



Photo Credit:  
Leading Through Living Community LLC  
Lynita Mitchell-Blackwell et al.

## GETTING STARTED

### REGISTER FOR A BOOK DRIVE

This is the most important step. You can't receive a school match without completing it. By [registering for a book drive](#), you will learn:

- What school you are matched with and in what African community
- The types of children's books you'll need to collect
- The deadline for mailing your books

### FIND BOOK DONORS

We have received books from many sources, so get creative! Be sure to remember what types of books you'll need via your ALP match email.

Some great places and people to contact for book donations are schools, local businesses, libraries, community groups, youth groups, sports groups, faith-based organizations, service organizations, neighbors, friends and relatives.

#### THINGS YOU'LL NEED

**A DEDICATED TEAM OF PEOPLE TO HELP WITH YOUR BOOK DRIVE**

**SPACE TO STORE, SORT, AND PACK YOUR BOOKS**

**A PROJECT CALENDAR WITH AN OFFICIAL START DATE\* FOR YOUR DRIVE**

\*ALLOW 6 WEEKS OR MORE FROM THE TIME YOU ANNOUNCE YOUR BOOK DRIVE TO THE END.







Holy Trinity International School, Ghana

## WHERE WE START LIBRARIES

We establish partnerships with African-based organizations that specialize in education and library or community development.

We look for countries that have a significant need for books and feature political stability, reliable transport of books to destinations, and a network of local organizations capable of organizing our books into real, working libraries.

WE HAVE HELPED START LIBRARIES IN 12 OF AFRICA'S 24 ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES. WE'RE CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN:

- Botswana
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Sierra Leone
- Uganda

## GET MORE BUZZ GOING

Having support will help you gather all the books and funds you need as seamlessly as possible.

- Develop a book drive in action page on Classy (see container manager for more information) and share it across your network
- Shout out your book drive on social media with a post
- Livestream parts of your book drive to rally online support across social media channels like YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, and Twitch
- Create a Facebook page for your book drive
- Be visible in your community - You can print flyers to put on bulletin boards, make displays for schools and community spaces (stores, etc.)
- Attend local events to spread the message
- Make decorative donation bins with your friends, family, workplace, or community to collect books
- Host a book collection competition with your friends, family, and/or coworkers
- Visit the African Library Project website for resources we have created specifically to help book drive organizers share why this work is important







Los Alamos Fire Department Recruit Academy et al.



Karabo Megaming Ramosamo et al.

# FUNDRAISE FOR YOUR BOOK DRIVE

Shipping 1,000 books is no easy feat. While finding inventive ways to raise money, keep the following in mind.









- You can fundraise money from multiple sources so get creative! The best kind of fundraiser gets your entire community into the spirit of contributing to a great cause!
- **About \$250\* will cover the cost of shipping your books to our warehouse in the US while the remaining \$250 is your international shipping donation, which covers shipping to Africa.**
- A library of more than 1,000 books - or of heavy, hardcover books - will increase US mailing costs.
- If you use websites like GoFundMe, as many successful book drive organizers have, remember that GoFundMe will charge a 10% fee for all funds raised.
- Include some educational content in your fundraiser to spread the love of Africa and the country you are donating to. Our resource page can help.

**\*About \$250.00 will go towards mailing to New Orleans warehouse. This may vary based on the weight of your books. Therefore, book drive organizers should plan to raise slightly more than the \$500.00 required.**

# FUNDRAISING IDEAS

## FROM PREVIOUS BOOK DRIVE ORGANIZERS TO YOU

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-  Launch a “Give Something Up” campaign to encourage people to give something up and donate the money saved to sponsor a library. This might be a morning cup of coffee, a newspaper or magazine, a movie, a dessert, etc. There is a long list of things that we can do without for a day, and this helps us think about how valuable a small personal sacrifice of ours can be in making a difference to another. Try for 100% participation no matter how small the donation.
-  Host a geography or spelling bee and feature African sites and words? The Zambezi River flows between what two countries? Can you spell Ouagadougou? Charge entry fees and admission fees. Get local personalities to enter! Get press and with it more books and monetary donations
-  Ask the principal or favorite teacher(s) if they will support your efforts by challenging the school to do something crazy if you reach your book and fundraising goals. For example, get a Mohawk haircut in front of the entire school, wear an embarrassing costume, or become a human ice cream sundae. Kids can vote with their wallets on whether the principal or a teacher should dye their hair pink or purple :) Or they can cast votes of confidence for \$1 each on which teachers will win an arm wrestling contest.
-  Ask for donations from parents and students. Some people do not have books to donate but are glad to support the project financially.
-  Ask a local restaurant if they will donate a percentage (usually about 15%) of all the meals purchased by your supporters on a certain day or week. This attracts new and different clientele to the restaurant. The website GroupRaise makes it easy to identify restaurants in your area that support nonprofits in this way and to request their help.
-  Ask every child in your class/school to do chores for change at home or for neighbors and donate their wages to the African Library Project.
-  Request a grant from your school's student council or parent organization.
-  [Find more fundraising ideas on our website.](#)