

Annual Report 2013

Community Libraries  
*respond*



## 2013, a year of emotions

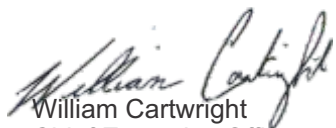
Psychologists claim that emotions are a function of human evolution. Emotions can solve problems, help oneself and one's family to survive extreme situations, or create solutions or alternative paths. With this perspective on emotions in mind, let me try to describe the spirit and impact of the Riecken Community Libraries Network.

The Community Libraries Project was created to improve the quality of communities' lives, and thanks to the collaboration of Riecken and its 65 community libraries partners, municipal governments and other civil society organizations, we have managed to generate a "before" and an "after" in the lives of over half a million people. These Hondurans and Guatemalans have benefited from the libraries' services and sought answers to their questions, which I'm sure that they have found in their community's library.

Today more than ever Riecken community libraries create excitement, emotions, and change. Therefore, we, as Riecken Community Libraries, will continue investing in libraries because by doing so we will be investing in community and youth leadership; and in people and communities that collectively develop local solutions for local challenges and problems.

I want to share my enthusiasm with you, and invite you to read our Annual Report. Support our commitment to promote more prosperity and democracy in Central America, and further social participation and opportunities to promote community-driven change.

Best regards,



William Cartwright  
Chief Executive Officer  
Riecken Community Libraries



## Riecken Community Libraries Respond

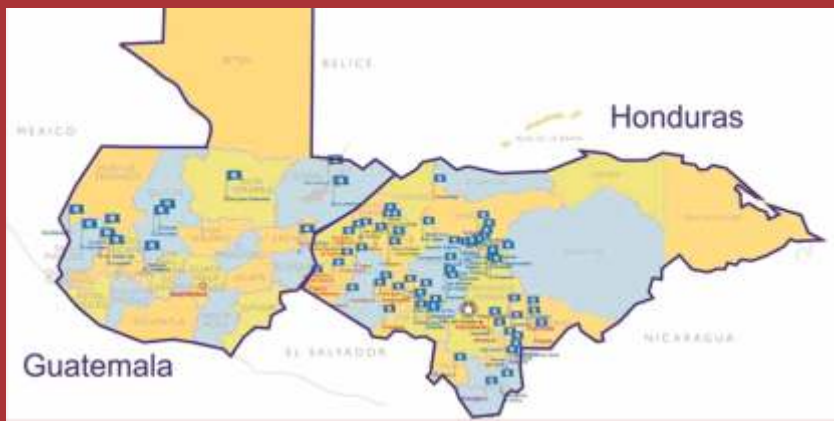
Community libraries provide development opportunities in areas such as: environment, the promotion of children's rights, women's empowerment, digital literacy, economic entrepreneurship, preservation of cultural memory, the promotion of family and community values, and working with young people on cultural, educational, and health issues, etc.

They provide answers that result in increased social participation, and encourage progressively active volunteerism and youth involvement. Libraries reduce the digital divide, provide internet access, and promote best practices in the use of information and technology as tools for local development. Libraries network to take advantage of external opportunities (such as funding, building relationships, continuing education and training, etc.).

In 2013, Riecken remained committed to information and knowledge as the most suitable means to open doors to personal opportunities, community development and the positive Central American community transformation. With this commitment, Riecken stood firm in its goal of promoting democracy and prosperity in Central American communities, through a network of 65 Honduran and Guatemalan community libraries.

523,833  
users

65 Community Libraries | 3,548 volunteers





**510,912**  
volunteer hours

**\$613,094\***  
in community contributions

758 Community Leaders	2,669 Support Committees	352 New Volunteers
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**Discovering the Value of  
Community Empowerment**

Community support has ensured that Riecken Community Libraries has been able to advance their positioning with local governments and other civil society actors. Riecken has conducted basic and intermediate training of community leaders, and coordinated with strategic partners, including each municipality's educational authority. Riecken's model envisions that the community will have direct responsibility for the library's management, and along with local government and Riecken's support, will link the public education system directly to the library's programs.

