



## Dynamic Libraries, Prosperous Communities



## Libraries Generate Prosperity

Diverse World Bank studies<sup>1</sup> show that social cohesion is essential for societies to succeed economically and to achieve sustainable development. These studies also suggest that strategies to improve the economic prospects of communities should focus mainly on improved education and health services, competent and accountable political institutions, and the creation of free markets that can compete in the global economy.

From the Riecken Foundation's point of view, prosperity also means a person has the information and tools needed to live a happy and healthy life. Prosperity is not just money and goods for the wealthy; it also means addressing every individual's needs and aspirations.

Looking at prosperity in this way, I can say that Riecken Community Libraries generate prosperity in the communities they serve. Our libraries were founded with the vision to help improve the quality of life for the communities. Thanks to the joint work of the Riecken Foundation and each of the 65 partner libraries, along with municipal governments and other civil society organizations, we have witnessed real growth and quality of life improvement in the communities the Riecken libraries serve. This includes the nearly half a million people who visited the libraries last year, who had access to information and support, and found meaningful ways to engage as active and responsible citizens.

I invite you to discover how Riecken Community Libraries promote prosperous communities in Honduras and Guatemala, and to learn about our achievements in 2014.

Sincerely,

<sup>1</sup> Social Capital. <http://go.worldbank.org/TQ69E9ZTT0>



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Cartwright".

William Cartwright  
President and CEO  
Riecken Community Libraries

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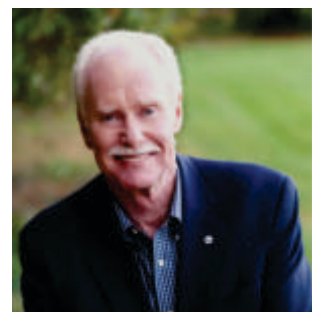
**474,240** users

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<b>65</b> Community Libraries	<b>6,413</b> volunteers
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One of the essential conditions to promote economic prosperity and sustainable development of communities is strengthened social capital. Libraries strengthen social capital by opening spaces for public participation; by helping youth promote development projects; by families and community leaders supporting reading and writing activities in schools; and by women promoting the importance of health, particularly for mothers and their young children. To encourage interaction between the different social stakeholders, greater social cohesion is needed. Community libraries, in addition to promoting the active participation of local residents, promote concrete strategies for the social cohesion needed to achieve prosperity in their communities. These strategies include activities to improve: education and health services; competent and accountable political institutions; opportunities for the creation of free markets that can compete in the global economy.



Malcolm Butler,  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors  
Riecken Foundation

*"The Board of Directors of the Riecken Foundation is not the owner of the community libraries. Owners really are the communities themselves and the library association networks. From my point of view, one of the main functions of the Riecken Foundation Board of Directors is to seek funding to help the libraries remain active."*



Riecken Community Libraries, in an effort to reduce severe educational deficiencies, support improved quality of education by providing resources and complementary programs in local schools. Where possible, Riecken also provides access to information to populations excluded in the past. Teacher training plays a large role in Riecken's work, including the introduction of technology in the classroom and dynamic techniques for teaching and reading. Examples are found in Honduran communities such as Santa Cruz de Yojoa (Cortés), Yorito (Yoro), Cuyalí (El Paraíso), San Juan Planes (Copán), and Jacaleapa (El Paraíso). These innovative communities promoted training public school teachers in creative and effective uses of technology to support their classes and keep track of students' progress.

Thanks to Riecken's training programs, teachers are improving the learning process and school performance of students from public schools in Riecken library communities, especially in the subjects of Math and Spanish. This is accomplished through the introduction of technology, including free access to the Internet and educational resources, to the classroom. Teachers were trained in effective use of tools such as complex internet searches, electronic mail, free cloud storage usage with Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, and Office Web Apps. Teachers and parents also explored the use of social networks: YouTube for education and networking for teachers, and the implementation of technological resources for the classroom, educational platforms such as Khan Academy, and WebQuest. Training adhered to the standards of the Ministry of Education's National Basic Curriculum.

