



**For immediate release**

For More Information Contact:  
Bill Cartwright  
(650) 206-2539  
[bill@rieckenlibraries.org](mailto:bill@rieckenlibraries.org)

## **The Riecken Foundation Receives Grants for Rural Central American Communities**

**USAID/ASHA Awards of Nearly \$800,000 Will Provide Books, Equipment and Repairs to Riecken Network of Community Libraries**

*Tegucigalpa, Honduras*—November 13, 2018—For nearly 20 years, communities in remote, rural and often indigenous areas of Honduras and Guatemala have come to depend on community libraries founded by The Riecken Foundation (dba Riecken Community Libraries) for life-changing opportunities otherwise not available. Three recently awarded grants from USAID/ASHA\* will breathe new life into some of the libraries' offerings.

With contributions from private donors and other funding partners, and support from municipalities, the Riecken libraries – free and open to all – serve as community development centers, offering quality books and literacy support, youth programs, technology training, early childhood development and nutrition, community leadership development, and cultural preservation efforts. By empowering those who visit the libraries to enhance their prospects for the future, Riecken Community Libraries are stabilizing factors in the communities they serve.

“The environment in Central America becomes more challenging with each passing day for those who are marginalized and facing increasing violence.

—more—

Every day, over 1000 people of all ages visit a Riecken Community Library and participate in programs or activities that enhance their opportunity for a brighter future. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with USAID/ASHA and are at this time finalizing documentation on another technology equipment grant for additional libraries in the Honduran library network,” says Bill Cartwright, President of The Riecken Foundation.

Receiving this kind of support from USAID/AID is critical to the stability of the libraries, highly valued resources in their communities. While the grants will be game-changers for Riecken Community Libraries, they do not include funding for management, staff or training for implementation.

Adds Cartwright, “Financial support for the implementation of these grants will help us make the most of the generosity of USAID/ASHA. We encourage anyone desiring to make a difference in this very troubled region of the world to consider Riecken Community Libraries in their giving plans.”

\*American Schools and Hospitals Abroad

###

### **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. [www.riecken.org](http://www.riecken.org)

View photos here <https://riecken.org/usaid-asha-equipment-delivery/>