



The Learning Foundation-Sierra Leone

July 2013

READ TO LEARN

IN THIS ISSUE

Introducing TLF

Dear friends,

Thanks for reading this first edition of our quarterly newsletter. With this edition, we would like to introduce you to the Learning Foundation and provide an update on our work.

Who we are

The Learning Foundation (TLF) is a non-profit organization working to improve literacy in Sierra Leone.

What we do

Our mission is to develop curious and avid readers in Sierra Leone, who are engaged in their own learning. Through our school library projects we hope to inspire literacy in learners of all ages, but especially of students, in Sierra Leone.

We provide after-school programs in libraries to improve student's academic achievement and social and emotional well-being.

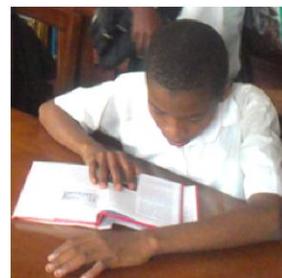
We promote literacy activities to increase student's literacy skills as well

as support teachers and librarians through ongoing training.

Our focus will be on junior secondary school students, because adolescence is a critical time in a young person's life, and it is when students make important decisions about their personal and academic lives.

What success looks like?

Schools across the country with libraries where students and teachers gather to access a range of print and electronic resources that support learning; 70% of students have borrowed books from the library or made use of supplemental education services; administrators and community members have acquired the skills needed to sustain and manage the library.



Our First Library

Read all about our first library at Services JSS

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Expanding our Reach...

Read about strategic use of partnerships to reach more schools and children

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Our First Library

In January 2013, we opened our first library at the Services Junior Secondary School, Wilberforce.

Prior to The Learning Foundation's involvement, the school had no library. Over 90 percent of students had never even been in a library. The school provided the room, and we worked in partnership to convert it into a functional library. We refurbished the space, provided furniture, bookshelves and books!

The Library currently serves 500 students and 20 teachers. We have a signed MOU with the school to ensure the commitment of the school and community in maintaining the library. TLF will support the school for three years, in which time it will ensure that the school has a system in place to



support and maintain the library.

The funds and resources for creating this library came from various individuals, businesses, and organizations in Sierra Leone who participated in our fundraising launch in March 2012. In addition to monetary donations, we received donations of services such as electrical wiring, transportation, and engineering services.

Thanks to all our donors for making this library a reality!

FAST FACTS

7%

Schools with functioning libraries in Sierra Leone

2%

Percentage of children aged 0-5 years living in households where at least three children's books are present

Expanding our Reach

RISE Network

TLF spearheaded an initiative to form a network of organizations committed to the development of libraries and reading rooms in Sierra Leone, as a way to expand our work. Five NGOs joined us in 2012 to form *The Reading Initiative Salone (RISE) Network*, and we have since become a partner of The African Library Project (ALP) in the US.

ALP will coordinate book drives in the United States to provide books for school libraries and will ship a container

of books each year that we will use to establish at least 30 libraries.

We will receive our first container of books from ALP in September 2013 for the 35 schools that were selected this year.

Our fundraising efforts include a fund to cover annual cost for clearing of container, storage, distribution and transportation of books to the various schools, as well as follow up support.

How you can help

Our goal this year is to support 5 new libraries, and we need your help.

Cash donation:

- \$100 will provide training for 1 librarian
- \$250 will provide supplies and stationery for 1 library and equipment
- \$500 will provide stipend for 1 librarian for 1 year
- \$1000 will provide necessary furniture (bookshelves, tables, and chairs, lockers, etc.) for a library
- \$2500 will rehabilitate a space for a library
- \$6000 will rehabilitate a library, pay librarian stipend, and provide all necessary supplies, and furniture.

In-kind contributions

- We need office/library equipment, printers, computers, etc. We also need internet service, construction services, building materials, etc.

Volunteer

- We need your time. Be a speaker at a school. Run an after-school program. Offer a service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

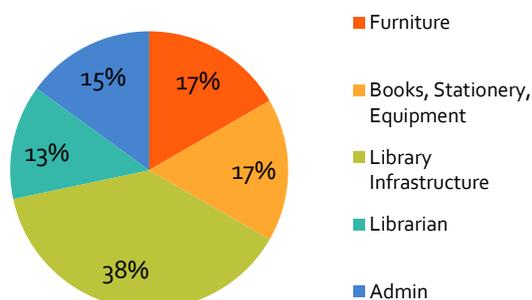
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Breakdown of Library Cost



For cash donations:

- Make check payable to The Learning Foundation and drop off at our office at 91 Main Motor Road, Wilberforce. We can also arrange to pick up.
- Deposit directly into our bank account at Guarantee Trust Bank: 204753811058
- If you are in the USA or UK, we are working on partnerships with other charities so that you can send tax-deductible contributions. Send an email if you want to contribute

Team TLF

The Learning Foundation's Board of Directors includes individuals from private and public sectors that are committed to the goal of improving learning and the quality of education. They include Mr. Alex Kamara, Mr. Sheka Forna, Mr. Aloomo Kamara, Mrs. Edna Thomas, Dr. Bidemi Carrol (Founding Member), Ms. Sidratu Koroma (Founding Member), and Ms. Ndye Njie (Founding Member). Together this group has decades of experience in public and private sector management, education, international development, human resource management, and organizational development.