



# 2011 Annual Report

The Frances and Henry Riecken Foundation, Inc.<sup>1</sup>

Riecken Community Libraries

Changing Lives in Central America



[riecken.org](http://riecken.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Doing business as Riecken Community Libraries



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# 2011: A Year of Shared Successes

## A Message from the President

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**William Cartwright**  
President & CEO

Dear Friends of Riecken Community Libraries,

The success of all social intervention is dependent a variety of factors and environmental conditions. Within the Riecken Community Library network, there is a constant that is so deeply rooted in our culture that it never changes: a philosophy and approach that I can summarize in two words: **participation and inclusion.**

Riecken Community Libraries is, first and foremost, an organization that facilitates development and provides tools for community members to participate in all activities, decisions and solutions prior to their adoption to improve the quality of life in their own communities. From our perspective, inclusive participation acknowledges that every actor and actress in the community has a role to play and a responsibility in their own self-development.

Our organization embodies this vision in every action, and I feel strongly that 2011's successes were shared and effective because they were community-based achievements. It was the proactive participation of community members that generated a sense of brotherhood, trust and generosity, and a feeling of strengthened solidarity through the linkages among our communities and volunteers.

We are proud that this equitable, relationship creates opportunities for the communities to develop the skills to undertake activities to not only exploit their true potential and abilities, but also to construct answers to the challenges of their own development.

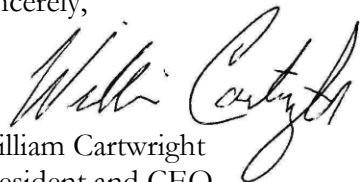
We have shown that libraries are fundamental to a democratic society. Libraries are institutions which serve the citizenry to make decisions and reach their full potential. They deliver essential skills; encourage critical thinking and self-education, and lifelong learning.

In poor communities, libraries also fulfill the role of providing a sustainable framework, to the extent that libraries are run by volunteer leaders of the community, for the formation of important principles of leadership and self-government.

We believe that every community challenge engenders the need for new goals that are set to further improve community living standards. These goals that are developed in collaboration and solidarity with each other through their strengthened linkages.

I invite you to join us as we reflect on our work, with the knowledge that all of our accomplishments in 2011 came about because of the synergy between Riecken's communities, staff and volunteers. None of it could have happened without the generous support of many benefactors and partners, whom we gratefully acknowledge as key to the Riecken Community Libraries' past and future successes.

Sincerely,



William Cartwright  
President and CEO  
The Riecken Foundation



## Our Mission and Values

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The Riecken Community Libraries' work philosophy revolves around seven important values<sup>2</sup>:

- **Leadership**  
We strengthen the ability of children, youth and volunteers to think critically to promote their own community development.
- **Volunteerism and Engagement**  
We promote selfless and committed participation by the communities so that they take ownership of the development processes.
- **Entrepreneurship**  
We foster the capacity for creativity and innovation in the community in order to develop ideas and solutions to their environment's challenges.
- **Respect for Human Rights**  
We believe in a just, ethical and moral society that applies justice using the rule of law.
- **Equity**  
All people have an equal opportunity to benefit from our development programs and institutional services, regardless of sex, age, religion, political affiliation or socioeconomic status. We believe in free, equal, non-discriminatory access to the Riecken network's programming and resources to help reduce the digital divide.
- **Ethics and Transparency**  
We promote best practices in accountability, integrity, honesty, tolerance and democracy.
- **Excellence**  
We advocate the implementation and protection of the highest quality of work. We strive to become an example and model for others.

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### Our Vision

The Riecken Community Libraries is a nonprofit organization building a network of community libraries that promote social participation and proactive citizenship.

Our community library model is founded on a philosophy that promotes access to essential knowledge, the development of critical thinking skills, and a commitment to lifelong learning and self-education. Each library is managed by volunteer community leaders

### Our Mission

We promote democracy and prosperity in Central American communities through community libraries by awakening a spirit of discovery and social participation.



