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NEWSLETTER OF: **SERVICE*EDUCATION*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*SCIENCE (S.E.E.D.S.), INC.**
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WINTER-SPRING 2000

"COMMUNITY IS LOCAL AND GLOBAL"

Peace and Blessings Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce that S.E.E.D.S. is launching the Global Communities: Sustainable Strategies (GCSS) Campaign, our second major international development initiative. Our first was the very successful "20 FOR 45" Campaign. GCSS is a five-year effort linking people, organizations and communities in Africa and the US on practical projects that promote cooperation, literacy, critical thinking, ecological & environmental awareness and local economic empowerment.

During the Campaign, S.E.E.D.S. will continue its practice of organizing volunteers who often live 'worlds apart', into cooperating teams that work on different aspects of the same community empowerment project. Each GCSS project will address important local needs, while fostering global collaborations. Through their work, the volunteers learn about each other; often finding common ground, and a broader sense of community.

The first GCSS initiative is S.E.E.D.S.' Library Resource-Center (LRC) Program. This ambitious literacy and sustainable development effort is the subject of much of the newsletter, so please read on.

The challenges are great and your support is needed like never before. Yet, I am confident that our plan and commitment to Service will carry us through.

*For S.E.E.D.S.,
Jacqueline Wright, President*

LIBRARY-RESOURCE CENTERS

2000 is the year in which S.E.E.D.S. transforms its Library-Resource Center (LRC) concept into reality. **As envisioned, LRCs will be community-based facilities that combine the services and intellectual enrichment opportunities of a library with critically needed community development resources.**

The LRC concept evolved out of S.E.E.D.S.' seven years of literacy and development experience in Ghana, West Africa. The actual plan of action emerged in 1999, once S.E.E.D.S. volunteers had completed a series of interviews with Ghanaians and indigenous organizations, documenting their *priorities, programs and non-financial needs.*

First LRC Slated for Ghana

Fittingly, S.E.E.D.S. will develop the first of its Library-Resource Centers in Ghana in 2000-2001. Locations in several of the country's ten regions are being considered. The site of the first LRC will be selected in August of 2000.

S.E.E.D.S. also expects to assist indigenous groups develop LRCs in communities in other West African and Southern African countries over the next few years.

LRC SERVICES and RESOURCES

Library Services: Every LRC will feature a *general library of at least 10,000 volumes.* It will consist of a varied selection of academic texts, adult and children's literature, social studies, science, technical and reference books, as well as periodicals. *Special collections on Community Development, Environmental Awareness and African and African Diaspora Culture* will also be included.

There will be three basic library services: (1) *in-library* (browsing, general reading and research), (2) *lending* (short term book loans to registered LRC members) and (3) *mobile outreach* (transport & medium term lending of small selections of books and periodicals to remote communities, villages, schools or groups).

Sustainable Community Development Resources: The LRC will reinforce long term local empowerment through: (1) *ecology awareness & environmental conservation* initiatives; (2) a revolving "small loan" fund and *business plan technical assistance* to area residents, businesses and groups; (3) *economic development partnerships*; (4) an *educational enrichment program* for students and *professional development resources* to teachers, and (5) *health, hygiene & nutrition* information and referral services.¶

WE ALREADY HAVE BOOKS...

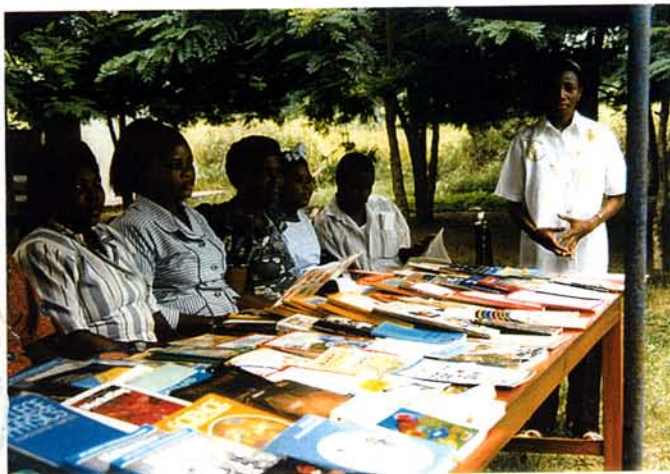
BUT WE DO NEED MONEY...!

Every Library-Resource Center (LRC) will have an inventory of at least 10,000 books. S.E.E.D.S. already has access to enough high quality new books to stock several LRCs. **What we need is \$15,000.00 to defray the logistics and transport costs of each full book shipment.** This is quite a bargain since a full shipment can stock two LRCs. *The value of a full shipment of books is estimated at approximately \$240,000.00*

Every LRC must also be housed in an adequate facility and operated by competent staff, in accordance with a plan that reflects its community's needs. S.E.E.D.S. and its Ghanaian partners already have access to adequate facilities; capable and motivated personnel, and appropriate planning resources. **What we need is \$10,000.00 — S.E.E.D.S. share of projected capital improvement costs and first year operating expenses for each LRC.**

S.E.E.D.S. seeks to raise a minimum of \$25,000.00 by November 30th. We need your support in raising the money!

S.E.E.D.S. is a non profit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions to S.E.E.D.S. are tax deductible.



Amasaman, Ghana: Parent Representatives attending outdoor ceremony celebrating donation of a S.E.E.D.S. **Starter Library Collection** to their new library. A portion of the 500 volumes were displayed by the appreciative community. **Standing:** Gloria Sika Bans, S.E.E.D.S. Project Coordinator.



"We already have the books." IBB WAREHOUSE ... CLEAN, WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL STOCKED.

WHERE DOES S.E.E.D.S. GET BOOKS?

Hundreds of donors have contributed the 35,000 books that S.E.E.D.S. has collected during the '90s. The more than seventy (70) *starter library* collections that resulted, were all beneficiaries of the numerous personal and organizational gifts; school and university contributions; and public library disbursements.

In recent years S.E.E.D.S. has established a relationship with the the US-based *International Book Bank (IBB)*, an outstanding literacy support organization, specializing in the collection and transshipment of donated books. IBB, which maintains an inventory of approximately one million new books, will be S.E.E.D.S.' primary resource for stocking the Library-Resource Centers.

S.E.E.D.S. is also approaching publishers, bookstores, authors, trade associations and book clubs for specialized book donations.

Visit IBB's website: www.InternationalBookBank.org

A year after the book donation... It's 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday in Amasaman and children have already been using their once barren library for an hour.

Inside a donated container, Ibrahim, "A-k" and Seth repack and sort books for distribution across Ghana.

Sowing S.E.E.D.S.



BEHIND THE LRC STRATEGY...

The demands from the people of the Global South for self determination, economic justice and localized empowerment are very clear. The critical roles that literacy and sustainable development will play in realizing these aspirations are also widely recognized.

For S.E.E.D.S., helping to develop Library-Resource Centers is a 'logical progression' of our work. