

Libraries are for boys and girls

In much of Africa, education of girls lags behind that of boys. Even education of boys has stagnated: crowded and ill-equipped classrooms, learning by rote, hard-working but ill-trained and poorly compensated teachers, all mean there is not much joy in learning. Village libraries are places with puzzles and children's books, where a child might find the inspiration to do homework and advance through school.

We need your help to make sure every child enjoys a fundamental right...

The right to read!



Board of Directors

Too many development projects fail because they do not provide on-going support. Our board of directors is composed of people with nonprofit experience who are committed to a long-term vision of sustainable development.

Magi Diego graduated from the MBA program at Santa Clara University in 2004. She worked as a volunteer in Thailand on a coral reef and fisheries protection project, and currently is employed in the tech sector in Silicon Valley.

Sue Frey is a program associate at Edsource, a California non-profit that clarifies complex school issues in the state. She has traveled extensively throughout Africa.

Deborah Garvey, Ph.D. teaches economics at Santa Clara University, and is on the board of the Friends of Willow Glen Library in San Jose. She has been involved in non-profit activities for many years.

Leslie Gray, Ph.D. is a geographer with interests in African farming and especially cotton cultivation. Leslie is an Associate Professor in the Environmental Studies Institute at Santa Clara University, and has conducted research in Sudan and Burkina Faso.

Bruce Harris is a consultant on book publishing, a former Publisher and Chief Operating Officer of Workman Publishing, and a frequent volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Michael Kevane, Ph.D. is Co-Director for West Africa and Associate Professor and Chair of the Economics Department at Santa Clara University, and has published numerous scholarly works on economic development issues in Africa. He has consulted for the World Bank, Freedom from Hunger, and the private sector.

Kate Parry, Ph.D. is Co-Director for East Africa and Professor of English at Hunter College, City University of New York. She co-founded Kitengesa Community Library in Uganda in 1999.

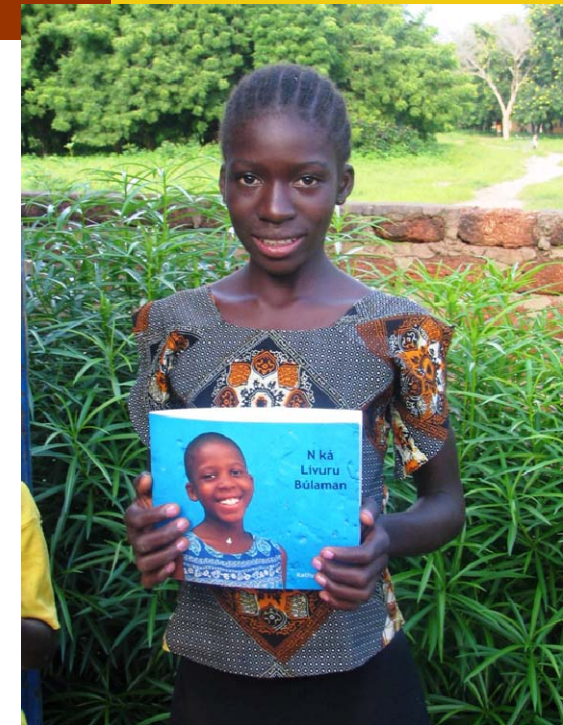
Lori Zink has directed education and training programs for a number of non-profit and governmental organizations. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger for two years.

Friends of African Village Libraries

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Friends of African Village Libraries



- Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL) was founded in 2001 with the mission of establishing and supporting village libraries in Africa.
- FAVL refurbishes existing buildings, purchases books (locally, wherever possible), trains personnel, and pays librarian salaries.
- To date, FAVL has established and continues to support 10 libraries in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda.
- FAVL is a 501c(3) non-profit and your donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

What is our philosophy?

- Sustainable development happens when children and adults have the means at their disposal to develop their own skills and potentials. A village library is an essential part of that process.
- Village libraries will thrive if they have local village involvement and continuous and frequent oversight from a team of dedicated support staff.
- Librarians deserve a fair salary, incentives for good job performance, and assurance of continuous training and improvement.

What are our objectives?

- Help finance the establishment and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure that are needed for village libraries.
- Assure the presence of a good collection of books, particularly African novels and children's books with African and village-oriented themes in each library.

Who are our partners?

- Village communities offer land, buildings, labor, and management oversight of the village libraries.
- Local and international non-profit organizations and government agencies offer financial and technical support.
- Individual donors willing to help sustain village libraries provide the bulk of our financing.

What do we want to prove?

- Village communities can manage village libraries at low cost.
- Village residents want to read and will use a library.
- Access to books makes a difference in people's lives.

Reading Makes a Better World

Do you remember going to the library with a parent? Proudly carrying a book home, not being able to wait to read it? Reading with a flashlight in bed? Imagine if instead the only book you had to read was your schoolbook, and you had read it a hundred times. Suppose you never had the chance to read an adventure novel, a work of science fiction, a book of brilliant poetry that carried you away to another world, or a sobering, searing indictment of society that was also a compelling page-turner. What would you be like if you had never read a short story? That is the reality for millions of children in rural Africa. Their city cousins have at least some access to books. Many villages have almost no books, and only a lucky few have access to regular reading material. In a village where most adults cannot read, how can a young person find an entry into the world of books and literature?

Give the gift of literacy

We need your help. A little money can go a long way in rural Africa. Initiating a new library, for example, costs only \$5000. The salary of a librarian is approximately \$100 a month, and this can make available the



world of books to schoolchildren and farmers. African novels, like the classic by Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, or the harrowing tale of child soldiers in Liberia and Sierra Leone by the Francophone author Ahmadou Kourouma, *Allah n'est pas obligé*, cost approximately \$8 each. FAVL also develops new books in local languages and with appropriate themes tailored to our village libraries; these cost about \$500 for a small print run. FAVL encourages volunteers to spend one-month periods working on programs in village libraries supported by FAVL.

What FAVL does

FAVL works with local communities to establish and sustain community libraries.

- *In southwestern Burkina Faso*, we operate five village libraries, with a staff of 9 librarians and supervisors. Librarians organize reading programs (e.g. "I can read 25 books" and "I read to my little sister"), drawing programs, cultural exhibits, and African movie nights.
- *In northern Ghana*, we partner with a local Ghanaian NGO, CESRUD, to operate 3 community libraries in the Bolgatanga area.
- *In Tanzania*, we opened in 2007 the Chalula Community Library in Mvumi village near Dodoma.
- *In Uganda*, we help support the Kitengesa Community Library, and co-founded in 2007 the Uganda Community Library Association, with initial membership of 19 community libraries.

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