## Libraries Improve Public Education

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**44,586** people  
in reading activities

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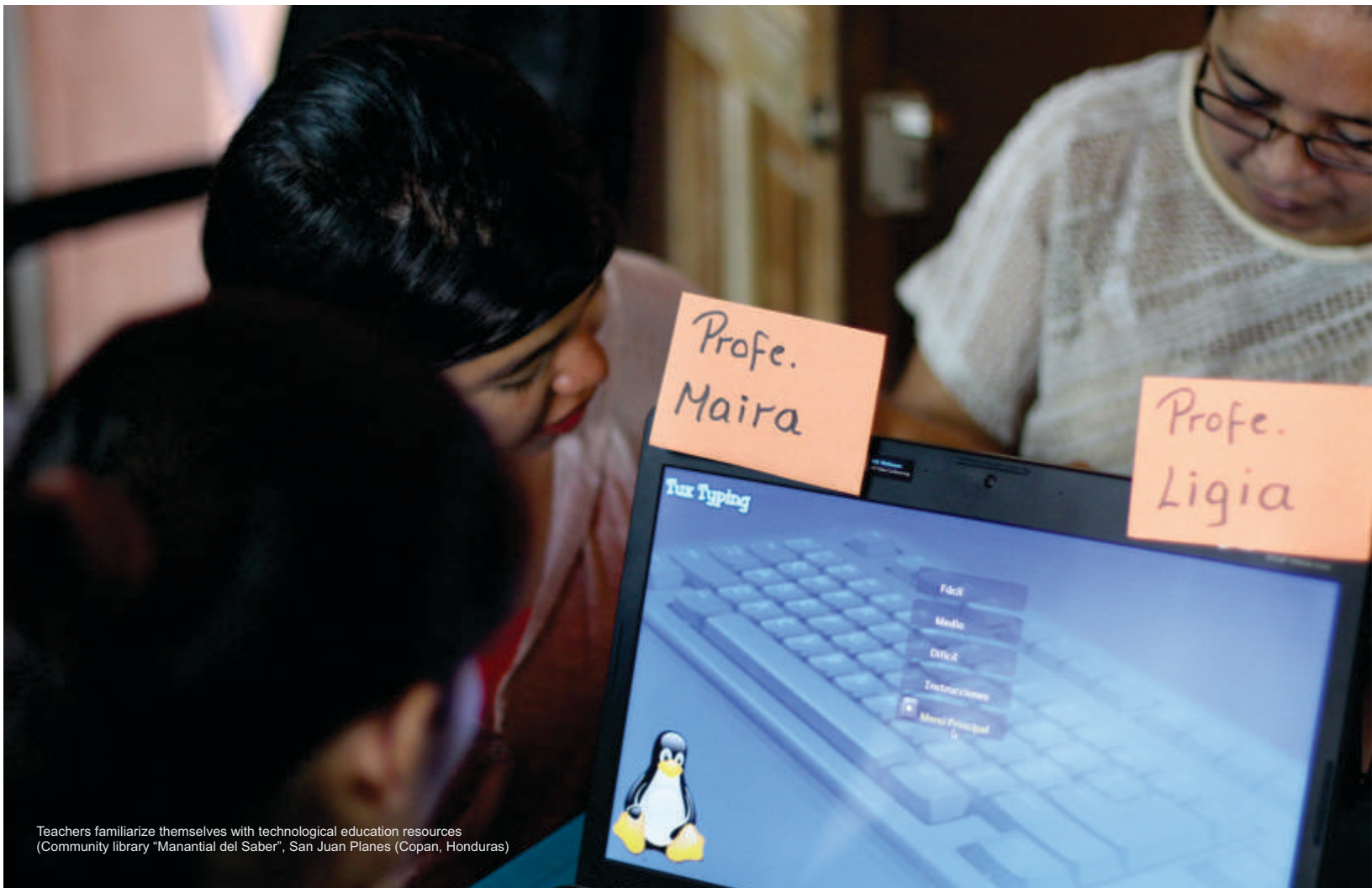
**9,753** volunteers  
supported rural  
school teachers

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Ana Cristina Moncada  
Board of Directors  
Fuente del Saber Library in Cuyalí  
(El Paraíso, Honduras).

