

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**Riecken
Community
Libraries**



Message from the President

In 2017, the world saw increasing violence and corruption in Central America, making a region living with extreme poverty, political turmoil and lack of opportunity even more challenging. For the people in many communities in Honduras and Guatemala, “safe spaces” outside of their own homes are hard to find, although desperately needed.

For 65 communities in Honduras and Guatemala, a Riecken Community Library offers such a safe public space - open to all and free of cost. Inside each library, people of all ages gather, do homework and research, improve reading skills, and access technology. As community hubs, they are meeting spaces for a variety of purposes and help advance the sustainable development of the communities.

Many people go to a library to participate in programs offered - and driven by local demand - at their local library. Programs may include support for local teachers, early childhood development and nutrition sessions,

youth and youth leadership groups, entrepreneurship, women’s leadership development, temporary health clinic days, training in use of technology, environmental sustainability and reading programs.

Riecken Community Libraries are not a solution to the problems faced in the remote, rural and generally poor communities we serve. But they provide safe, productive ways to engage those in the community to work and learn together, offer some foundation for the creation of opportunities, and leverage a model built on a partnership between communities, their municipal governments and Riecken Foundation. This model (shown later in this report), is critical in our ability to serve so many people with constrained resources.

While 2017 was overall a year focused on maintaining our libraries and programs at their current level, our librarians, limited staff and volunteers dedicated their resources and efforts to help develop educated, healthy and creative communities in Guatemala and Honduras.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Conright". The signature is written in a cursive style.

President, Riecken Community Libraries

Riecken Community Libraries: A Model for Sustainability

Many rural libraries in developing countries perish early from neglect, and lack of on-going management, relevant programs, or sustained community involvement. The key to the sustainable success of the Riecken Community Library networks in Guatemala and Honduras is the on-going cooperation between:

- * An organized group of volunteer citizens who manage and lead construction, maintenance and staffing of the library, and are responsible for the ongoing success of activities and programming
- * The municipal government that provides land and funding, and supports the library's work as a recognized part of the community infrastructure
- * The Riecken Foundation, who guides the overall establishment of the library, providing direction, financial resources, ongoing training and programming.

Community	Riecken Community Libraries	Local Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Governing Board • Local Volunteers • Local Programming Initiatives • Fundraising Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners/Donations • Technical Advice • Training • Building Construction • Institutional Visits • International Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarian's Salary • Utilities • Land/Building • Legal Recognition for Local Management





Key Riecken Library Statistics 2017

422,000

Visits in 2017 - 53% women/girls and 47% men/boys

40%

Of visitors are younger than 12 years old, 27% are 23 and older

140,000

Visitors used technology in 2017, over half of them women and girls

75,000

Technology users regularly connected to the internet

7300

Local community volunteers in 2017, including 1,100 new volunteers

265,000

Volunteer hours logged, avg. of 3 hrs/week per volunteer

\$325,000

Value at minimum wage of \$1.23USD

Where We Work

Guatemala

Population: 16,176,034

12 community libraries
in the Riecken
Guatemala Network

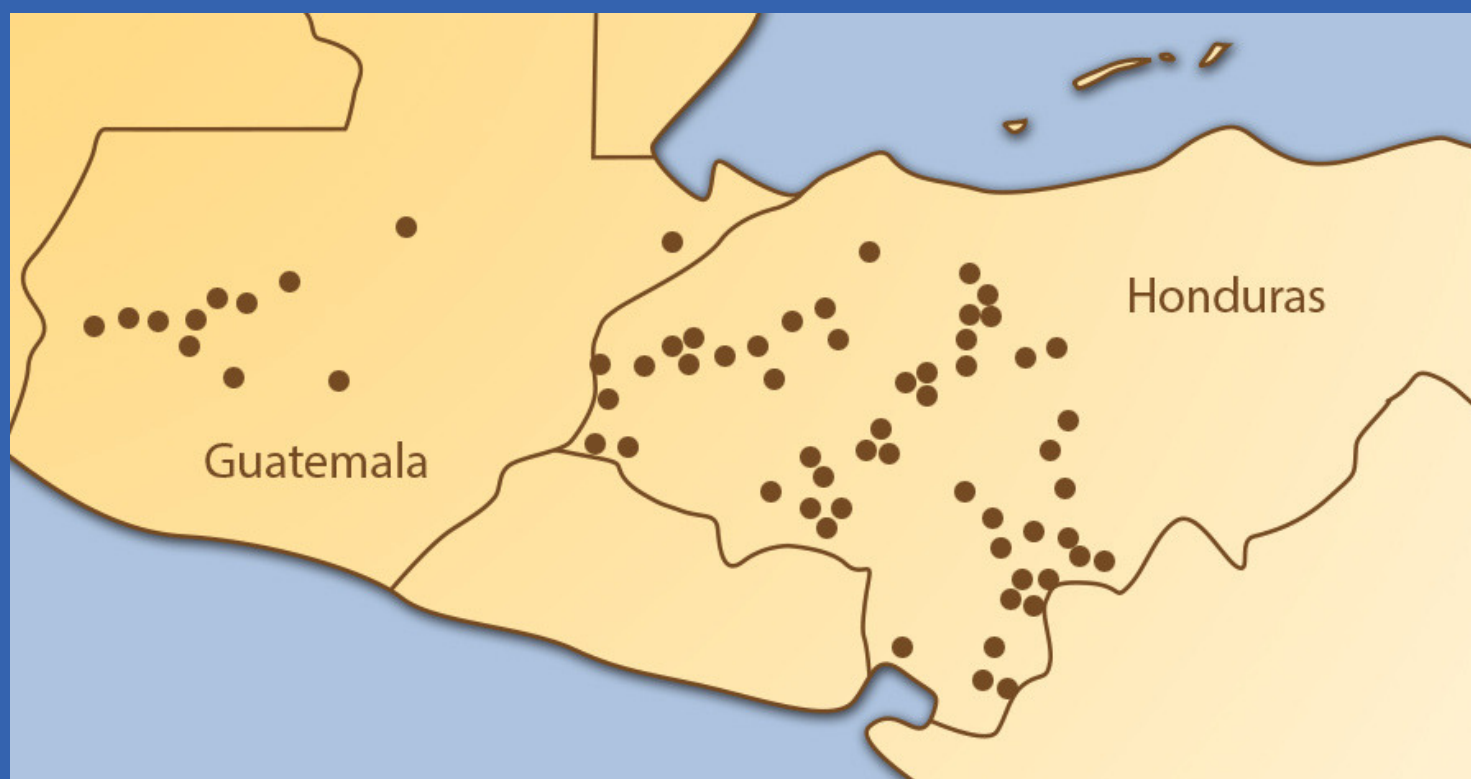
In 2017, there were
105,475 users, with the
support of 1,195
volunteers

