

2015

www.shareliteracy.org

In 2015, 60 agencies serving at-risk children have been provided with 15,299 books. In many cases, these agencies also received Teacher Activity Guides and audio CDs for classroom use and sight-impaired students. In addition, through a similar program, the Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE) in Canada ordered 15,000 books to be printed for distribution in Canada over the next year. For more information on ICE in this effort, visit: www.iceeducation.org. The Learning Resource Alliance (LRA) in the Chicago area also purchased books and Teacher Guides to distribute to schools in that area this year and in 2016.

Since we started Share Literacy in 2000, we've distributed over **666,900** books to schools, youth programs, homeless shelters, hospitals & clinics, and community service centers, etc. Many organizations, some of the most current are listed on the next page, depend on our help every year to brighten up the lives of the children they serve. Educators around the country continue to use our excellent standards-aligned teacher lesson plans available as free downloads on the HoopoeKids.com site.

For the last 14 years, with the help of donors and volunteers, through the **Hoopoe Share Literacy Holiday Give-Away Program**, we have given Hoopoe books and kits in English and Spanish-English bilingual editions as holiday gifts for young children in shelters and in schools serving at-risk children throughout the country. This holiday season, with the help of volunteer Share Chapters in California, DC area, and Massachusetts, we **distributed almost 15,294 books and 1,400 audio CDs to accompany some of these books** and some of the books were in **1450 Home Literacy Kits** donated to the youngest readers. Each kit contained a Hoopoe story by Idries Shah, an audio version of the story, and a *Read Together* Newsletter giving tips and advice to parents on reading regularly with their children. And thanks to ICE volunteers in Canada (www.iceeducation.org), books were distributed in Canada and Mexico again this year.

A special printing of 6000 books for the Holiday Book drive were delivered late in December (due to a delay at U.S. Customs), and the Chapter was able to distribute **3,796 books in Virginia, Maryland, and DC** and will deliver the remainder later in 2016. Additionally, in 2015 the Chapter distributed 582 books to programs in Maryland and New York and were able to sell books in the annual Alternative Gift Fair in Takoma Park, MD.

"I think that we've learned that early reading is more than just a nice thing to do with kids, it really does have a very important role to play in building brain networks that will serve children long-term as they transition from verbal to reading." —*Dr. John S. Hutton, a clinical research fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center* (Read about Dr. Hutton's MRI study in the latest Share Literacy newsletter on the www.shareliteracy.org website.)



Students in a Worcester MA schools display their books received during the 2015 holiday season through the “Worcester: The City That Reads” program directed by John Monfredo.

SHARE LITERACY OUTREACH IN 2015

Thanks to the support and donations from volunteers and sponsors, we were enabled, once again, to extend our services to help children and their teachers, providing programs for many agencies, including the following:

- **Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, San Jose, CA:** Since 2007, we have provided children in this school district with books of their own, and this year many teachers and hundreds of students expressed their gratitude, with even a complete YouTube “Thank You” message from Mrs. Wang's 2nd Grade Class in the San Antonio School of Alum Rock Union School District. Alum Rock schools received 4,881 Hoopoe books this year for grades TK-3 – and almost 1,200 Neem the Half-Boy books (half English and half English-Spanish bilingual) were given out to 2nd graders who made this video. To see it, visit our website www.shareliteracy.org.



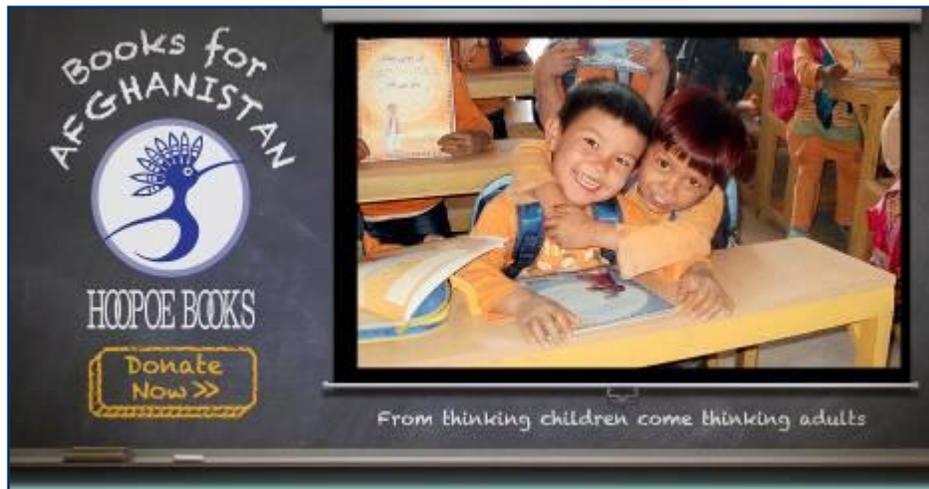
Children in the Junior Giants program of Sunnyvale CA Safety Dept hold up their books. This group will receive another set of books in the Summer 2016.

