

Give a Book, Change a Life: Cape Town Book Donation Project Outcomes

by Valarie Hunsinger on behalf of the ALA IRC Africa Subcommittee, photos courtesy of Laddy McKechnie, the LIASA Western Cape Chair

Hundreds of children in Cape Town, South Africa, were given the gift of books, audio books, and DVDs, through the incredible collaboration and donation of librarians all over the world. Through the **Give a Book, Change a Life: Cape Town Book Donation Project** developed by the Africa Subcommittee of ALA's International Relations Committee (IRC) in partnership with the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), and the Libraries for Children and Young Adults (CHILD) Section of IFLA, over 500 library resources were collected during the 2015 IFLA Congress in Cape Town (To read more about the development of this project click on this link: [Gift a Book, Change a Life: Cape Town Book Donation Project.](#))

LIASA nominated five schools to receive these donations including Westbank No. 1 Primary School, Dal Josephal, Bridgeville Primary, Aurora Primary and BF Oosthuizen. Books were personally delivered on November 30th, 2015 to 3 schools, and two schools received books via courier. After distributions, over 100 audiobooks and visual DVDs remained. It was decided that these crucial resources would be donated to a school for special needs children. In March 2016, during the 2016 South African Library Week, the audiobooks and DVDs were delivered to the Eros School (School for Cerebral Palsy) in Bridgetown. These inclusive resources will be instrumental in allowing all learners to enjoy learning and

experience the joy of reading.

As members of the IRC Africa Subcommittee, we would like to thank all those who donated to this opportunity and we would like to share pictures from the recipient libraries. As Laddy McKechnie, the LIASA Western Cape Chair shared, "The smiles on the learners' faces when receiving these books tell you how much they really appreciated it."

As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Gifting these books not only spread the joys of reading but support educational possibilities for these library patrons. We have seen how libraries and librarians can transform communities, but now through this project, we can see how much can be accomplished when librarians from all over the world work together.

Thank you again for your donations and special thank you to the leadership of Laverne Page, Immediate Past Chair of IRC's Africa Subcommittee, Segametsi Molawa, President of LIASA, Ujala Satgoor, Immediate Past President of LIASA, Viviana Quiñones, Chair of IFLA CHILD, Loida Garcia Febo, and the ALA IRC and all the members of the committees involved.



Westbank No. 1 Primary School—Delft



Daal Josephal - Paarl



Bridgeville Primary—Bridgetown



Eros School (school for cerebral palsy) - Bridgetown