

Donation supports Ugandan library

Compiled by Leanna Jantzi.

The gift of literacy was shared this past holiday season as United Library Services generously donated to BCLA's Libraries Across Borders Interest Group in lieu of Christmas cards.

"Much as sending Christmas cards conveying holiday greetings to our customers and thanking them for their loyalty and support is important, individuals and corporations are increasingly seeking to make donations in lieu of mailing these well wishes," explained ULS's Ruth Foley. "We wanted to donate to an organization we felt was closest to who we are and what we do and Libraries Across Borders entirely fits the bill."

"Our company has been promoting literacy to Canadians since the 1920's," Foley explained. "What better way to extend that support to other communities in Canada and beyond our shores?" ULS has donated annually for several years to LAB.

The most recent recipient of ULS's generosity is Busolwe Public Library. This small and vibrant community library is found in Butaleja District in Eastern Region, Uganda. As with many libraries, Busolwe's needs list is extensive and includes items such as computers, solar panels, dual language resources in both English and Lunyole, and land to build upon.

According to Marilyn MacPherson, LAB convenor, the ULS donation along with ongoing monthly donors funded a \$3,000 gift to the library. This gift was paired with a 2012 Busolwe fund-raising initiative organized by Rhian Piprell, Director of Coquitlam Public Library, and Debbie Schachter, Director of Learning Resources at Douglas College.

This resulted in the library receiving more than \$6,000, which will be used to buy land for expansion. In 2013, LAB will continue to raise funds to help Busolwe retain its strong community library presence.

To learn more about Busolwe Public Library please visit <http://busolwepubliclibrary.yolasite.com/>.

About ULS

ULS can trace its history back to the 1920's and 30's when, from a little corner store in Calgary, Alberta, founder Leo Paperny first sold books to Calgary Public Library. As the company evolved and grew in scope to become a full-service supplier of library materials, it underwent a couple of name changes, opening its doors in Calgary as United Library Services in March, 1988. The ULS showroom and warehouse is now a bustling 45,000 sq. ft. facility and the company also has a showroom/warehouse in Burnaby, B.C. ULS is still owned by the Paperny family.

"If Leo Paperny were alive today, he would no doubt be delighted to see how far his corner store has come and to know that the book is still one of the most affordable forms of entertainment and source of knowledge around," Foley said. "And, he would be warmed by the knowledge that the company he helped build continues to support giving the gift of literacy wherever it can."

About LAB

Libraries Across Borders envisions a world in which library services exist in all communities. It is a fundamental belief of the group that literacy and access to books and information changes lives, communities and societies. With this in mind the Group seeks funds from many sources. It is then the Group's responsibility to distribute these funds impartially and independently to projects across all cultural and ethnic groups in a wide variety of locations and to ensure these funds are used effectively and efficiently.

For more information about LAB, contact librariesacrossborders@gmail.com or visit www.bcla.bc.ca/lab/default.aspx.

Leanna Jantzi is the editor of the BCLA Browser.