*"The students of the school in La Unión arrived at the library to receive technology training. These children, beyond living in very remote areas of the community, had no knowledge or contact with computers. With the support of the teachers that provided some educational materials and the trainings offered by the library "Fuente del Saber", these children were exposed to a whole new world via the Internet."*



# Libraries Promote Inclusion in Education

Guatemala's Mayan rural communities strongly identify with their culture, history and natural surroundings. The lack of public knowledge and meaning of their cultural and natural heritage causes deterioration and loss to occur. The detachment between community and environment opens a social gap that deepens the degree of exclusion of the Mayan population. This means that they cannot fully exercise their rights as citizens.

Riecken Community Libraries in Guatemala strengthen organized youth groups by using global positioning technology (GPS) to identify local cultural routes and key points. This process was implemented in coordination with schools, local governments, and community elders. Mapped routes promote social participation in the management of natural and consecrated places and protection of the environment. In total, six community routes/maps were created to help mark archeological and natural places. Four local guides and resource maps were translated from Spanish into a local Mayan language: Kiché, Mam, or Tzutujil.

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**9,933** people

in social mapping activities  
and cultural promotion

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**50** community elders

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**11** maps

**1,600** printed guides  
in Mayan Languages

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Local residents get to know the guides to sacred places  
Community library in Huitan, (Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)



Women artisans work with technology  
Community library Rija tz'ut Na'ooj (San Juan la Laguna, Guatemala)

Another example of the inclusion that typifies Riecken Community Libraries is a network of mobile libraries in isolated communities of Copan, Honduras. Young people from 10 Maya-Chorti villages (communities of Barbasco, San Rafael, La Pintada, El Chilar, Chonco, Carrizalón, Corralito, Nueva Esperanza, la Laguna, Sesesmil Segundo) face low levels of education, limited opportunities, and high levels of violence and drug trafficking. This atmosphere of insecurity causes many people to migrate away from the chaos in search for opportunity and change. To counteract this, the Honduran network of Riecken libraries began to focus on strengthening the capacity of youth leadership. Mobile libraries were created and run by young people who promote the importance of storytelling and reading. They also facilitate reading clubs with other youth in nearby schools. This youth-led work has helped to strengthen their leadership skills and study abilities and to enhance their social entrepreneurship skills. With this knowledge and experience, these young people are in a far better position to generate and lead opportunities for change.



Professor Jose Santos Gutierrez  
School Director

*"The use of GPS has been a very important activity for children. Through this project they have been able to capture images via satellite, learn about coordinates, become familiar with the location of the places which they travel, but most importantly, they now know location of the important community sites. We consider it a very valuable contribution of the library to the cultural identity of the community."*





Story hour readings promote healthy nutrition practices Community library "Ventanas abiertas al Futuro" in Chiché (El Quiché, Guatemala)

# Libraries Promote Healthy Communities

The Riecken network of community libraries knows how important it is for young children to grow up in healthy homes and school environments where important life lessons are taught. The libraries offer maternal and child health programs linking the healthy family interactions between parents and child with early childhood development programs. These programs join efforts from the health and education sectors and are based and fueled by community participation. The library, Ventanas Abiertas al Futuro (Open Windows to the Future) of the community of Chiché, El Quiché, Guatemala, is strengthening parenting skills in good child feeding and nutrition practices through early childhood reading and work with health centers responsible for healthy weights of children and mothers.

