



Promoting every
child's right to read

Photo credit: Peter Bregg, 2019

THE CODE READER: Your Gifts in Action

Code.ngo

Winter 2020

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

Let me first take this opportunity to wish all our CODE supporters the very best for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year and for that matter, the same for the new decade! Whether or not the next 10 years live up to the previous moniker of the Roaring Twenties, we can be assured they will be years of volatility and rapid change. For many, this means positive and near-endless opportunity. But for many others the future is a much scarier place, characterized by all the fears inherent in lives of vulnerability and downward spirals of never-ending poverty. What is their hope for their future? CODE's response as you will read in these pages is to say, "Education Matters!" It matters as a human need and a human right and it matters because it has the power like nothing else to address and support our collective need for peace, social justice and individual well-being. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Executive Director

We are humbled to have received several significant recognitions of our work this past year, including a four-star charity rating by Charity Intelligence; inclusion in Maclean's list of "Canada's Best Charities 2020: Top 100"; and the SDG Leadership Award from The Global Compact Network Canada.



CODE'S IMPACT REPORT

CODE's Impact Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2018-2019 are now available online at code.ngo/accountability. We welcome you to take a look and to celebrate with us the wonderful things we've achieved together over the past year.

CODE'S IMPACT IN 2018-19

Reached **300,267**
children through literacy programs

Provided **3,158**
teachers with professional
development opportunities

Distributed **103,320**
copies of books to school and
community libraries

Received support from **3,217**
caring Canadians from all walks of life

Published **12**
new children's book titles in partnership
with local authors and illustrators

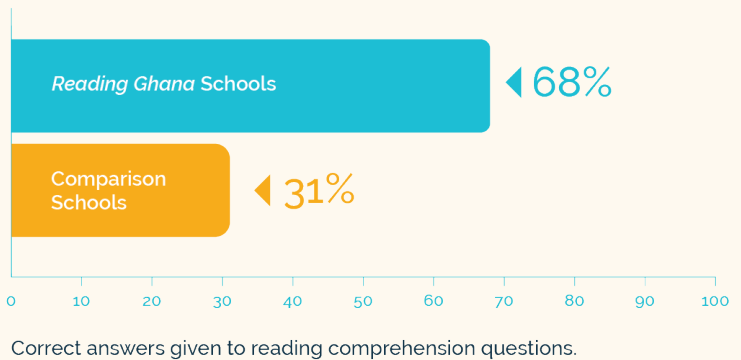
Spent **82%**
of all donations on the development
and delivery of programs



READING GHANA PROGRAM DELIVERING EXCELLENT RESULTS

Alongside our local partner, the Ghana Book Trust, and with the support of our generous funding partner, Asanko Gold, CODE is working to improve literacy amongst students in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Our recent reading skills assessment of students participating in the program over the past three years shows that our efforts are delivering meaningful and significant changes in students' reading abilities.

READING COMPREHENSION – JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS



TRIP DIARY – VISITING *READING GHANA* SCHOOLS

In September, 2019 Janet Phillips, CODE's Fund Development Manager, traveled to Ghana to support a review of CODE's Reading Ghana program. Below is an excerpt from her field diary.

"The schools we are supporting are remote and it seems we will never get there, but we do. We finally pull up under the mango tree in front of the school and stumble out, goats and chickens scattering. The headmaster appears and welcomes us. Behind him, children in their dark green school uniforms try to get our attention but are swept back into their classrooms by their teachers. It's hard to be discreet when you are obviously not from around here.

Jeninso Primary School is one of the new schools that we are supporting this year through the *Reading Ghana* program. This school, like the others we are working with, don't have many books – certainly not enough to constitute a library by Canadian standards.

Books are a big part of this program, and in November we will deliver the first tranche of reading materials that are produced by Ghanaian writers, illustrators, editors and publishers. CODE carefully selects and purchases high-quality and culturally-relevant books in Ghana – ensuring that children have books that are not only curriculum-aligned and age-appropriate, but also feature their own culture and experiences.

"I remember (my daughter) was always coming home with so many books when she was in Junior High School. Now she is doing so well. In this area, literacy is not high but the program is helping. Because of poverty, not many parents can buy books for their children to read."

- Michael, Chair of the parent-teacher association at Keniagi School, a graduated *Reading Ghana* school

I am so inspired by the educators that I'm meeting. They are already working hard on behalf of their students and now they are eager to engage in the professional development activities offered through the *Reading Ghana* program – which includes intensive training workshops and in-class mentorship. Equipped with enhanced literacy instruction skills and strategies, and armed with great books, these teachers will be able to deliver even better learning outcomes for their young students."



Thank you to our corporate sponsor, Asanko Gold, and to the many CODE supporters who have chosen to invest in Ghana's young people.



CATALYZING NATIONAL-LEVEL CHANGE IN MOZAMBIQUE

CODE's seven-year *BETTER (Better Education Through Teacher Training and Empowerment for Results)* program is working toward long-term systemic change within Mozambique's education system.

Funded in partnership with Global Affairs Canada and implemented in close collaboration with Associação Progresso and the country's Ministry of Education and Human Development, *BETTER* works to develop and strengthen the teacher training curriculum at Mozambique's teacher training institutes.

This past year saw the completion of two new textbooks to support teacher education in Mozambique. Given their quality and effectiveness, these textbooks have now been integrated into the curriculum of teacher education at a national-level and will be used in all of Mozambique's 18 teacher training institutes. These textbooks for teacher education in Mozambique are the first of their kind. They have been developed to meet the specific needs of Mozambican primary teachers and national curriculum, and reflect international best practices. The textbooks also strive to promote participatory learning, child-centered teaching methodologies and gender equality.