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<sup>2</sup> Programming Manual. Tegucigalpa: Fundación Riecken, 2008

# Riecken Community Libraries: Innovation for the Creation of Human Capital

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The Riecken Community Library network exemplifies democracy in action: access is free for all, management is in the hands of local representatives, and available materials and resources represent a wide range of ideas and viewpoints. The services of our libraries are available to anyone who wants them.

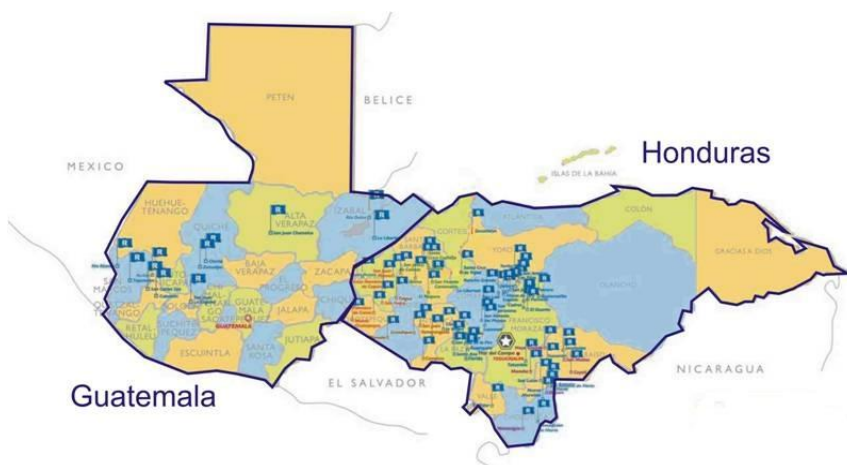
With free and open access to information as a core principle, the Riecken Foundation's mission is to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America, awakening a spirit of discovery and promoting citizen participation. Founded in 2000, the Riecken Foundation today includes a network of 64 libraries in Honduras and Guatemala that offer high quality books and computers to meet the information needs of each community, as well as connections to the internet, giving users access to the most dynamic sources of information and ideas.

The Riecken Community Library network differs from similar development initiatives in the deep roots and community ownership that are established in each community it serves. Each library is a dynamic community center for innovative programming to encourage reading, as well as fostering leadership through various social, cultural and economic development projects. These participatory learning centers serve more than 3840 unique users each day and act as a high impact catalyst for sustainable development.

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## Riecken Community Library Locations

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**2 countries (Guatemala and Honduras)**

**64 rural communities, including**

**6 predominantly indigenous Mayan communities**

**Each month more than 800 people, mostly youth and children, visit each library.**

## Our 2011 Achievements in Numbers

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621,312	Users in 64 libraries
2600	Activities to encourage reading, including story hours, book clubs and early childhood reading, and improved nutrition
1500	Youth leadership activities including ecology clubs, innovative projects and discussion sessions to promote youth values
700	Activities of culture and identity that include the study of Mayan inscriptions and art, Mayan language literacy, and meetings with Mayan elders
600	Locally initiated activities including various workshops and training, and community events
8000	Bilingual books in print, nine titles representing stories from six indigenous communities and three different languages.
320	Community library leaders participating and coordinating local intervention activities
896	Active volunteers in local development activities, 55 percent whom are women
314,112	People connected to the internet and technology



## International recognition

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- Presented lectures and roundtables on international libraries and sustainability at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans, USA, April 2011.
- Invited to participate in the First District Symposium: Library Management Community, Trends and Challenges, organized by the Public Library Network of Bogota, June 2011.
- Invited to participate in International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Satellite Conference held in Guatemala in August 2011: Libraries Beyond Libraries: Integration, Innovation and Information for All.



## 2011: A Year of Social Commitment

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### Strengthening Human Capacities



Riecken Community Libraries have strengthened the skills and capacity of librarians and volunteers to enhance reading habits, or promoting reading for pleasure, beyond the school environment in order to spark a spirit of discovery and encourage curiosity. Our reading program's components are: Early Childhood Literacy (0-5 years), Story Hours (6-9 years) and Book Clubs (10-13 years).

#### Early Childhood Literacy and Nutrition

In 2011, Chiché's community library (Quiché, Guatemala) added a new component to its reading program, related to children's health. A group of 25 mothers with their young children get together at the library every Thursday to engage in this activity, which teaches them best practices for their children's nutrition. This group is supported by the local health center and a local dentist who monitor the children's development.

