

Sharing Some of Your Stories

In the fall, we asked you to share the book that changed you. It was so wonderful to receive your notes back, and we wanted to share just a few of them.

"Seven Storey Mountain by Thomas Merton. It WOKE ME UP!"

"When I was very young the book that inspired me was Anne of Green Gables. I wanted to be as kind and good as she was. Also I admired her gumption and spirit. She was an inspiration which I aspire to. P.S. I'm still trying." ■

CODE NAMED ONE OF 25 "CHARITIES OF THE YEAR"

We're Honoured By This Recognition from the Financial Post



The Financial Post analyzed the tax returns of 86,000 Canadian charities, looking for the highest standards of accountability, transparency and efficiency. CODE was one of just two educational charities to have made this prestigious list.

Our staff and volunteer Board of Directors, take the utmost care to ensure that every dollar we receive from caring and kind Canadians like you is put to work rewriting the story for global literacy. We work hard to earn and keep your trust, we strive to make you feel confident about where your money goes and we cherish your ongoing support. Thank you! ■