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**6,755** participants  
in health activities

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María Elvira Medrano (22 Años)  
with her daughter Fátima Guadalupe  
Cipriano Medrano (5 years)



*"I have learned how to share with my daughter everything we have been taught. Now that my girl is in school, I now realize her progress and advancement is in part due to what she learned in the early development program offered by the library."*



Representatives from the community library "Nuevo Ameranecer" in the town of El Playon and staff from the Riecken Foundation meet with Mario Placencia, Mayor of the Municipality of Ajuterique (Comayagua, Honduras)

# Libraries Build Responsible Public Institutions

Local governments play a large role in Riecken's multi-sector development model. In 2014, the Riecken Honduras community library network (ARBICOH) was invited to the XXIV National Assembly of the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON) to give a presentation to the nation's Mayors on the importance of investing in libraries for community development.

Community libraries help local governments be seen as educational advocates. The libraries also serve as civil bodies that can develop strategies, be transparent in their work, and gain the confidence of the public. Libraries serve as strategic partners with NGOs and other sectors in promoting access to information. For example, the Board of Directors of "Luz del Saber" Community Library (Santa Cruz de Yojoa) is part of the work committee of the Municipal Strategic Plan 2020.

**61** local governments are partners with the 65 Riecken Community Libraries network

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**\$234,000**  
annual amount provided by local governments to the community libraries.

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Eva Rodezno, President,  
Board of Directors  
Luz del Saber Library  
(Sta. Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras)



*"I think that the credibility we have generated in the community is important. When we go to ask for support either through raffles, activities, or donations, people always say yes. People trust the library because we are always accountable for everything we collect as donations."*



# Rural Communities in Global Economy

The Guatemala network of Riecken Community Libraries promotes local initiatives for social entrepreneurship such as income generation, health promotion, financial literacy, and advocacy. They promote the participation and leadership of women in rural communities in community development processes (productive, political, and social initiatives....). In Guatemala, community libraries Rija'tzuul Na'ooj' (San Juan La Laguna, Sololá), "Fuente de Sabiduría" (San Carlos Sija, Quetzaltenango), and "Ventanas Abiertas al Futuro" (Chiché, El Quiché) are strengthening the personal, community, and social leadership capacities of women in rural communities of Guatemala. The women are learning to organize, increase their community outreach. Each woman also has a concrete project in their community. These community projects are more likely to be sustainable and to have a greater impact on quality of life: income (business centers), health (early stimulation and nutrition), etc.



Ms. Maria Francisca Vasquez is a self-made female leader, who since the age of 7 years began to weave textiles. Now at the age of 30, she is President of the Association "Corazón del Lago" and participates in the business center of the Riecken community library Rija'tzuul Na'ooj' of San Juan La Laguna (Guatemala).

With the trainings and support of the library, Maria has managed to export her products to Germany, generating employment for 36 women in the community. Also, thanks to the efforts of the library, her leadership and interest to excel in life has led her to a scholarship at the University of Florida (US) to further strengthen her knowledge of business and cooperatives.

Women in a training sesión for local artisans  
Community library "Fuente de Sabiduría" in San Carlos Sija (Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)





Librarian and community leaders receiving new technology equipment  
Community library "Luz del Saber" in Santa Cruz de Yojoa (Cortes, Honduras)

## Libraries Adopt Technology

Riecken Community Libraries strive to provide and increase public and free access to information and technology in rural communities. The libraries, when possible, offer programming oriented to reduce the digital gap in the communities through free access to the internet and technology. Program activities using computers help promote creative and efficient uses of technology. These activities include practical computer and internet courses and the use of software especially aimed at young people. Beyond access, community libraries also introduce the use of technology in the everyday life of children, teenagers, and adults in the communities. They also use technology for leadership training to develop technological and entrepreneurship skills for the young.

Training librarians to train other trainers in technology has been essential to promote such ownership. Sixty librarians have sharpened their skills in office software and in effective use of social networking and educational software.