In 2013 the libraries began to understand that their professional training and skills were strong assets to support community development. This new system of support enabled each community to analyze their strengths and strategically examine which skills needed to be improved to make a positive impact on democratic development in Central America. While each community library within the Riecken Network involves different groups to make this happen, in particular young people have become key players, as the engine of volunteers who drive the different programs and services: reading for pleasure to promote curiosity, values-based youth leadership, access to information and technology to generate opportunities and promote inclusion of disadvantaged people.

*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and AIR/USAID through MIDEH have invested in empowering Riecken's communities.*



**Providing Solutions  
to Public Education**

*"Reading stories not only supports my Spanish lessons but also during recess, since children enjoy this free time reading"*  
Veneranda Maradiaga, Director,  
School Miguel Paz Barahona

Reading for pleasure, training teachers to serve as reading promoters, parents' support in Spanish classes, and the educational authorities' political support have enabled libraries to help improve the quality of classroom Spanish language lessons.

Community libraries now have more capacity for training teachers and involving parents and the general public in their children's education. Community libraries have also shortened the distances with isolated and rural populations through a network of library extension services (mobile libraries). The greatest impact has been an agreement signed with the Honduran Ministry of Education that recognizes Riecken Community Libraries as equal in importance as local community schools.

*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and AIR/USAID through MIDEH have invested in community libraries to offer programs to support formal education.*

**56,314**  
student readers

**12,700** hours  
of classroom reading

121 Mobile libraries in schools	2,000 teachers trained
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**3,909**  
participants

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**71** Training  
Sessions

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**15** Communities

## Nutrition Information Programs Help Build Healthy Communities

Although an early childhood development reading program began in the libraries in 2007, in 2013 a child nutrition component was launched and offered as a preschool educational option to parents. The program was piloted in 15 community libraries: Guatemala (Xolsacmaljá, Cabricán, Huitán, San Juan Chamelco, and La Libertad), and in Honduras (San Lucas, San Luis, El Porvenir, San Jerónimo, Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Copán Ruinas, Dulce Nombre, El Níspero, San Juan Planes, and Yorito).

This early childhood development program that links reading and nutrition is enabling communities to ward off health problems and malnutrition, strengthen the mother-child emotional bond, and guide, train and educate parents or children's caretakers to ensure children's continuous and ongoing development.

*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Joan Fuestch and Regina Winner have invested in community libraries to help improve child nutrition.*

*"Human beings by nature are very intelligent, but if not developed, are left a bit cold. It's like a meal that is simmering, but if we take it off the fire it is undercooked. I think it is the same with children. I think that it is very important to include many mothers who are in the community."*  
(Mother enrolled in the Chiché library early childhood development program)



## Bridging the Digital Divide

Riecken librarians have become knowledge managers and, as part of their ongoing training, have strengthened their skills in the use of information technology, social networks and blogging, as well as in community leadership development. Digital media is becoming an alternative source of information and communication in rural communities, and social networking and blogs help link up communities and publicize the libraries' activities and programs.

Community libraries are also helping to build teachers capacity in the use of on- and offline educational resources, including the Khan Academy, in order to promote classroom technological projects. Teachers, with training from Riecken, organize educational projects for students to learn to use office automation tools and electronic devices so they can apply that technology to their schoolwork.

**288,370**  
Computer Users

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**2,379**  
New Digital Users

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<b>184,032</b> Off-line Users	<b>102,069</b> Online Users
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*"I go to the library whenever I have time. I feel welcome and get help whenever I need it. For example, a customer asked me for photos of my hats, which I did not have. Then I took some hats to the library and asked for help. When they took the photos I sent them by mail to my customer, as before I had already learned in the library how to send mails. Now we are creating with a purpose, and customers can order them directly to our Cooperative."*

Rosalinda Tay, artisan San Juan la Laguna (Guatemala)

Libraries have begun to overcome the challenge of creating local content by promoting indigenous peoples' cultural identity. Five libraries of the Guatemala Network (Huitán, Cabricán, Xolsacmalja, Chiché and San Juan la Laguna) are leading the process of mapping and documenting anthropological and cultural resources. Digital and printed maps have been created of places such as Mayan altars, water sources, regions with at-risk flora and fauna, endangered areas, historic landmarks, and important local organizations and institutions. Coordination with the Guatemalan Ministry of Culture and Sports has positioned community libraries as guarantors of cultural identity rights for Guatemala's indigenous peoples.

