





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

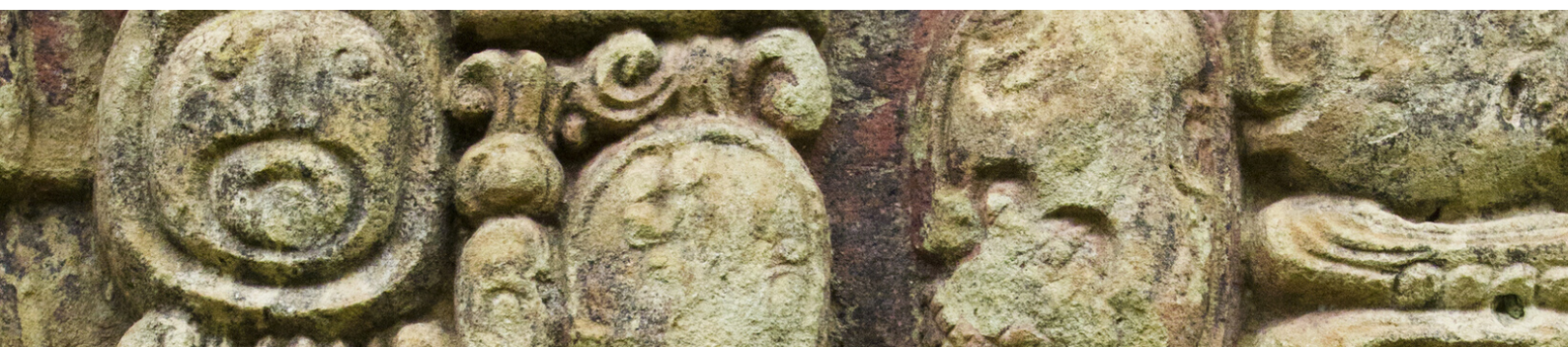
For nearly 20 years Riecken Community Libraries have held to our mission to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America through community libraries that awaken a spirit of discovery, drive social participation and empower communities to lift themselves out of poverty. With over 450,000 visitors and 9,000 volunteers in this past year, we are witness to the value they provide in essential knowledge, development of critical thinking skills and a commitment to lifelong learning and self-education.

With our successful sustainability model, highly replicable programs, and team of dedicated staff and librarians, we see how the seeds we planted so long ago have grown. In 2019, we were able to turn our focus toward some rejuvenation efforts for the Riecken library network, such as replenishment of equipment and materials, our first ever librarian training, renewed relationships with some of our municipalities, and building repairs where needed, while of course, always reaching for deeper impact.

Day-to-day living conditions are very rough in Central America, but we know that the problems we seek to solve exist in much of the world. Our close alignment with 10 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 demonstrates how Riecken Community Libraries plays our part in solving these challenges, by empowering the communities we serve to create sustainable local solutions.



Bill Cartwright







# Key Riecken Library Statistics 2019

457,823

Visits in 2019 - 47% women/girls and 53% men/boys

42%

Of visitors are younger than 12 years old, 20% are 22 and older

233,651

Visitors used technology in 2019. 54% of new users are women/girls

99,284

Technology users regularly connected to the internet

9,220

Local community volunteers in 2019

\$408,239

Volunteer hours value = avg. of 3 hrs/week/volunteer @ \$1.23USD

100+

Librarians received fundamentals of library science training

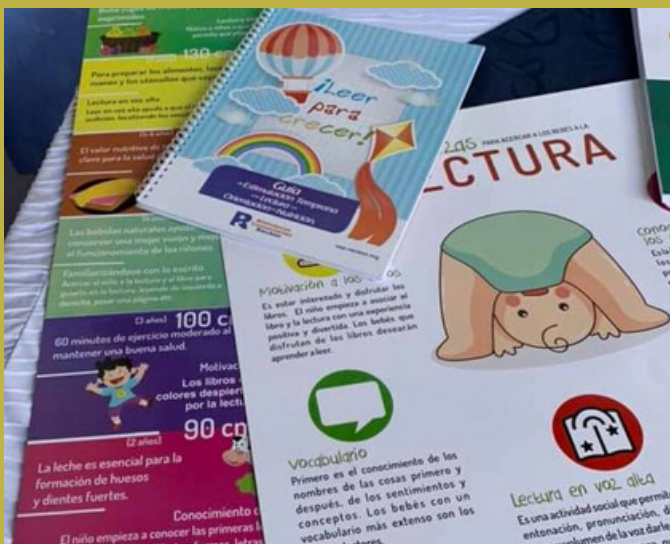
# Our Work in 2019



**Social participation** is essential to the Riecken sustainability model, and positively benefits those who volunteer on library boards with leadership development opportunities in planning, management, and advocacy with local governments. Young volunteers support staff as well as help others leverage libraries' resources. **In 2019, Riecken Community Library volunteers numbered more than 9,000 (!) community members of all ages, contributing more than \$400,000 USD in volunteer hours.**



By **supplementing public school resources and programs**, community libraries improve the quality of public education in a region where government support is low and many populations are excluded. Riecken Community Libraries promote local education, support teacher training in use of computers and technology as educational tools, help democratize access to information, provide resources for homework and research projects and Internet where it is available. **In 2019, 875 activities were held with public school teachers that involved participation of over 17,000 people in Honduras and Guatemala, including teacher training, story hours in schools, and teacher meetings.**