# 216,960

Computer Users

# 1,276

Brand New Computer Users

# 54%

Users OnLine



Oscar Quitán, (new computer user), volunteer of the Library "Fuente del Saber" in Cuyalí (El Paraíso)

*"It is the first time that I have ever used a computer; I had never even logged in to one. I am not afraid now because I know a bit more about computers. It is important for the library to continue teaching other people about technology."*



# A Network of Libraries Governed by Themselves

Early in 2014, the network of Riecken Community Libraries inaugurated its 65th library, in Parramos, Guatemala. The success of this newest library is based on Riecken's sustainable development model, also used and continuously improved in the first 64 libraries. This tri-party model promotes cooperation between an organized group of volunteer citizens who manage and lead the construction and maintenance of the library, with support from the municipal government and accompaniment and financial resources from the Riecken Foundation.

In Guatemala, Riecken has laid the foundation for the formation of the Community Library Association (ABC). A temporary committee composed of representatives of community libraries "Mundo del Saber" (Parramos), "Ventanas Abiertas al Futuro" (Chiché), "Mi Nuevo Mundo" (Huitán), "Fuente de Sabiduría" (San Carlos Sija), and Rija'tzuul Na'ooj (San Juan la Laguna) will lead to inclusion of all twelve Riecken libraries in Guatemala into a national association. The Honduras network of Riecken Community Libraries (ARBICOH) is now five years old and has all 53 Riecken libraries as members. In November, 2014, ARBICOH elected its 2015-2017 authorities. The Board of Directors include representatives from the libraries from Yoro, Chair; Cedros, Vice-Chair; El Nispero, Secretary; Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Treasurer; San Juan Planes, Fiscal; and vocals from the libraries from Minas de Oro, Maraita, Santa María, and Duyure.

In 2014 the structure of the community library networks and associations in Honduras and Guatemala was significantly strengthened.



Community leader exercising their vote in the elections of the new governing board of the Honduran Community Library Association (ARBICOH)

## We are recognized for being dynamic libraries...

### **Regional Center for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean - CERALC**

Regional Award for Portfolio of Reading and Writing Projects, Por Leer 2014-2015

### **BID/NEXO/Foundation "Mi Sangre". Winners of Youth Drawing New Realities.**

Young people from Guatemala, agents of social cohesion, won the on-line contest from among more than 100 innovative contestants coming from Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Beyond Access.**

Platform that promotes and advocates public libraries as actors of economic and social development. The Riecken Foundation is part of the Steering Committee and Riecken Community Library Arturo Flores Aguiluz of San Luis (Honduras) and Rija'tzuul Na'ooj of San Juan La Laguna (Guatemala) are members of this global movement.

### **Network "Lee" for Reading Promotion.**

Network of Central American, Mexican, and Caribbean institutions to promote the exchange of experiences in promoting reading for pleasure.

### **Red CALee.**

Network of Central American institutions to promote a culture of reading.



# Financial Balance

As of December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
Amounts in U.S. dollars

	2014	2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>			
Checking / Savings	510,188	245,525	429,832
Accounts Receivable	20	506,162	500,000
Property, Plant & Equipment	41,497	29,911	29,911
Other Assets	(5,152)	10,139	
	<b>546,553</b>	<b>791,737</b>	<b>959,743</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	(2,320)	81,335	101,140
Other Current Liabilities	(393)	(1,186)	750,000
Deferred Revenue	250,000	500,000	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>247,287</b>	<b>580,149</b>	<b>851,140</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Opening Bal Equity	127,620	108,602	127,620
Retained Earnings	159,424		
Net Income	12,223	102,986	(19,018)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>299,267</b>	<b>211,588</b>	<b>108,602</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>546,554</b>	<b>791,737</b>	<b>959,742</b>

