MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Despite an ongoing pandemic and the challenges it presented to our communities, Riecken Community Libraries began 2021 as a year of rebuilding and growth that would raise the spirits and hopes of our library users, volunteers, and staff alike.

Our key objectives were to:

- **Seek and leverage new opportunities** to solve local problems, beyond surviving COVID
- Fully **re-open and reconnect** with the world beyond our communities,
- Prepare for the **construction of new libraries** by the end of 2022 or early 2023, and,
- Effectively **support programs and equipment implementation** provided through the generosity of our funding partners.

We ended the year having made great progress on each of them with creativity and energy of Riecken staff, librarians, volunteers and our community members, and supplemented by generous financial gifts from some very special friends of Riecken.

An **impact survey**, in which over 850 Riecken library users, volunteers, and librarians participated, reinforced our long-held belief that the work of our libraries strengthens resilience in our communities and of the individuals who live in them.

We are deeply grateful to all who have shared and supported this belief as we continue our mission to change lives through access to information in Central America.

Bill Cartwright
President, Riecken Foundation
Visits in 2021 - 54% women/girls and 46% men/boys
Under 13 yrs=60,656 ; Between 13-22 yrs=59,138 ; 23+ yrs = 56,512

Visitors used technology in 2021. 49% of new users were women.

Technology users regularly connected to the internet

Local community volunteers in 2020

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

2021 by the Numbers

Honduras
107,708 visits were made to the 52 Honduras Riecken library network, supported by 3,468 local volunteers.

Guatemala
68,598 visits made in 2021 to the 11 libraries in the Riecken library network in Guatemala, including support of 1,079 volunteers.

176,306 Visits in 2021 - 54% women/girls and 46% men/boys
Under 13 yrs=60,656 ; Between 13-22 yrs=59,138 ; 23+ yrs = 56,512

75,287 Visitors used technology in 2021. 49% of new users were women.

42,263 Technology users regularly connected to the internet

4547 Local community volunteers in 2020

$201,341 Volunteer hours value = avg. of 3 hrs/week/volunteer @ $1.23USD
2021 HIGHLIGHTS
INITIATIVES AND IMPACTS

New Libraries
Funded through generous USAID/ASHA grants, four new libraries in Guatemala will be built to expand our network to 69 libraries. After extensive due diligence with eight communities vying for the opportunity to have a library, four were selected: Palestina, El Tejar, Chivarreto, and Catarina.

Opening new libraries has been a long-held goal by everyone who supports the life-changing impacts of our work. Creation of programs relevant to the library communities and fully trained librarians who can deliver them will be critical. We are grateful for generous gifts incremental to planned annual gifts that are providing training and programming for four years.

Major Repairs in Nine Libraries
In Guatemala, the Riecken libraries worked with Engineers Without Borders on badly needed remodeling and construction in nine existing libraries in Guatemala.

Technology Equipment
In Honduras, the delivery of technology equipment to 30 of the 53 libraries has been completed. The project continues with training of librarians and community members on basic use of technology, as well as its most efficient and creative uses.

Digitalization of Services
Riecken has joined the world of online book-lending, with the Odilo platform that allows our library users to borrow books through download from the library. Descúbrelo, or ‘Discover It’, is part of a comprehensive reading program with customizable content to facilitate access to works for users’ age and interests, enables collaborative learning, creation of content, and participation in reading clubs or debates with authors.

Thanks to the generous support of USAID/ASHA, Study.com, and Friends of Riecken, three large librarian trainings for 51 librarians and reading promoters were held. 29 Community Libraries were trained to use Odilo, and more than 500 eBooks were downloaded in 2021.
2021 HIGHLIGHTS
INITIATIVES AND IMPACTS

Impact Survey: Riecken Community Libraries Strengthen Resilience

Despite a second year of pandemic-related challenges making life even more difficult in the region we serve, we are witness the strength of families in the communities on a daily basis. In the 2nd half of 2021, we created and admin-ed a survey with the goal of obtaining useful validation of our belief that Riecken libraries change lives in meaningful ways and an understanding of how.

Through enthusiastic promotion of this project by staff and librarians in 20 libraries, 32 librarians, 160 volunteers, and 665 library users completed an astounding 857 surveys online!

We heard from survey-takers that Riecken Community Libraries contribute to the well being of their communities, have helped families during the pandemic, helped individuals find employment, support community development and educational interests, and provide useful programs supporting local needs. Individuals who work in, volunteer for, and visit the libraries have become more engaged with communities and experience greater self-esteem.

- 90% of users surveyed said that their library had helped their community during the pandemic and 77% said it had helped their family. Access to free Wi-Fi was key.
- Users, librarians, and volunteers alike said that because of their library, they were more engaged in their community, had more friends, were more curious or felt they had better personal relationships – all factors in personal development.

Internet access was generally considered to be of high value to survey takers, especially during the pandemic. This critical resource drives many creative solutions to local challenges, and has been a lifeline to the world outside the local community. Our long-term plan to leverage digitalization of library programs and services to enhance and expand our reach, has been reinforced by these survey findings.
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 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.
## RIECKEN FOUNDATION
### 2021 INCOME & EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME AND EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues, Gains, Other Support</td>
<td>871,732</td>
<td>370,638</td>
<td>456,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Contributions</td>
<td>45,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues, Gains, Other Support</strong></td>
<td>917,593</td>
<td>370,989</td>
<td>457,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Libraries</td>
<td>43,080</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Programming</td>
<td>372,188</td>
<td>6,197</td>
<td>8,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarians</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>6,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Governing Boards</td>
<td>4,911</td>
<td>2,931</td>
<td>16,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>11,025</td>
<td>-580</td>
<td>27,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Staff Expenses</td>
<td>29,356</td>
<td>36,050</td>
<td>52,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>25,111</td>
<td>5,107</td>
<td>18,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Expenses</td>
<td>2,335</td>
<td>2,833</td>
<td>1,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Expenses</td>
<td>25,939</td>
<td>26,019</td>
<td>25,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Expenses</td>
<td>2,730</td>
<td>1,092</td>
<td>1,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>14,835</td>
<td>10,543</td>
<td>17,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>162,736</td>
<td>166,986</td>
<td>243,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>160,157</td>
<td>143,035</td>
<td>53,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Business Expenses</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>3,123</td>
<td>2,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>854,862</td>
<td>403,433</td>
<td>473,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, End of Year</strong></td>
<td>62,731</td>
<td>-32,443</td>
<td>-16,499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With Gratitude to Our 2021 Partners

Friends of Riecken
American Library Association (ALA)
BFB Foundation
Global Giving/Crowdfunding
David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Study.com
Kissick Family Foundation
ReForma (ALA's Latino services & resources committee)

“I have been going to the library since it opened in 2005 taking computer and digital story courses. I used it to acquire information to carry out tasks, to help me to hold meetings or attend them. For more than four years, I was the librarian in each workshop that Riecken Foundation gave. It has been useful in my life... I love my library and being a volunteer is an honor... Today, we have the dream: Internet and more in our library with the support of the new team. This has been a great blessing, and technology has become part of us with our library. Children, youth and adults help each other more now.”

- Daniely Yorleny Rostrán Rivas/Diamante de Sabiduría, Jacaleapa, Honduras