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#### Creating Girl Readers

In order to improve reading and writing comprehension levels, and increase critical thinking, Riecken Libraries have implemented programs to teach indigenous girls how to read and write in their native language. These programs inspire indigenous girls, who are often denied formal education, to discover magical worlds through books and enhance their love of reading.

## Leadership for Local Development

Libraries throughout the Riecken network have organized a variety of development initiatives to respond to individual community needs. These initiatives contribute to identifying solutions for local issues or to the creation of productive opportunities. Below are just two examples:

### **Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Community Mapping**

With the support from INHERIT/Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative (MACHI), four Riecken network libraries are developing digital maps of natural, historical and sacred sites within their communities. In this manner, libraries are contributing to the creation of conservation plans that include a variety of initiatives, including digital boundaries' delimitation in and the identification of proper sites for specific farming or reforestation activities.

### **Libraries Promote Living Together for Peace**

With the support from the State Secretary in the Office for Security and Finances, and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECID), 18 Riecken libraries are promoting a project entitled "Living Together for Peace." This initiative works to prevent community violence and improve security through an inclusive and participatory model that provides a shared space for accessing information and technology and also offers an active program based on local needs in accordance with the National Security Plan. It has built relationships between citizens and police in which the libraries, municipalities, security officers and other organizations have coordinated to offer less political and more practical responses to local security problems.

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## Access to Information and Technology

In addition to open access to their book collections and external lending, Riecken Community Libraries offer ongoing programs aimed at reducing the digital divide in the communities through free access to the internet and technology workshops. These workshops include practical courses on internet and software usage targeted at young people, featuring word processing and spreadsheets. 34 of the 64 Riecken Communities Libraries have an internet connection.

## Libraries for Social Inclusion

As a result of a partnership with the Finnish Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua, Riecken Libraries have been strengthened as cultural centers where Mayan languages and traditions flourish and multi-ethnic communities celebrate their diversity.



### Promotion of Local Traditions

Riecken Libraries are undertaking efforts to bring access to information to indigenous communities in their own languages and to promote the generation of local knowledge. Nine bilingual books based on local stories and traditions have been published in four different Mayan languages and Spanish. These publications reflect oral traditions from the communities as told by elders, and were written and translated by library staff. Young local artists created the books' illustrations.

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### Intergenerational Exchanges

Young boys and girls gather in the libraries with community elders to share advice, stories and legends, in addition to learning ancestral weaving or cooking techniques. These activities have generated a closer relationship between community members as well as a more peaceful and respectful environment.

### Information Diversity and Multi Cultural Inclusion

The Copán Ruinas Public Library has become a space for local and cultural gatherings, providing access to information to people of all ages and indigenous ethnicities. For example, a system of ten mobile libraries serving the the Mayan Chortí population, have strengthened cultural identity and leadership among the youth, by reaching out to isolated Chortí and Ladino communities.

## Fostering Democratic Principles

Riecken community libraries serve as model democratic institutions at the local level. Below are two examples:

### Promoting a Culture of Transparency

Along with the International Cooperation Agency (ACI), the Riecken Foundation has promoted social inclusion in 14 rural Honduran communities through educational and cultural programs in the libraries. In 2011, the libraries generated more proactive attitudes towards transparency so as to facilitate access to the municipal budget and a culture of accountability from social participation. Most of 64 Riecken Community Libraries contain a Transparency Corner where monthly income and expenses are publicly posted for all to view.

### Children's 2011 General Elections in San Juan la Laguna

During the 2011 general elections in Guatemala, the library Rija'tzuul Na'ooj in San Juan La Laguna, Guatemala organized the activity "2011 Children's elections" in order to promote the duty and civic right to participate in election processes from an early age. More than 500 boys and girls participated.

## Promoting a Partnership among Libraries

As the creation of a sustainable network of libraries is a priority for the Riecken Foundation, in early 2008 the Riecken community libraries in Honduras created the Network of Community Libraries Association as an independent organization.