# Profit & Loss

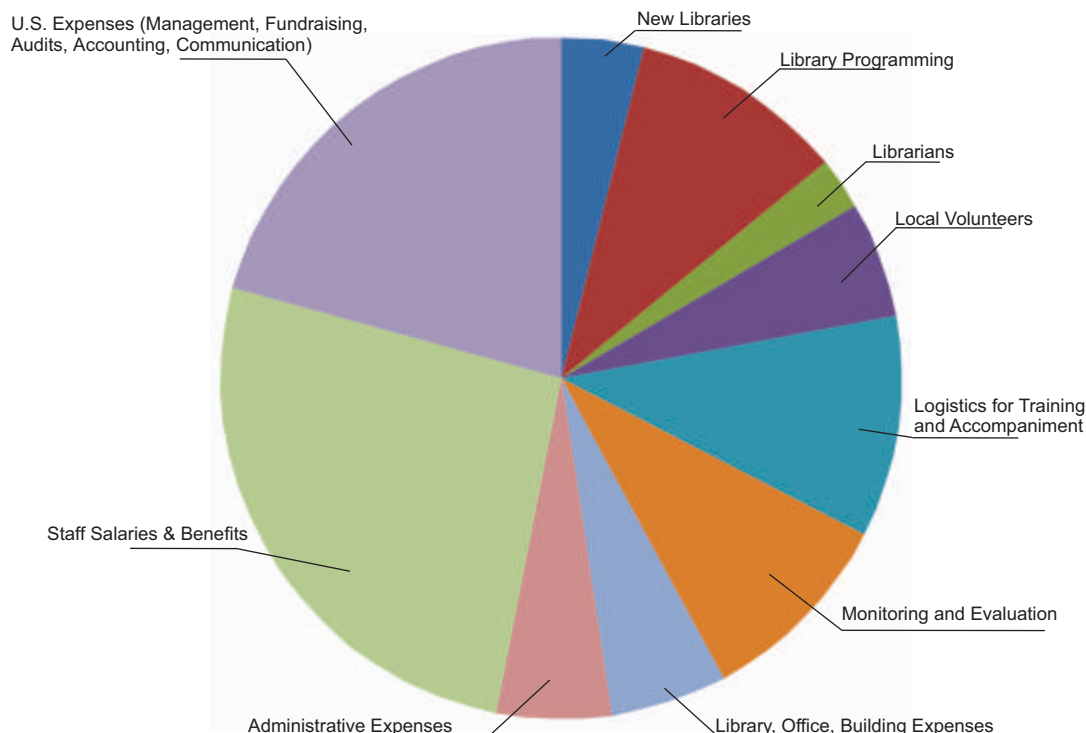
January through December, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
Amounts in U.S. dollars

	2014	2013	2012
<b>Income &amp; Expenses</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Cash Donations	640,714	762,883	547,317
Donations Unrestricted	12,500	1,645	
Financial Performance	1,888	1,645	1,726
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>655,102</b>	<b>764,529</b>	<b>549,043</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
New Libraries	23,807	11,653	
Library Programming	62,254	71,412	43,634
Librarians	15,013	45,120	27,093
Board of Directors	31,594	23,789	18,629
Volunteers	2,102	14,875	6,070
Other Training		1,180	200
Salaries & Benefits		39,511	30,625
Other Staff Expenses	63,996	70,459	211,767
Follow Up & Monitoring	58,290	50,707	30,695
Financial Expenditures	7,325	1,467	1,840
Building Expenses	33,818	28,271	15,903
Vehicle Expenses	6,420	10,131	7,511
Office Expenses	26,764	20,375	23,188
Staff Salaries & Local Benefits	160,042	135,196	114,711
Professional Services	126,542	108,666	18,215
Overhead	8,593	5,902	7,915
Business Expenses	16,317	22,829	8,492
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>642,877</b>	<b>661,543</b>	<b>568,060</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12,225</b>	<b>102,986</b>	<b>(19,018)</b>



The Riecken Foundation is a private foundation currently in legal transition to a public, 501(c)(3), status. During this formal transition, the IRS has determined that Riecken may function as a public 501(c)(3) institution with all the full benefits.