Technology represents an opportunity for an economic boost to excluded sectors. Community libraries are organizing new services to meet local populations' needs. Some libraries have organized business centers that offer a means for local entrepreneurs, such as weavers and handcrafters, to access and use technology to improve their marketing and sales. With that goal in mind, the libraries offer workshops on how to use technology for advertising and marketing, and bring entrepreneurs together to share experiences and best practices. In the library of San Juan La Laguna, women weavers are learning to use the internet, create their own email accounts, and write their own blog to promote their products.

*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, INHERIT/MACHI, Richard Strock & Family, Brown Family Foundation, S.G. Foundation, the Patricia Price Peterson Foundation, Burns-Fazzi Brock, and the South Pacific Jewish Teen Foundation have invested in community libraries to help reduce the digital divide.*



## Strengthening Democracy and Local Governance

Riecken Community Libraries are not only beginning to be recognized as educational actors, but also as civilian entities with a solid and transparent reputation. As entities that work closely with citizens, the government views libraries as strategic partners that can facilitate citizens' access to information.

After the November 2013 elections in Honduras, the municipal government coordinating body, the Association of Honduran Municipalities, elected the Riecken Community Libraries Network as one of the civilian actors that support the transition and transfer of incoming and outgoing elected officials. Riecken Community Libraries have contributed to the strengthening of municipal management by ensuring that the transition and transfer process is carried out in an effective, efficient, and transparent manner. Local governments are an important third component of the Riecken model and libraries advocate for those governments to help them become economically sustainable.

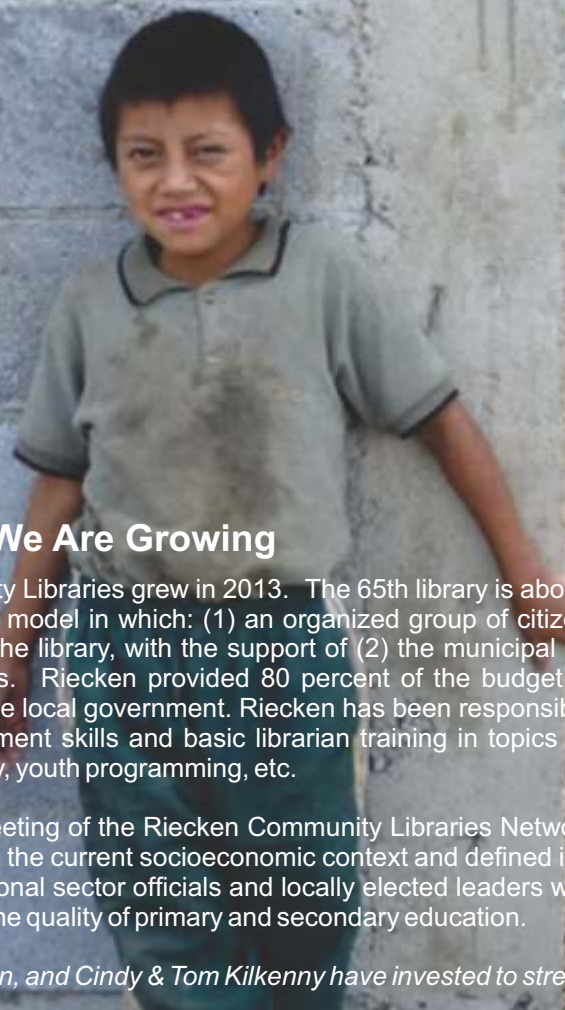
*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Swiss Cooperation for the Development of Central America, through the Honduran Association of Municipalities, have invested in community libraries in order to strengthen municipal management.*

Los libros son lo que  
llevan el polen de  
una  
inteligencia a otra  
Gracias  
fundación Riecken

*"We immediately think about information that provides opportunities to isolated communities, which is recreated whenever used, and which grows in value whenever a child or parent shares it. This day the Network of Riecken Community Libraries was born in my mind!"*