By the Numbers (2018-2019)



98,178
students reached

2,884

teachers trained
and mentored



25,545
books distributed

4

teacher
training
institutes

61

schools
served



LEADERSHIP UPDATES

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jacques Bérubé for his nine years of exceptional service on CODE's Board of Directors. We would like to also extend a warm welcome to Dr. Rumeet Billan, who joined our Board in June, 2019. A complete list of CODE's Board of Directors is available online at code.ngo/people.

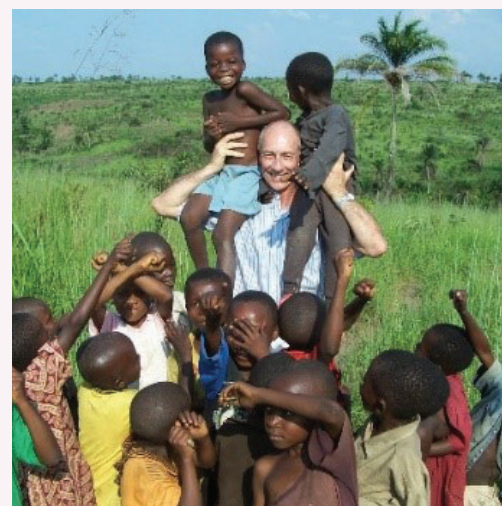
PASSION IN ACTION

Since he was a teenager, Réal Lavergne's ambition has been to make a difference in people's lives. He has successfully turned that determination into a lifetime of professional and personal fulfillment as a civil servant, volunteer, and donor, contributing considerable time, energy, and financial resources to help people in some of the world's poorest countries.

This includes Sierra Leone, a desperately poor country ravaged by civil war and more recent Ebola epidemic. Here, Réal has long supported CODE's efforts to train teachers as well as to create and distribute inspiring children's books, benefiting tens of thousands of girls and boys.

Most recently, Réal lent his support to our "When I Grow Up" online campaign – a campaign that was enabled by Réal's pledge to match public donations over the holiday season. Inspired by Réal's generosity, several other donors also contributed to the matching fund. During the month of December the campaign raised \$40,000 to help initiate CODE's newest program in Sierra Leone, slated to begin early in 2020. Thank you all for making it such a success.

Réal's genuine interest and commitment to CODE's mission spans back to his days as an aid-effectiveness expert at CIDA (now Global Affairs Canada). It's a story that will draw you in and that you can read in full on our website at: www.code.ngo/real



REMEMBERING ALAN CRAWFORD

By *Scott Walter, Executive Director*

Tapping into world class professional development expertise as part of our programming for teachers, trainers, librarians and publishers has long been a key feature of CODE initiatives. Individuals recruited bring an impressive array of valued skill sets and long track records of relevant experience and more often than not, donate this professional time to CODE as 'expert volunteers'. The pool of human resources in this regard runs deep at CODE, but no one was more valued nor gave more of their personal time, than the late Dr. Alan Crawford.

Alan wore many hats in his lifetime — Professor of Education at California State University, elementary school teacher, reading specialist, ESL teacher, and research and evaluation specialist.

His work with CODE took him to Ghana, Liberia, Ethiopia and Tanzania working within the public school systems, but he also regularly traveled to Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia with organizations such as UNESCO.

As one of a core group of trainers with the International Reading Association's teacher development program, "Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking," Alan's travels also included Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Latvia and Mongolia.

He was the author or co-author of several books, dozens of journal articles, and many reading programs for children in English and Spanish. Alan was also past president of the California Reading Association, IRA representative of IRA to UNESCO for many years, and member of the editorial review board of *Lectura y Vida*, IRA's former Spanish-language journal.

Alan had an indomitable spirit, ready to roll-up his sleeves and do the work required, wherever and whenever. The quintessential gentleman and scholar, with friends and colleagues who cared deeply about him in every corner of the globe, Alan is sorely missed by us all, but none more than the many students and teachers whose lives and careers he supported over his remarkable life.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.CODE.ORG

Registered Charity # 11883 4878 RR0001



@codecan.org



@codengo

READ. LEARN. LIVE. PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT ON PAN-CANADIAN TOUR

The *Read. Learn. Live.* photography exhibit by renowned Canadian photojournalist, Peter Bregg C.M., launched at the Calgary Public Library in August. This marked the start of its Pan-Canadian journey.

The exhibit depicts the stark realities of the global learning crisis and the difference that Canadians are making in the lives of children determined to learn.

A wholehearted thanks to Peter for offering us his valuable time and talent, and to all exhibit venues who are kindly donating both space and volunteers to make the exhibition possible.

Upcoming locations are listed below. If you would like to bring the exhibit to your community, please email our Communications Manager Emily Prashad at eprashad@code.ngo



Upcoming Exhibit Locations

Dec. 20 – Jan. 13, 2020

London Central Library – London, Ontario

Jan. 12 – 30, 2020

Tett Centre – Kingston, Ontario

Feb. 4 – 20, 2020

Kitchener Central Library – Kitchener, Ontario

Feb. 25 – Feb. 29, 2020

Manitoba Teachers' Society Conference –
Winnipeg, Manitoba

March 2020

AC Hunter Library, Arts and Culture Centre –
St. John's, Newfoundland

April 11 – April 22, 2020

Burlington Public Library – Burlington, Ontario

April 28 – May 7, 2020

Shenkman Arts Centre – Ottawa, Ontario