**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**Book Drive for School Children in Liberia**

**Compassion for African Villages** has partnering with the **Rotary Club of El Cajon Sunset**, the **La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Rotarkidz**: **Box of Books** and **Robert Massaquoi Foundation** to provide educational resources to needy school children in Liberia.

**Funds and Books to be collected**:

1. Funds for shipping costs.
2. School Books and School Supplies
   1. Reading, English, Science, and Peace. (Books featuring multi-cultural themes and children of color preferred.)
   2. Math and Science textbooks published within the last five years for K- High School.
   3. Dictionaries and Thesauruses published within the last five years.
   4. Novels.
   5. Pens, pencils and sharpeners.
   6. Notebooks.
   7. Some college level books.

**Where to direct your donations**:

1. Funds should be donated to Compassion for African Villages (CAV). Visit compassionforafricanvillages.org, and donate using PayPal. Or contact Mark Wheeler, CAV President, at 619-582-5893.
2. Books and schools supplies should be dropped off at the shipping container. Please contact Richard Makau, President of the El Cajon Sunset Rotary Club, at 619-266-0366.

**When collection begins:**

1. Funds for the shipping costs may be donated anytime.
2. Books and school supplies will be collected starting spring 2017. If you wish to donate books and school supplies, please contact Richard Makau for more information.

**THE NEED,**

**About Liberia:**

According to USAID, Liberia is “significantly behind most other countries in the African region in nearly all education statistics.” (See <https://www.usaid.gov/liberia/education>)

UNICEF reports the following facts (<http://www.unicef.org/liberia/children_7916.html>):

* The 2010/2011 National School Census reported a Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for primary education at 44% (46% for boys and 42% for girls) and Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at was 111%. There are ‘children’ aged over 20 still in primary school, even in Grade 1. This shows a huge hunger for education, a hunger not being satisfied.
* During the 14-year civil conflict which ended in 2003, 80% of schools were destroyed or damaged; many had roofs, furniture and supplies looted. Since government investment in basic education outside the capital city was low before the war, and despite a brief window of reconstructive effort between 1999-2000, further conflict and the operational cessation of the Ministry of Education left schooling in a parlous condition. A rapid assessment in 2004 showed that only 24% of children in public primary school had desks or benches and that there were 27 children to each book.
* The problem of extremely low quality schooling – schools not able to teach students enough to reach Grade 4 – is significant. Of those teaching in primary schools, only 40% are trained, and many also have to teach at pre-primary and at high school levels. Of all primary teachers, trained and untrained, only 12% are female.
* Over a quarter of a million 6 to 11 year old children have never been to school as per the UNESCO and UNICEF Out-of-School Study of 2011.

**WHY COLLECT AND SHIP BOOKS TO LIBERIA.**

It meets the objective mission of CAV and fills a lack of books that exists in school in Liberia.

**SHIPPING BOOKS TO LIBERIA VERSES BUYING LOCALLY** (within Liberia).

Shipping books guarantees more than 100,000 books will be delivered to schools in Liberia.

Purchasing books locally for $15,000, translate to less than 400 books for college level and/or less than 7000 books for K – 12 grades. The majority of books shipped will not be available in Liberia for purchase, therefore CAV and Rotary will provide an extremely life fulfilling service that would otherwise not be available in Liberia.

**PARTNERS:**

**Compassion for African Villages** is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to working with African villagers to develop sustainable equitable educational resources. **Mark Wheeler** is the President.

**Rotary International** is an international [service organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_club) whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. It is a [secular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secularity) organization open to all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, or political preference. Rotary Clubs in different parts of the world corroborate to do projects. **Rotary Clubs of El Cajon Sunset and Sinkor** in Monrovia will partner on this project. Dr. Angela Benson MD is the President (17/18).

**Richard Makau** is President of the El Cajon Sunset Rotary Club. He works tirelessly on behalf of the needy in many African countries.

**Lily Alba**, age 10, has been collecting books for kids for over 5 years. She donates books to schools and children who don't have books. As a Rotar-kid she is supported enthusiastically by her fellow Rotarians at La Mesa Sunrise Rotary.

**Robert Saah** founded and led Books for Liberia. He is from Liberia and is a student at Mesa College. His organization collects school supplies for K-12 grade children in Liberia.

**We Care Foundation** is a Liberia nonprofit volunteer organization. It has duty free privileges in Liberia.

**SCOPE/LOGISTICS:**

**COLLECTION OF FUNDS:**

Fund collection and distribution will be done through CAV**.**

**COLLECTION OF BOOKS AND SHIPPING:**

ROTARY CLUB OF EL CAJON SUNSET will lead book collection.