Allen Andersson, Riecken founder

52%	48%	
Women	Men	
39%	38%	23%
Children	Young People	Adults
Equity		



## We Build Community. We Are Growing

The Network of Riecken Community Libraries grew in 2013. The 65th library is about to be inaugurated in Parramos (Guatemala) based on the tri-party cooperation model in which: (1) an organized group of citizens manages and assumes leadership of the construction and maintenance of the library, with the support of (2) the municipal government and assistance from (3) Riecken Community Libraries headquarters. Riecken provided 80 percent of the budget, and the community contributed 20 percent. Maintenance costs are borne by the local government. Riecken has been responsible for community organization and leadership training, including library management skills and basic librarian training in topics as Reading promotion and book clubs, early childhood development, technology, youth programming, etc.

In the framework of the Annual Meeting of the Riecken Community Libraries Network, various community leaders discussed the challenges faced by the Network in the current socioeconomic context and defined its strategy for local government advocacy. In Honduras, a dialogue with educational sector officials and locally elected leaders was established to promote the commitment to support local initiatives in improve the quality of primary and secondary education.

*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Cindy & Tom Kilkeny have invested to strengthen the Community Libraries Network.*



**Bibliotecas Comunitarias Riecken**  
**We are Global Libraries**

The Riecken Community Libraries Network is recognized internationally.

**Beyond Access.** A platform that promotes public libraries as a player in economic and social development. Riecken Community Libraries is part of the Organizing Committee and community libraries. Arturo Flores Aguiluz of San Luis (Honduras), and Rija'tzuul Na'ooj of San Juan La Laguna (Guatemala) are members.

**Network "Read" for Reading Promotion** (Red Lee de Promocion Lectora). Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean institutions' network that promotes the exchange of experiences, in the promotion of Reading for Pleasure.

**Forum Virtual Educa.** Riecken Community Libraries presented the community libraries' experience and implementation of technology in education in the IV Multilateral Education and Innovation Forum that took place at Colombia 2013.

Nominated as a candidate for the **2014 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award**, for "authors, illustrators, oral storytellers, and promoters of reading" to increase interest in children and young people's literature and promote children's rights to culture on a global level.

Nominated as one of the top 100 innovators for the **Rockefeller Foundation's Centennial Next Century Innovator Award**.

**EIFL Innovation Award.** The Library Rija'tzuul Na'ooj of San Juan La Laguna (Guatemala) was recognized in the category of empowering women and girls through the use of technology.



# Financial Balance

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

	2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>		
Checking / Savings	245,525	429,832
Accounts Receivable	506,162	500,000
Property, Plant & Equipment	29,911	29,911
Other Assets	10,139	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>791,737</b>	<b>959,743</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	81,335	101,140
Other Current Liabilities	(1,186)	750,000
Deferred Revenue	500,000	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>580,149</b>	<b>851,140</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Bal Equity	108,602	127,620
Net Income	102,986	(19,018)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>211,588</b>	<b>108,602</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>791,737</b>	<b>959,742</b>

# Income & Expenses

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

	2013	2012
<b>Income &amp; Expenses</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Cash Donations	762,883	547,317
Financial Performance	1,645	1,726
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>764,529</b>	<b>549,043</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
New Libraries	11,653	
Library Programming	71,412	43,634
Librarians	45,120	27,093
Board of Directors	23,789	18,629
Volunteers	14,875	6,070
Other Training	1,180	200
Salaries & Benefits	39,511	30,625
Other Staff Expenses	70,459	211,767
Follow Up & Monitoring	50,707	30,695
Financial Expenditures	1,467	1,840
Building Expenses	28,271	15,903
Vehicle Expenses	10,131	7,511
Office Expenses	20,375	23,188
Staff Salaries & Local Benefits	135,196	114,711
Professional Services	108,666	18,215
Overhead	5,902	7,915
Business Expenses	22,829	8,492
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>661,543</b>	<b>568,060</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>102,986</b>	<b>(19,018)</b>



### Social Participation



**3,548**  
VOLUNTEERS  
**758** Boards  
of Directors



**Hours of  
Volunteer  
Time**  
**510,912**

### Economic Potential

**\$613,095**

If Volunteering had an Economic Value  
\$ 1.20 hour / day (Minimum Wage)  
Average of 3 Hours a Week per Person.




