

Rotary Books for the World

Geographic Areas of Operation

Southern Africa (South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi), West Africa (Ghana), India (Pune, Chennai), Pakistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Nicaragua

Areas in start-up process: Afghanistan, Guyana

Publications Available

New and used primary, secondary, and college-level textbooks; and general reading for libraries. Occasional donations of used school furniture. Occasional donations of new computers. Occasional donations of medical supplies, wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, etc.

Program Description/Services Available

Rotary Books for the World works through partnerships with Rotary Clubs in developing countries. Once a partnership is established, Rotary Books for the World ships 40' containers loaded with 40,000 pounds of palletized used books and donates the containers to the receiving Rotary Clubs to use for humanitarian service projects in local communities. Neither the books nor the containers may be sold. The books are donated to schools, medical facilities, pre-schools, elder care facilities, libraries, and various other organizations with a need for educational materials. The organizations visit distribution centers established by our Rotary partners to select the material that is appropriate for their facilities.

The partner groups are responsible for customs clearance, establishing and managing a distribution center, publicity, and verification that requesting organizations are legitimate and have genuine needs. The partner facilities keep records of the distributions, noting the receiving facilities and the number of books taken. The partners send periodic reports of their activities.

Comments/Special Considerations

Rotary Books for the World does not have the volunteer force to sort the books as they are received. We receive many shipments of pre-palletized books directly from school systems. At times, we receive donations of up to 100,000 pounds of books a week, hence the need to display books for selection at the destination centers. We are able to separate general reading material from textbooks for some partners who do not need textbooks.

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