- **Reading Bonanza in the Park, East Palo Alto, CA:** “I wanted to bring this event to our youth because of the impact books made in my life. Growing up poor and disadvantaged, my mother often took us to places that were free including the park and the library. **I was able to go to Stanford despite my circumstances because being able to read at a young age gave me an edge.** With the internet and TV entertaining our youth and taking away their attention, I wanted to remind our community about the wealth and power of books.... **Thank you [Share Literacy] for your continued support of our event! We really appreciate it!!”** -- *Marlayna Tuiasosopo, event creator and organizer*
- **McCollam Elem., San Jose, CA:** Thank you and your organization Hoopoe Books Share Literacy for your kind and generous gift of books to the children in my 1st grade class. **They were stunned when they learned you had given them their very own book!”** -- *Mindy Hoskins, Teacher*



A little reader from Reading Bonanza

Books for Afghanistan Program
Repatriation of Traditional Teaching-Stories to Aid Literacy
www.booksforafghanistan.org



Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have now distributed over **4 million** Hoopoe books in Dari-Pashto and English since January 2007 when we first obtained the Afghan Ministry of Education (MOE) approval to provide these books and began our program.

In spite of increased security issues, and the disruption of electrical power by Taliban insurgents, our intrepid partners, **Khatiz Organization for Rehabilitation**, printed another 83,500 books this year, and distributed another 212,000 books to NGOs helping children, among them are: the Aga Khan Foundation, Zeyar Civil Society, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association, Lamia Afghan Foundation, the Afghan Mobile Mini Children's Circus, and the British Council.



The **Afghan Volunteer Women's Association (AVWA)** took books to distribute to girls in the school they run in Bojasar, a rural area of mud villages about an hour from Kabul. Here's what they write:

"The children were very happy when they received these story books. They were not familiar with such books, and they are very happy that books are in 2 languages. They said that they can now read Pashto as well. They were grateful and very happy."



This year, in spite of increased difficulty getting around the country, performers in the **Afghan Mobile Mini Circus for Children** were able to distribute 8,700 Hoopoe Dari-Pashto bilingual books to children [photos above] not only in Kabul and Nangarhar, but also to Mazar and Andkhoy in the north.

This fall, we provided 8,800 books and teacher guides to the **Lamia Afghan Foundation** for their newest school for girls. And 500 of each of our 12 titles were donated to the many young people confined in juvenile jails in Kabul city. These girls and boys are often the innocent victims, rather than the perpetrators, and in too many cases can never return home. Chain-link fences close them off from each other and from the world. Our hope is to bring a little light into each young person's life by giving them each at least one book to own and share with others.

A Unique Library in Bamyan: Saber Hussein has created a unique mobile library for children in his hometown of Bamyan in central Afghanistan. Mr. Hussein has become well known in the area for distributing books to children from a box on the back of his bicycle. In the past, villagers have been wary of outsiders appearing on bicycles because bicycles are known to have been used for suicide attacks. Now, when children see Saber Hussein peddling along, they happily come out to receive new books and to return those they've already read.



The British Council in Afghanistan Uses Hoopoe in Their Teacher Trainings: In the fall of last year the British Council purchased 52 copies of each of our English Hoopoe Books by Idries Shah for their pre-service teachers in teacher training colleges in 10 provinces around Afghanistan. Their aim is to make English language teaching in schools more communicative and effective. Just before the holidays, Jon De Ath, the Head of Teacher Development sent the following note and photos:



"Thought I'd send you a mail with some photos of some of the Teacher Trainers from the national Teacher Training colleges, using some of Hoopoe folk tales in a training session (and one of cascade training back in Nuristan).

