

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend of Riecken,

The past year, and most of 2020, have been extremely complicated for everyone and indeed tragic for many in the communities we serve. From the perspective of the Riecken Community Library network, the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it profound disorder, affecting nearly every aspect of its operation. Vaccination rates in the region remain low, preventing any kind of speedy recovery.

We quickly learned that community libraries were not prepared for a lockdown and the required social distancing, requiring flexibility and adaptability on everyone's part. We lost the opportunity to have face-to-face meetings with community leaders and with the library users themselves. Online meetings and trainings in our region- as elsewhere in the world – took their toll on productivity and morale.

But with most of the libraries re-opening last year, and armed with creative new ways of providing services, 2022 year brought some sweet successes.

- Our small but efficient staff re-energized the libraries as they reopened after pandemic closures
- A new project with the UN's International Organization for Migration to investigate the causes of migration was begun in our Guatemalan library network.
- The full renovation of eight libraries in Guatemala was completed via an ASHA grant
- Use of Odilo, the online lending platform we invested in, continues to grow, reinforcing the powerful complement that technology can play in developing a love of reading.

Perhaps the greatest news of 2022 was that with a hard-earned grant awarded by USAID/ASHA and private funding from a Friend of Riecken, we began preparation to build four new libraries – the first in a decade.

I look forward to 2023 with enthusiasm fueled in part by the knowledge that Riecken Community Libraries still thrives after another year of delivering positive impact through access to information and life-long learning -- creating opportunities so critical to development.

More than ever, those who support our work with their hearts, hands, expertise, and financial support are true heroes to those we serve. Thank you!



Bill Cartwright
President, Riecken Foundation





2022 by the Numbers

Honduras

125,569 visits were made to the 52 Honduras Riecken library network, supported by 2,088 local volunteers.

Guatemala

94,026 visits made in 2022 to the 11 libraries in the Riecken library network in Guatemala, including support of 899 volunteers.

219,306

Visits in 2022 - 53% women/girls and 47% men/boys
Under 13 yrs=83,520 ; Between 13-22 yrs=72,960 ; 23+ yrs = 63,115

102,954

Visitors used technology in 2022. 51% of new users were women.

62,201

Technology users regularly connected to the internet

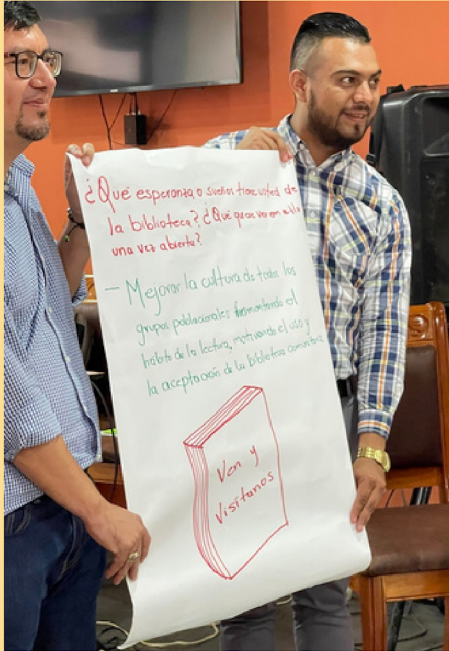
5721

Local community volunteers in 2022 worked 205,949 hours

\$253,317

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

2022 HIGHLIGHTS INITIATIVES



2022 was a year of improvements to library infrastructure, renovations, acquisition of additional equipment for libraries, and direct relationship-building efforts with municipalities in Honduras and Guatemala.

Eight Riecken libraries received badly needed renovations through a USAID/ASHA grant initiated in 2020. This grant also provided books, technology equipment, and furniture to replenish and upgrade the resources previously available.

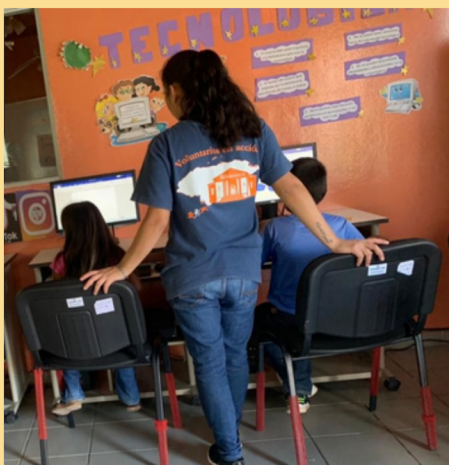
Of special note, the library in La Libertad in Guatemala, which suffered major damage from flooding in 2021 was repaired with totally new electrical and sanitation systems through the generosity of Friends of Riecken. Replacement of the entire book inventory and destroyed equipment was also provided.

Preparations for groundbreaking on four new libraries have engaged the enthusiasm of the local communities, their municipalities, and construction partners, such as Engineers without Borders. Our deep gratitude goes to USAID/ASHA and a Friend of Riecken donor for the funding to grow our library network.

Digitization of programs in the libraries enabled innovation in the delivery of services and support for local education. Use of *Odilo*, the online library lending platform Riecken invested in 2020 early in the pandemic, continues to grow and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Riecken began a one-year program with the United Nation's International Migration Organization to study root causes of migration in Central America, using existing Riecken library programs as a platform for participants to debate, analyze, and discuss perceptions of the causes of migration. These efforts will be followed up to see if attitudes can be changed with greater understanding of risks, opportunities and challenges.

Strengthening and rebuilding challenging relationships between the Riecken library boards and municipal governments was tackled head on. 33 visits were made to library communities for face-to-face leadership workshops, reinforcing critical skills necessary to carry out the responsibilities of relationship management. .



RIECKEN FOUNDATION 2022 INCOME & EXPENSES

REVENUES	2022	2021	2020
Revenues, Gains, Other Support	346,975	871,732	370,638
Restricted Contributions	458,845	45,500	
Other Revenue	452	361	351
Total Revenues, Gains, Other Support	806,254	917,593	370,989
EXPENSES	2022	2021	2020
New Libraries	143,511	43,080	
Library Programming	57,248	372,188	6,197
Librarians	33,387		97
Library Governing Boards	1,851	4,911	2,931
Volunteers	7,664	11,025	-580
Other Staff Expenses	52,152	29,356	36,050
Monitoring and Evaluation	28,990	25,111	5,107
Financial Expenses	1,620	2,335	2,833
Building Expenses	30,793	25,939	26,019
Vehicle Expenses	873	2,730	1,092
Office Expenses	17,693	14,835	10,543
Salaries and Benefits	178,774	162,736	166,986
Professional Services	173,594	160,157	143,035
Miscellaneous Business Expenses	3,058	459	3,123
TOTAL EXPENSES	731,206	854,862	403,433
Net Assets, End of Year	75,048	62,731	-32,443



Riecken Community Libraries: A Community-Based Model

Community	Riecken Community Libraries	Local Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Governing Board • Local Volunteers • Local Programming Initiatives • Fundraising Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners/Donations • Technical Advice • Training • Building Construction • Institutional Visits • International Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarian's Salary • Utilities • Land/Building • Legal Recognition for Local Management



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.



With Gratitude to Our 2022 Partners

Friends of Riecken

American Library Association (ALA)

ASHA/USAID

BFB Foundation

Global Giving/Crowdfunding

International Organization for Migration

David & Lucile Packard Foundation

Study.com

Kissick Family Foundation

ReForma (ALA's Latino services &
resources committee)

Anonymous Donors



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