## 2014 Funding Areas

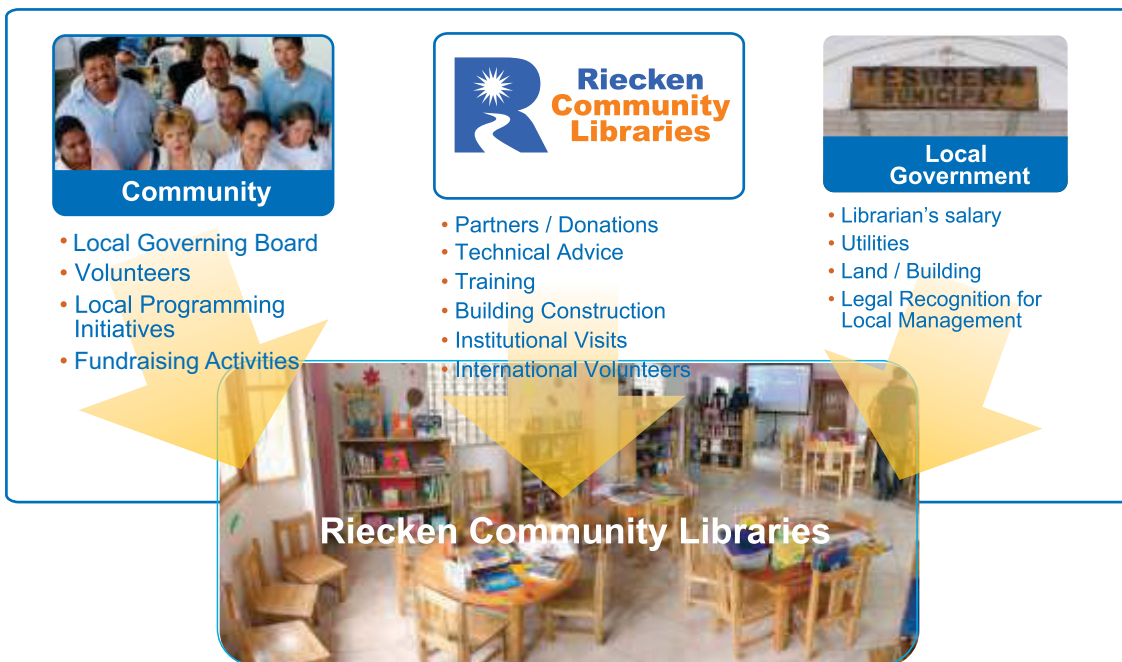


Each year, Riecken strives to improve investment to maximize donor funds towards library activities and programming. Riecken's team role is to accompany, train and help support the library network.



## We would like to thank you Riecken Partners who worked and invested with us in 2014

- Adrian Ridner and Family, Access to Technology
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Institutional Support, Library Programming
- Burns-Fazzi Brock (BFB) Foundation, Women's Leadership, Library Programming
- Friends of Riecken, Institutional Support, , Library Programming etc.
- INHERIT/MACHI Project, Cultural Identity
- International Foundation, Librarian Trainings
- John Brown Family Foundation, Technology and Monitoring and Evaluation
- Mi Sangre Foundation / Inter-American Development Bank, Library Programming
- Patricia Price Peterson Foundation, Access to Technology
- Rich and Ginny Strock, Institutional Support, Access to Technology
- SG Foundation, Access to Technology
- Strachan Foundation , Access to Technology



### Social Participation



**6,413**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

**497** Boards of Directors Members



**Hours of Volunteer Time**

**271,305**



**109**  
**Librarians**



**1,679**  
**Existing Library Volunteers**

**4,237**

New Library Volunteers in 2014



### Economic Potential

**\$325,556**



If Volunteering had an Economic Value  
\$ 1.20 hour / day (Minimum Wage)  
Average of 3 - 5 Hours a week per Persons