Honduras

Population: 8,303,771

53 community libraries
in the Riecken
Honduras Network.

2017 there were
316,429 users with the
support of 6,123
volunteers



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RIECKEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY



8 AM The librarian, or in some cases a pair of librarians, opens the doors. The first students arrive, some finishing last minute details on homework, others using the Internet, if it is working, or reference books to complete school projects.



9 AM Story time for preschoolers is a time for the librarian to demonstrate the power of communicating the written word to young children, who sit in a circle and are encouraged to ask questions to clarify themes and storylines. Books include some written and illustrated by local people, published with the help of the Riecken Foundation, with topics important to the community.



In a separate room a group of new mothers and their infants are gathered to learn how to care for their new children with an early childhood development and nutrition program.



10 AM Indigenous elders – the “third generation” – arrive and use one of the spaces to tell stories and legends of the community to indigenous children. In some communities, young people have learned through these stories the locations of culturally significant landmarks and have mapped the locations, marking their GPS coordinates.



11 AM Teachers from public schools prepare lessons for afternoon classes. Young people read, socialize, and browse the Internet.

NOON At least five community volunteers help a crowd of students access reference materials and help apportion computer access.



1 PM After the mid-day rush of students subsides, a clinic is set up. Today it is a screening clinic for people with vision problems. Some will be given prescription glasses or reading glasses; others with more serious problems such as cataracts, will be referred to a mobile surgery clinic that may operate twice a month.



3 PM The board room is in use, reserved today by a group of local coffee farmers who are discussing improvement in access to markets. Also at this time the youth book club gathers around donated kindles to read and discuss the book of the week.



4 PM The library’s youth group, young people from ages 12 to 18, is refining teaching points for its technology project on internet safety for children and young people.

5 PM Students are doing homework. The librarian asks students to start wrapping up their work.



The local volunteer board, the junta directiva, meets to discuss issues impacting programs and projects, such as an offer from the Riecken Foundation to bring in two externally-funded projects that would expand the early childhood development and nutrition program, and focus on educating teachers on how to instill in children a lifelong love of reading.



Children and library volunteers help the librarian clean the library.

6 PM Library doors close for the day.

2017 Highlights

With limited new outside funding in 2017, Riecken Community Libraries in Honduras and Guatemala continued with existing programs in Early Childhood Development and Nutrition, Women's Leadership, Girl Readers and the beginning of a generous USAID/ASHA grant delivering durable commodities including books, technology, equipment and furniture.

However, each Riecken library remains open and functions offering community services, and its own vibrant community-driven programs for reading, public school support, community health and nutrition, homework sessions, community meetings. (see A Day in the Life of a Riecken Community Library.)

Emphasizing development of local leadership, reducing the digital divide in



these rural and often remote communities, and preserving oral tradition and language were key objectives.

With Gratitude to Our 2017 Supporters

USAID/ASHA
BFB Foundation
Friends of Riecken Community Libraries
Inter-American Development Bank
Government of Japan
David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Patricia Price Peterson Foundation
Board Members of Riecken Foundation
Kissick Family Foundation
Donors to Global Giving and Riecken.org
Many Thousands of Local Volunteers



Riecken Foundation Income/Expenses 2017

Riecken Foundation Income/Expenses 2017	Audited
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets:	2017
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	-
Contributions	\$209,193
Fundraising	-
Grants	\$295,241
Interest and dividends	-
Other revenue	\$121,491
Net assets released from restrictions	-
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$625,925
Expenses:	
Library programming	\$100,634
Librarians	\$7,376
New libraries	-
Library Governing Boards	\$50,168
Volunteers	\$52,682
Salaries	\$270,307
Benefits	-
Other staff expenses	\$53,826
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$13,551
Financial expenses	\$3,238
Building expenses	\$30,193
Vehicle expenses	\$5,131
Office expenses	\$19,406
Professional services	\$51,488
Riecken donations	-
Local Library Directors	-
Miscellaneous business expenses	\$33,896
Total Expenses	\$691,896
Total Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	-\$65,971
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$90,731
Net assets released from restrictions	-\$94,063
Total Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	-\$3,332
Increase in Net Assets	-\$69,303
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$283,078
Net Assets, End of Year	\$213,775

Human Resources 9%

Operations 2%

Travel 7%

Fundraising 11%

Programs 68%

External Services 3%

Percentage of Expenses by Category 2017



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