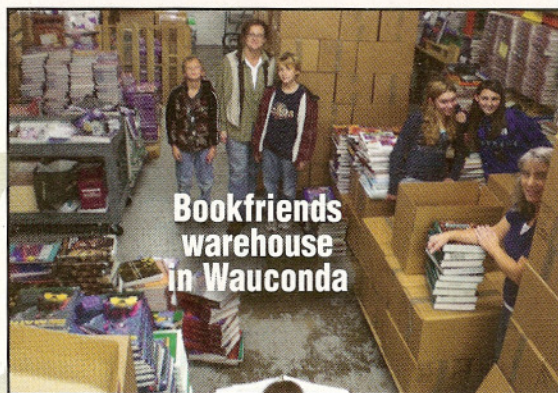


Great JOY Brought Through Used BOOKS



Bookfriends
International, NFP



There is JOY in a warehouse in Wauconda, and this JOY is passed along to students in East Africa several times a year. This JOY comes in the form of volunteering at Bookfriends International, a non-profit foundation which gathers textbooks and library books and ships them to schools in Africa. The JOY expressed by students, teachers and communities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda where books have already been placed is difficult to describe because books are treasured so immeasurably by those who do not or did not have many for their daily use.

Bookfriends International is a charitable, IRS-approved public foundation created by Steve and Paulie Kutschat of Lake Zurich after their experiences in Tanzania in early 2004: Steve climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, Paulie volunteered in a Maasai girls' school, and together the couple visited educational institutions where they found an astounding lack of books. Upon returning to the USA, the Kutschat's set their minds on finding some useful, used books and shipping them to the schools they visited. Encouraged by the good news that the books did arrive at the Tanzanian schools, the couple began searching for more books from our suburban schools and public libraries. The response has been amazing: our area schools and libraries have been searching for placement for used books which are no longer needed.



To process the thousands of books that come in, volunteers offer their time to help sort and pack the books, so that each recipient school will receive a complete curriculum of textbooks and a well-planned library of approximately 1,000 fiction, non-fiction and reference volumes.

Each book shipment to Africa is a 20-foot container carrying well-chosen books for about ten schools. To date, Bookfriends has placed books in 87 secondary level schools and has helped set up libraries in villages in central Tanzania and northern Uganda. At Bookfriends, the realistic sentiment is that

"we have only just begun," for there are still many schools and communities waiting for books. It is clear that the books received by these African communities literally change lives, allowing students to discover more information about the world and find areas which interest them and in which they have the aptitude for possible career-planning. Expanding the mind through education will often bring change of heart, but will always bring hope for the future! These bright youth find JOY every day through books, for they have no doubt that diligent work on their studies will improve their future, and that these books will allow them to open up these new horizons.

How does this happen through Bookfriends? The foundation is blessed by the donation of books from schools, libraries and individuals. The donation of volunteer time is also just as great a contribution! In addition, to pay for the shipping of a container to Africa [which is close to \$10,000.00], Bookfriends searches for and relies upon the monetary gifts of people with a heart to help pick up the cost. Even though Bookfriends can ship one book for about 50 cents, passing the mission philosophy along to people and requesting their generous monetary donations is crucial for Bookfriends to be able to continue to ship thousands of books to these schools. There is simply no greater reward for your dollars than sending good books to African schools.

This IS a labor of JOY – to prepare books from the great abundance in the USA for sharing with the students in Africa who will cherish and use them so eagerly. Volunteers are between the ages of 4 and 84, and many come to help Bookfriends as a family. Bookfriends can never have too many volunteers in accomplishing this urgent mission and invites area families to get involved in some of our many opportunities. YOU will find that JOY by helping send these books to Africa.

To find out more visit our website www.bookfriends.org or call to volunteer: 847-726-8776 ■