### Trainings

**Librarians**  
**109**

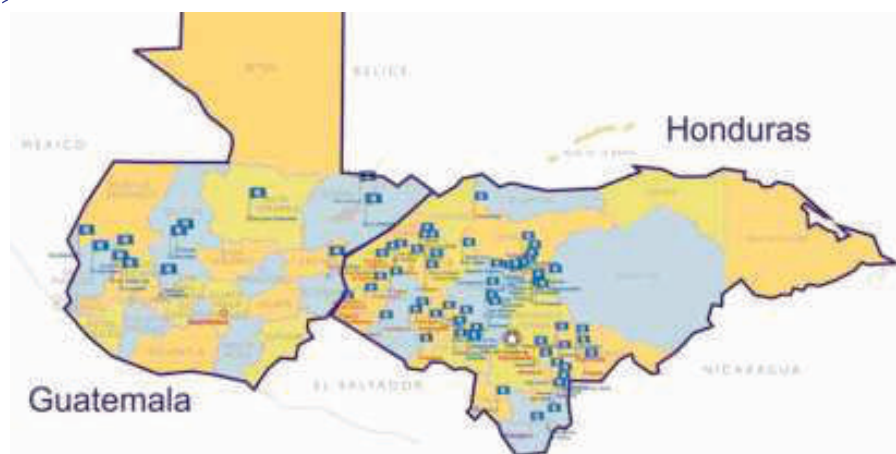


**Volunteers**  
**907**

**Technology:** Internet, Social Network, Blogs.

**Reading for Pleasure:** Early Childhood Development, Child Nutrition.

**Leadership:** Roles and commitments of Boards of Directors **Education Planning and Development:** Work Plans, Local Partnerships and Social Participation.



**65 Riecken  
Community  
Libraries**



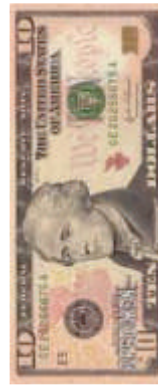
## SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITY

**61%** of Users have a Monthly Income less than \$100.00



For Every 10 Users,

- 3 Live in Homes with Dirt Floors
- 3 Have a Computer
- 9 Have a Mobile Phone at Home
- 8 Live with at least one parent
- 2 in households of 5 or more members
- 3 With Less than 6 Books at Home



**ECONOMIC INVESTMENT  
FOR EVERY \$ 10.00  
SPENT ON PROGRAMMING**

- \$ 2.00 TECHNOLOGY
- \$ 2.33 READING FOR PLEASURE
- \$ 0.52 ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- \$ 3.97 LIBRARIANS
- \$ 0.69 CULTURAL IDENTITY
- \$ 4.20 LIBRARY NETWORK ASSOCIATION

## LIBRARIES USERS

**474,240**



**44%**



**37%**



**19%**

**53%**



**47%**

**608**

(Average Visits / Month / Library)

**39,520**

(Average Visits / Month / Network)

## REDUCING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

**117,688**

PEOPLE USING INTERNET

**2,509**

BRAND NEW PEOPLE CONNECTED TO INTERNET



## ACTIVITIES IN THE

PER  
100 USERS

- 36 Reading Promotion
- 10 Technology
- 09 Citizen Participation
- 08 Supporting Teachers
- 11 Youth Activities
- 03 Environment Activities
- 06 Health Activities
- 06 Activities Outside the Library
- 07 Cultural Identity Promotion
- 04 Other Community Outreach Activities



## Computer Use

**216,960**  
people

**278**

(Average Users / Month / Library)

**18,080**

(Average Users / Month / Network)



**49% 52%**

## Internet Coverage OF 65 LIBRARIES

**21** CONNECTED  
TO INTERNET

**9**

PAID FOR BY  
OUTSIDE PROJECTS

**12**

PAID FOR PERMANENTLY  
BY THE COMMUNITY