**109**  
Librarians  
**352**  
New volunteers



**2,369**  
Support Committes



**Training**  
Librarians  
**109**



Volunteers  
**301**

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

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

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

## 65 RIECKEN COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

Biblioteca Gabriela Mistral Biblioteca Pública Allen Andersson Biblioteca Irradiando Cultura Biblioteca Innovando Cultura Biblioteca Camino hacia el éxito  
Biblioteca Pública Esquías Biblioteca Aprender Haciendo Biblioteca Pública Lejamaní Biblioteca Robert Warren Biblioteca Arturo Flores Aguiluz Biblioteca  
Pública Minas de Oro Biblioteca Nuevo Amanecer Biblioteca Pública de Rancho Grande Biblioteca Pública San José Biblioteca Poeta Roberto Sosa Biblioteca  
Comunal Dulce Nombre de María Biblioteca Manantial del Saber Biblioteca Fuente del Éxito Biblioteca Luz del Saber Biblioteca comunitaria Fuente del Saber  
Biblioteca Pública Fray Abel del Pilar Pérez Biblioteca Democracia en Marcha Biblioteca Diamante de Sabiduría Biblioteca Visión al Futuro Biblioteca Nuevo  
Amanecer Biblioteca Allan Anderson Biblioteca La Llave mágica de la mente Biblioteca Ventanas abiertas al futuro Biblioteca Pública Alvaro Contreras  
Biblioteca Flor del saber Biblioteca Pública Riecken El Guante Biblioteca Pública Riecken Guatemala Biblioteca Fuente de Sabiduría Biblioteca Pública El  
Porvenir Biblioteca Riecken de Tatumbula Biblioteca Llano de la Virgen Biblioteca Comunitaria de la Libertad Biblioteca Comunitaria Sendero de la Sabiduría y  
el Descubrimiento Biblioteca Fray Abel del Pilar Pérez Biblioteca Fuente del saber Biblioteca Arco Iris del Saber Biblioteca Pública Santa María Biblioteca  
"Fuente de Sabiduría" Biblioteca Sendero de Luz Biblioteca Comunitaria de Huitán Bibliotecas Una Luz para el Futuro Biblioteca Técnica Popular Riecken  
Biblioteca Nueva Generación Biblioteca Casa del Saber Biblioteca Oasis de la Sabiduría Biblioteca Horizontes del Saber Biblioteca Ciencia y Cultura Biblioteca  
Minerva Biblioteca Camino del Saber Rija'tzuul Na'ooj Biblioteca Pública Riecken Biblioteca Comunitaria K'ak' No'jib'al Biblioteca Popular Virtud y Ciencia  
Biblioteca Nueva Visión Biblioteca Allan Anderson Biblioteca Nell y Raquel Biblioteca Popular Riecken Biblioteca Mundo del saber



## 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 their Fathers or Mothers
- 2 In Households of Members
- 3 With Less than 6 Books at Home



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



- \$ 0.34 TECHNOLOGY
- \$ 3.68 READING FOR PLEASURE
- \$ 1.53 NEW LIBRARIANS
- \$ 3.97 LIBRARIANS
- \$ 0.36 IDENTITY & CULTURE
- \$ 0.12 LIBRARY NETWORK

## LIBRARIES USERS

**523,833**

52.25%  47.75% 



**728**

(Average Month / Library)

**44,403**

(Average Month / Network)



**38%**



**39%**



**23%**

## REDUCING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

**102,069**

PEOPLE USING INTERNET

**2,379**

NEW PEOPLE CONNECTED



## ACTIVITIES IN THE PER 100 USERS



- 18 Reading Promotion
- 12 Technology
- 06 Citizen Participation
- 05 Supporting Teachers
- 04 Youth Activities
- 02 Environment Activities
- 03 Health Activities
- 28 Activities Outside the Library
- 21 Cultural & Identity Promotion
- 02 Other Community Outreach Activities

## Computer Use

**288,370**  
people

394 (Month/Library)

24,031 (Average Month/Network)  48.57% 51.43%

**95**



CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET



## Preferences



Creating documents



Navigating The Internet



Social Networking



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Community  
Libraries**

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