They were extremely popular and all 52 of them went away with a set of 8 books to use in the 2-year diploma courses, to encourage storytelling in the English classroom. Feedback was very positive and they mentioned that they found this the most interesting and useful session of the 4 they received."

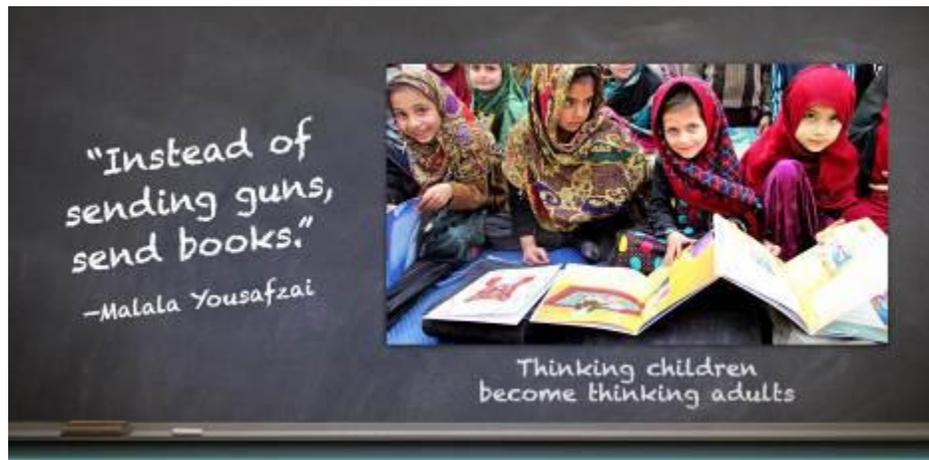
Books For Afghanistan Website (www.booksforafghanistan.org) & Newsletters: Our website allows readers to find opportunities to donate easily and to purchase gift cards and greetings cards to use all during the year – and 100% of each gift going towards the print and distribution cost of books for Afghan children. The site also has great ideas for fundraising including an excellent informational film produced by Gerry Cullen and available in UK and USA formats, a PowerPoint presentation, flyers and posters – all downloadable. For a comprehensive view of our program, including

downloadable resources, great photos of children with the books, copies of articles from *The Washington Post*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and other media, photos and teacher feedback, and, of course, for ways to help, please visit our website: <http://booksforafghanistan.org>.

Books for Pakistan

Traditional Teaching-Stories to Aid Literacy

www.booksforpakistan.org



Since 2011, our Books for Pakistan program has provided more than **70,000 bilingual English-Urdu and Urdu-Pashto editions** of ten Idries Shah's retelling for children of traditional tales from the region. These ten titles are now available in Pakistan in Urdu-English, Urdu-Pashto, Urdu-Sindh and Urdu-Balochi editions. Our printer in Karachi is able to truck books to any Province.

With the help of the NGOs Alif Laila Book Bus Society, HOPE, BRAC and Khwendo Kor we were able to provide 9,200 books to children in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), many of whom were forced to leave their homes and now reside in refugee in Peshawar and elsewhere.

Although Pakistan's national language is Urdu and their official language English, the majority of children's primary languages are different. Recent studies recommend that children learn to read in their native tongue and to accommodate this Hoopoe this year translated and prepared ten of our titles in Urdu-Sindh and Urdu-Balochi editions. We hope to raise the funds to print and distribute these in 2016 along with additional copies of the two editions now in print.



On August 14th, in celebration of Independence Day, the Alif Laila Book Bus Society in collaboration with the PHA Foundation and Hoopoe Books launched the **StoryWalk Project** in six of Lahore's parks. A total of fifteen children's books published by Hoopoe Books and Alif Laila were displayed on large flexes in these parks for children and their families to read and enjoy.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED IN EARLY 2016: A new mobile/Google-friendly website is up and running now. Please visit www.booksforpakistan.org.