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Its purpose is to represent, promote and protect the rights and common interests of the libraries while simultaneously strengthening activities that will lead to financial and programmatic sustainability for the association as well as for each individual library.

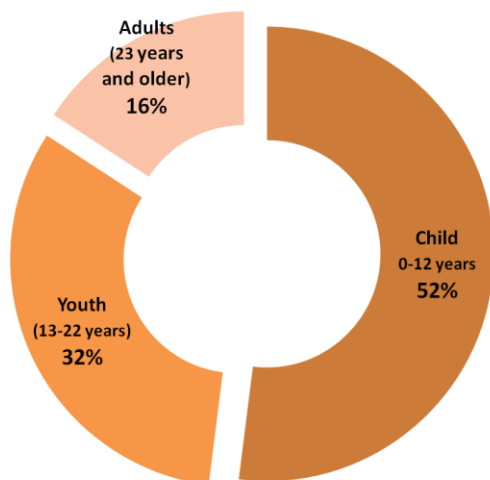
### Riecken Community Libraries Association's – Annual Meeting

In November 2011 with support from the Finnish Government, the third meeting of the 53 community-members library association took place in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The main topic of discussion was the need to improve the advocacy abilities of the 14 community library leader board to promote changes in the local governmental and political decisions that affect each community's welfare.





## Our Beneficiaries in Numbers

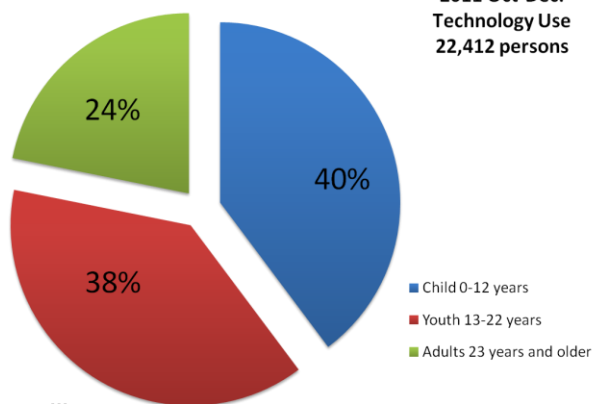


**2011 Oct-Dec.  
TOTAL Users  
43,980**

51.92 Women  
48.08 % Men  
**809 Monthly Visitors per Library**

- In most of the libraries, approximately three to eight volunteer community leaders serve on each library governing board.
- In both Guatemala and Honduras, the reading programs have been the most active with reading activities as a part of the regular library programming.. The librarians and directors are the key individuals developing these activities. All libraries do four stories hours per week and 18 (of 64) libraries conduct a regular Reading Club.
- Twenty-two libraries have an active youth group and the others develop independent activities. In other cases youth groups are participating in activities developed by other organizations.
- Librarians frequently take an active role in supporting the operations of their libraries. Their leadership has been crucial for the performance of the libraries.

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**2011 Oct-Dec.  
Technology Use  
22,412 persons**

50.94% Women  
49.06% Men  
**409 Monthly Users per library**

- In Honduras 29 libraries are connected to high speed internet, while three have low speed connections. Guatemala has five libraries with internet service. To pay the monthly internet fee the local boards and directors negotiate local alliances and charge a symbolic payment to users. Basic computer maintenance is done in all the libraries.



# Financial Statements

## THE RIECKEN FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Jan - Dec 11
<b>Income</b>	
41102 · DONATIONS UNRESTRICTED	
4110203 · INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	171,807.45
4110204 · REVENUE - HONDURAS	263,851.00
4110205 · REVENUE GUATEMALA	287,649.00
<b>Total 41102 · DONATIONS UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>723,307.45</b>
4301 · FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	
430101 · BANK INTEREST	1,379.39
<b>Total 4301 · FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>1,379.39</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>724,686.84</b>