**improving quality of life** and empowering communities to develop and sustain it, drives Riecken Community Libraries to create and offer opportunities to acquire habits for healthy living in a healthy environment. Using reading activities to present and reinforce concepts for good nutrition, child development, community health, and environmental protection, libraries support the development of stronger communities. **In 2019 more than 640 community health interventions were carried out and 623 environmental trainings, workshops and campaigns held to promote values in ecology.**



# Our Work in 2019



Riecken libraries strive to **help close the digital divide** caused by the lack of infrastructure, high cost of equipment, many dialects spoken and absence of applications of interest to the regional population. **In 2019, over 35,000 people participated in more than 19,000 technology and Internet-related activities in the libraries.** Technology training and discussions on current topics such as Internet privacy and security, the use of mobile devices as tools for learning and small business, and literacy skill building on tablets and Kindles widened the window on the digital world.



Thanks to the ASHA program of USAID **in 2019 the strengthening of the library networks in Guatemala and Honduras** enabled them to provide greater service to their communities. Aligned tightly with the goals and objectives of the USAID Mission in Honduras and Guatemala in regions with remarkably high crime rates, Riecken Community Libraries was able to expand already successful programs for at-risk youth. Providing safe choices of educational and social opportunities, and infrastructure to increase access to educational opportunities for youth beyond the 6th grade, helps keep youth off the streets and empowered to create meaningful futures.



Riecken completed its fifth year of a women's leadership program in five Guatemala libraries through BFB Foundation funding. The program empowers local women leaders who then create women's groups, eventually running businesses in their communities to support their families and provide services to their communities.

Small business credit unions created under the program continue to operate in those libraries, with robust materials developed for the leader program. More will be brought online in the coming year and can be easily replicated.



# 2019 Recognition

## *Library of Congress*

Riecken Community Libraries was honored by the Library of Congress Literacy Awards as a 2019 Best Practice Honoree. The award, given for achievement in the promotion of literacy and development of innovative methods and effective practices in the field, was received at the Library of Congress in October.

## *Guatemala International Book Fair (FILGUA)*

Riecken Community Libraries were 2nd and 3rd place winners awarded at FILGUA, the Guatemala International Book Fair for dynamic work in their communities. Congratulations were in order to Biblioteca Riecken de la Libertad (2nd) and Biblioteca Nuevo amanecer de Cabricán, Quetzaltenango (3rd).

## *American Library Association*

Riecken Community Libraries' photograph was chosen as one of 18 to be included in a collection from around the world featuring library projects and programs best demonstrating this year's American Library Association (ALA) theme, "Libraries = Strong Communities". Selected by the International Connections Committee of the International Relations Round Table of the ALA, the collection illustrates libraries' innovative services and impact in building strong communities around the world.

## *Reforma*

Riecken Community Libraries partnered with REFORMA, The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking of the ALA in its Children in Crisis Project. Riecken joined members of the Children in Crisis Project Team in Tijuana to deliver books, materials, and clothes immigrant children resident at the large Casa del Migrante.







## **Riecken Foundation 2019 Income & Expenses**

<b>Total Revenues, Grants, Other Support</b>	<b>\$457,379</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$473,877</b>

### **Percentage of Expenses by Category**

<b>Human Resources 8%</b>	<b>Programs 77%</b>
<b>Operations 5%</b>	<b>External Services 4%</b>
<b>Fundraising 6%</b>	



# We Are Grateful to Our 2019 Supporters

**American Library Association (ALA)**

**BFB Foundation**

**David and Lucile Packard Foundation**

**Friends of Riecken Community Libraries**

**Kissick Family Foundation**

**Patricia Price Peterson Foundation**

**REFORMA**

**Riecken Foundation Board Members**

**USAID/ASHA**

**Donors to Riecken Global Giving Projects  
and Riecken.org**

**Many Thousands of Local Volunteers**





# Riecken Community Libraries: A Model for Sustainability



Many rural libraries in developing countries perish early from neglect, and lack of on-going management, relevant programs, or sustained community involvement. The key to the sustainable success of the Riecken Community Library networks in Guatemala and Honduras is the on-going cooperation between:

- \* An organized group of volunteer citizens who manage and lead construction, maintenance and staffing of the library, and are responsible for the ongoing success of activities and programming
- \* The municipal government that provides land and funding, and supports the library's work as a recognized part of the community infrastructure
- \* The Riecken Foundation, who guides the overall establishment of the library, providing direction, financial resources, ongoing training and programming.



#### US OFFICE

ESG, Inc.  
The Riecken Foundation  
C/O T. Grover  
PO Box 30  
Princeton, NJ 08542  
USA  
Tel: (650) 206-2539  
[info@rieckenlibraries.org](mailto:info@rieckenlibraries.org)

#### HONDURAS REGIONAL OFFICE

La Fundación Riecken  
Colonia Florencia Oeste,  
3ª calle, Bloque B, casa 3619  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
  
Tel: +504-2243-4629  
[info@rieckenlibraries.org](mailto:info@rieckenlibraries.org)

#### GUATEMALA REGIONAL OFFICE

La Fundación Riecken  
Condominio El Injertal,  
casa 7, zona 1  
San Felipe de Jesús (La Antigua  
Guatemala), Guatemala  
  
Tel: +502-7831-1859  
[info@rieckenlibraries.org](mailto:info@rieckenlibraries.org)