Books are currently being collected through Rotary Clubs, local Libraries, from School Districts and project partners. Books are being housed in project partner garages waiting for storage container. If we receive large donations of books in areas outside the San Diego County, we may have to rent a truck to pick them up.

Books will be assembled and sorted out into grade level or by subject, scanned to generate packaging labels and boxed by volunteers at a designated location. Sealed boxes will be weighed and arranged on top of pallets and bound with shrink wrap paper ready for shipping. The pallet will be placed inside a rental storage box until book collection is complete. The rented storage container will be housed at a donated space and locked when not in use. Once container is full and shipping is initiated, the pallets will be transferred to a shipping container brought from the port and then transported by truck back to Los Angeles port.

In Los Angeles port, container will be inspected by US Customs; a shipping agent will represent us. If container and its contents pass customs inspection, it will be transferred to the ship for Liberia journey.

If container is tagged for extra detailed inspection by customs, it will be pulled out of the container lot and Customs will determine the type/scope of inspection. This process has extra cost for transportation, storage and inspection (see #12 of budget outline). Once the secondary inspections pass, then container is loaded to the ship for Liberia journey. This process takes place outside the port at a bonded inspection facility.

**CLEARENCE OF CUSTOMS AT MONROVIA PORT AND BOOK DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS IN LIBERIA WILL BE DONE BY**:

ROTARY CLUB OF SINKOR

THE WE CARE FOUNDATION (will provide duty free privilege certificate at port of entry)

THE ROBERT – MASSAQUOI-FOUNDATION

The Rotary Club of Sinkor and WE CARE FOUNDATION of Liberia (WCF) will clear the container at Monrovia port. WCF has duty free privilege certificate with the Liberian Government. The privilege will allow for the book container to enter the country duty free. There will be minimal charges for administration.

The books will be off loaded from the container into storage and distribution will start immediately. The government is aware of this project and will notify teachers to collect books. For the counties that are far from Monrovia, the books will be transported to county education office for distribution via small hired trucks.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The Rotary Club of El Cajon Sunset, Sinkor in Monrovia, We Care Foundation and Robert-massaqoui Foundation will have a signed MOU before the books depart San Diego. The MOU will state: *Books are donated for the children of Liberia.* The MOU will make it very clear that books are not for sale and/or for trade.

One member of El Cajon or CAV will travel to Liberia for photo/video documentation of book distribution.

It is hoped future trips to Liberia would occur to follow up project impact and strengthen friendships.

**BUDGET PROPOSAL for CAV Board Approval:**

| Item# | Qty | Guideline description of Liberia book project cost | Unit Price | Discount | Line Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 1 | Publicity. Flyer design and printing | $450.00 | Donated Skill | $0 |
| 2 | 1 | Fundraising | $350.00 | Donated | $0 |
| 3 | 1 | Book Collection | $700.11 | Donated | $0 |
| 4 | 1 | Truck Rental for book pickup in LA | $800.00 |  | $800.00 |
| 5 | 1 | Storage Container (40ft for 6 months) | $900.00 |  | $900.00 |
| 6 | 1 | Packaging (boxes, tape, labels, weigh machine, lunch) | $400.00 |  | $400.00 |
| 7 | 1 | Book Scanner and printer (property of CAV) | $150.00 |  | $150.00 |
| 8 | 1 | Pallets (some donated, and repaired, others purchased) | $300.00 |  | $300.00 |
| 9 | 1 | Transfer boxes from storage to shipping container | $400.00 |  | $400.00 |
| 10 | 1 | San Diego to Los Angeles book container transport | $2,500.00 |  | $2,500.00 |
| 11 | 1 | Shipping book container LA to Monrovia, Liberia | $5,000.00 |  | $5,000.00 |
| \*12 | 1 | US Customs Tag (Random Detailed Inspection) | \*$3,000.00 |  | $3,000.00 |
| 13 | 1 | Liberia Customs entry/Demurrage | $500.00 |  | $500.00 |
| 14 | 1 | Book Distribution in Liberia | $1,000.00 |  | $1,000.00 |
|  |  | Thank you for prompt approval! |  | Total | $14,950.00 |

**\***In the event of no random detailed inspection #12, request to use funds for one airline ticket to Liberia for video/photo documentation = $2800.00

Thank you!

Respectively submitted,

Richard Makau (on behalf of the team), February 12, 2017.