

Changing Lives through Access to Information in Central America

Why Libraries?

Since 2000, The Riecken Foundation has built and sponsored community libraries in Honduras and Guatemala where more than half of the population lives in deep poverty. Visitors can participate in literacy programs, have free access to computers and training, the Internet, books and magazines, and traditional library programming, such as story hours and book clubs. Our library communities value the libraries as assets supporting the needs of over 400,000 visitors annually!

Community-Driven Programs

As community hubs, Riecken Libraries are spaces used in ways that help advance the sustainable development of the communities. Programs are driven by local demand and may include:

- Reading and literacy skills programs
- Early childhood development and nutrition
- Youth leadership groups
- Women's leadership development
- Technology training
- Entrepreneurship
- Environmental sustainability
- Support for local teachers

The Riecken Model for Sustainability

Key to the sustainable success of Riecken Community Libraries is a partnership between:

- Citizen volunteers who manage and lead construction, maintenance and staffing of the library, and ensure the success of activities and programming
- The Municipal Government that provides land, funding, and support for the library as a part of the community infrastructure
- The Riecken Foundation, guiding overall establishment of the library, with direction, financial resources, ongoing training and programming.



Information, Inspiration, and Hope for the Future

Riecken Community Libraries bring access to information and empowerment programs to remote, rural, and generally poor areas of Central America through a network of 65 community libraries.

Offering books, computers, training, and programs that are driven by the needs of its community, each Riecken Library is open and free to all. From the moment the doors open, the libraries bring the power of information to all who enter. And they open minds and imaginations to a world of possibilities not otherwise available to these communities in a region facing tremendously difficult challenges.

The results of our work? Stronger, more engaged, and growing communities that are building the capacity for prosperity and democracy.

"It's not very often that I see something as remarkable and transformational as your project."

- Anne Dix, Director, ASHA
American Schools and Hospitals Abroad

Learn how to make a real difference in the lives of those who struggle to survive in Central America.

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