

READ International:

The READ Book Project and Community Book Drive

About READ International

READ International began life in 2003 as a Book Project based at Nottingham University, founded by a group of socially entrepreneurial students following a gap year teaching in Tanzania. Now there are close to 1,000 student volunteers involved, operating from a network of over 45 university sites across the UK.

We collect school textbooks and children's literature from primary and secondary schools throughout the UK, sort the books and send the most relevant, up-to-date, and high quality books to schools in Tanzania and Uganda. Any books collected which are not relevant or appropriate to send are sold online through our partnership with **Better World Books** or recycled to generate funding.

Tanzania and Uganda follow a secondary school syllabus almost identical to the UK, but teachers often lack the resources needed to teach. In the UK newer editions of books inevitably replace the old (very often only a couple of years old though), which makes for good quality, but technically out of date textbooks filling up school store rooms or ending up in landfill. We send them to where they are really needed, improving access to education for thousands of children in East Africa.

It never costs READ more than 50 pence to move one book from a UK classroom into the hands of a Tanzanian school child or teacher.

READ has grown rapidly over the past three years since we launched on the national stage in the House of Commons in 2007. Since we first sent books in 2005, we have shipped a total of **564,000** books to Tanzania and are supporting the renovation of dozens of school libraries so that access to these books is also improved. We have also sent several tonnes of sports kits, science equipment, and school stationery. In Tanzania and Uganda we work closely with the Ministry of Education to ensure that our books go to where they are most needed. Our work in UK schools has also developed. We now deliver a workshop programme called Think Global, developed in partnership with Oxfam GB, to secondary schools throughout the UK helping to raise awareness of global citizenship.

We have also successfully established some very exciting partnerships: **Big Yellow Self Storage** provides us with free storage and a home for all of the books we collect at any of their sites across the UK; **British Airways** has provided us with many free flights and heavily discounted ones for all of our volunteers; **Latham and Watkins**, a city law firm, provides pro bono legal support; **KPMG** has provided us with a free office space in Dar es Salaam; **DHL** provides free transportation around the

UK and provides discounts for our international freight; **Staples** works with us to collect disused stationery from thousands of UK schools and students at all of their UK stores; **Waterstone's** collects books for us in their stores across the West Midlands; and the **British Library** selected us as their Corporate Social Responsibility partner for 2009.

Since registering as a charity we have had our work recognised in a number of ways. READ International was winner of '**Best New Charity**' in the **Charity Times Awards 2007** and we were finalists in the **Guardian Charity of the Year Award 2009**. Our Founder and Director Robert Wilson has been winner of two prestigious Unltd Awards, been a finalist and winner of the Enterprising Young Brit Awards 2006 and 2010 respectively, won the Social Enterprise Day Award 2006, and been a finalist in the Edge Upstarts Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2008.

Our Vision

We see a world where young global citizens achieve development through the power of education.

Our Mission

READ International delivers collaborative, student led initiatives to improve access to education across the world and increase youth participation in the global community.

Our Values

READ Takes Action...*We take a 'never say never' attitude to global issues and embrace all things innovative, exciting and resourceful. We have a bias for action and we never shy away from a challenge.*

READ is Cross Cultural...*We open young peoples' minds and encourage them to become global citizens. We believe that an informed global community will find the solutions to world issues.*

READ is Youth Led...*We rely on the spirit of young people, their passion for volunteering and their interest in the global community. We never take this for granted; we listen to their voice and let them take the lead.*

READ is Collaborative...*We firmly believe that there is no limit to the things we can achieve when we all work together. We bring together a variety of individuals, groups, communities, and cultures to achieve our mission.*

READ is Win-Win...*There is mutuality to everything we do; from our student volunteers, our beneficiaries in East Africa, right through to our corporate partners. Everybody benefits from READ's great work.*

READ Book Projects

The READ Book Project takes one academic year from start to finish and requires **4 student Project Interns** who are responsible for the four key aspects of the project: **Fundraising, Campus Book Drive, Resources Collection, and Think Global.**

In a **READ Book Project**, the Project Intern roles are:

Campus Book Drive – responsible for coordinating the collection of books from their main university campus, most of which will not be suitable for Tanzania but can be sold through our partners Better World Books to add another funding stream to the project.

There will be three focus weeks throughout the year during which the project will dedicate extra effort to collect and sort books from their university campus.

Fundraising – responsible for leading a team in raising a grand total of £7,500 towards READ International project costs. They must plan and organise fundraising events, contact local trust funds and businesses for funding and motivate their volunteers to plan their own fundraising events. They must also keep track of the project finances.

Resources Collection – responsible for leading volunteers in gathering approximately 40,000 textbooks (from approximately 50 schools) and other educational resources including sports equipment and teaching aids, and collecting them at a central location. They must then coordinate sorting through the textbooks, matching the relevant books, of which there are usually 25,000, to the Tanzanian syllabus and preparing the books so they are ready to be shipped.

Think Global – responsible for leading volunteers in delivering a total of 10 workshops to key stage 3 students in local secondary schools. They are responsible for recruiting five other volunteers to be trained to deliver these workshops by READ International and Oxfam.

Any school that is interested in a workshop will then have to be contacted and a workshop (delivered by one or two trained volunteers) planned. They will then provide the schools with the materials they need to deliver subsequent lessons which will lead the students to carry out a fundraising event, a book drive or a campaign.

All four Project Interns work together towards recruiting volunteers to support them and the completion of the project.

Community Book Drives

The Community Book Drives are based in universities where a Book Project is not present. The student volunteers running the Community book Drive should aim to collect books from all parts of their community, including businesses, Scouts and Guides, libraries and individuals.

In a Community Book Drive the two Project Intern roles are:

Campus Book Drive – responsible for leading volunteers in collecting a minimum of 3,000 books and other educational resources from across their local community over the course of a year. They must coordinate matching books to the Tanzanian/Ugandan syllabus and also sorting the remainder for sale

or recycling. READ and Better World Books provide publicity materials, Book Drop Boxes, and training and guidance for all aspects of book collecting.

Fundraising – responsible for leading a team in raising a grand total of at least £1000 towards READ International project costs. They should plan and organise fundraising events, contact local trust funds and businesses for funding, and motivate their volunteers to plan their own fundraising events. They must also keep track of the project finances.

There is also the option to extend the fundraising target by an additional £2000, which will allow the team to carry out a library refurbishment project in East Africa at the end of the year.

The two Project Interns work together towards recruiting volunteers to support them and the completion of the project.