



**For immediate release**

For More Information Contact:  
Bill Cartwright  
Phone: (650) 206-2593  
[bill@rieckenlibraries.org](mailto:bill@rieckenlibraries.org)

## **Riecken Foundation Recognized for Human Rights in Education by Organization of Iberian and American States (OEI)**

**Award Based on Alignment of Programs with Criteria Focused on Objectives, Delivery and Content Specific to Human Rights**

Tegucigalpa, Honduras—November 16, 2015—The Riecken Foundation dba Riecken Community Libraries was just awarded second place for human rights in education among Honduran civil society organizations by the Iberian and American States (OEI). Through a network of over 60 community libraries in rural Honduras and Guatemala, Riecken brings access to information and dynamic programs ranging from early childhood nutrition to leadership development to support for local entrepreneurs - to some of the poorest rural areas of Central America.

“This award from the OEI is clear acknowledgement of how the work being done in our 65 libraries today nurtures so many aspects of human rights. From augmenting basic school education, being open and free to all, providing venues for learning, speaking, debating and assembling, and developing leadership for strong democratic communities, we have been a huge part of the human rights story in Riecken library communities,” said Bill Cartwright, President of Riecken Community Libraries. “We strive to educate young people – and community

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elders, too – on their human rights and how to support them.”

Riecken Community Libraries also ranked for their work in transparency and community development projects. This reflects strongly on the Riecken Community Library model of development, built on true partnerships among the community, its local government and The Riecken Foundation.

The award was validated by the Honduran National Commission on Human Rights (CONADEH) and will be presented in early December.

### **About Riecken Community Libraries**

Riecken Community Libraries bring access to information and programs to poor rural areas of Central America through a network of over 60 dynamic community libraries. Offering books, programs relevant to the needs of the communities being served, and access to technology whenever possible – Riecken libraries connect people in Honduras and Guatemala to each other and to the world. They help prepare a generation of local leadership and open minds and imaginations to a world of possibilities otherwise inaccessible to these underserved communities.