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## Expense

51101 · LIBRARY PROGRAMMING		52103 · OFFICE EXPENSES	
5110102 · PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES	249,409.00	5210301 · STATIONARY & OFFICE SUPPLIES	5,461.39
<b>Total 51101 · LIBRARY PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>249,409.00</b>	5210303 · MOBILE PHONE SERVICE	11,699.00
51201 · LIBRARIANS		5210304 · INTERNET	4,541.64
5120102 · TRAVELLING EXPENSES	418.00	5210305 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES	9,500.00
<b>Total 51201 · LIBRARIANS</b>	<b>418.00</b>	5210198 · WEB HOSTING	229.95
51302 · BENEFITS		5210199 · BANK CHARGES	1,532.40
5130201 · INDEMNIFICATIONS	2,704.00	<b>Total 52103 · OFFICE EXPENSES</b>	<b>32,964.38</b>
<b>Total 51302 · BENEFITS</b>	<b>2,704.00</b>	53301 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
51305 · OTHER STAFF EXPENSES		5330102 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	60,236.00
5130501 · CONTRACT SERVICES	5,000.00	<b>Total 53301 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>60,236.00</b>
5130502 · CONTRACT STAFF PAYROLL	123,250.00	54101 · OVERHEAD	
<b>Total 51305 · OTHER STAFF EXPENSES</b>	<b>128,250.00</b>	5410101 · TRAVEL	38,001.00
52101 · BUILDING EXPENSES		5410103 · PUBLICATIONS & PRINTING	19,342.00
5210101 · RENT	10,551.00	5410104 · ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	47,606.00
5210102 · REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	206.00	<b>Total 54101 · OVERHEAD</b>	<b>104,949.00</b>
5210106 · SECURITY	304.00	54201 · BUSINESS EXPENSES	
5210193 · UTILITIES	2,659.00	5420199 · MISCELLANEOUS	36,649.00
<b>Total 52101 · BUILDING EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,720.00</b>	5420102 · OVERHEAD	39,781.00
52102 · VEHICLE EXPENSES		<b>Total 54201 · BUSINESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>76,430.00</b>
5210201 · FUEL & LUBRICANTS	25,892.00		
<b>Total 52102 · VEHICLE EXPENSES</b>	<b>25,892.00</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>694,972.38</b>
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>29,714.46</b>

William Cartwright  
Presidente & CEO

Ted Grover  
Senior Financial Officer

## Shared Success

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The Riecken Community Libraries' 2011 achievements have been the product of the many institutional and individual efforts. A sincere thank you for your confidence in and support of our work.



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### International Organizations

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- Development Alternatives, Inc
- Embassy of Finland to Central America
- IBBY Guatemala
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) / Project Peace and Social Coexistence.
- Open Society Institute / The Soros Foundation
- Rotary Club of Reno, Nevada USA
- Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley, CA USA
- Gray Ghost Ventures.
- PaperBoy Ventures
- World Bank

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### Guatemala

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- ArtCorps
- Child Aid
- Common Hope
- Community Solutions
- Fundasistemas
- Juárez and Associates / USAID
- Inherit: Passed to Present
- La Azotea Cultural Center
- Miracles in Action
- PAVA (Programa de Ayuda a los Vecinos del Altiplano)
- Pueblo a Pueblo
- Semillas para el Futuro

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### Honduras

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- International Cooperation Agencies (ACI)
- Spanish Cultural Center in Tegucigalpa (CCET).
- ONG for development of Honduras Federation (FOPRIDEH).
- Honduran Security Minister
- Honduran Presidential Minister, Office of Acquisitions (ONCAE).
- Honduran Planning and External Cooperation (SEPLAN)
- Volunteer Network of Honduras

## Governance

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**James N. Wilson**  
**Chairman**



**William Cartwright**  
**President & CEO**



**Allen Andersson**  
**Treasurer**



**Malcolm Butler**  
**Director**



**Elisabeth Dávila**  
**Director**



**Joan Fuetsch**  
**Secretary**

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### STAFF

Francisco José Alcaide Canata - Luis Alfonso Quino // Country Director

Romeo Rodríguez // Development Officer

Ilse Zamora – Valeria Ordóñez // Finance Officer

Francklin Sierra - Dasil Mejía- Sergio Pérez – Gloria Fernández// Program Officer

Zobeyda Romero – Israel Quic // Regional Coordinator

Blanca Reyes // General Services





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