

Reading the way to Runner Up

Student volunteers from UoK win National Fundraising Runner Up 2009

Louise Phillips

During student volunteering week READ Book Project Kent raised an amazing £1457.37 as part of READ International's new national campaign - the week-long 'Britain's Biggest Book Drive' urging students and university staff



members to donate any unwanted books along with 50p to send them to Tanzania. Each of the 17 university book projects were given the target of raising £1000 each but here at Kent we smashed it, holding cake and book sales, a street collection and our Roots N Rhythms event. We also had a visit from our local MP, Julian Brazier and were given an award by our National Project Co-ordinator to recognise our efforts, only closely beaten by Warwick University Book Project, who raised an extra £100. The

fundraising and book collecting efforts across the country during this week, involving 500 student volunteer, helped READ International to get ever closer to sending the estimated 300,000 textbooks to Tanzania this summer and achieved its aim in celebrating the work of student volunteers ongoing since September. The Book Projects are a flagship branch of the charity READ International which works to help young Tanzanians achieve development through the empowerment of education whilst promoting global citizenship, student volunteering and recycling in the UK by collecting disused textbooks from UK schools and redistributing them to schools in Tanzania whilst giving school presentations to

donating schools here. The 17 university Book Projects are cost-effectively student-led with each having targets of raising

**“This is one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty in Africa”
Minister for Education
Tanzania**

£7,500 and collecting 22,000 books by June 1st. Our successful efforts here at Kent to reach these targets have meant that we are taking our books to Tanzania in July in our own shipping container and distributing them to 20 schools, a regional library, teaching training colleges and to an open university in the region of Morogoro. 7 of us will be going to Tanzania to help personally distribute the books by 4x4. Our task now is to continue to raise

the remaining £3,000 to reach our final £7,500 target and sort the books that we have collected from local secondary schools to send off on May 11th. We will be promoting our final campus book drives from the start of the summer term, as any university level textbooks can be sold by Better World Books online who will give us half of the profits, so if you have any unwanted textbooks please put them in one of our drop boxes positioned in each of the college receptions and in the library café. Also, come to our next ROOTS N RHYTHMS event with a selection of REGGAE/DUBSTEP/DRUM & BASS, on 9th April to celebrate the last night of term at Darwin's Missing Link from 8pm – Midnight. All £3.50 entry help send textbooks to Tanzania. Further, if you want to sponsor us doing the Three Peaks Challenge over the Easter holidays please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/threepkaks-kentbookproject>.

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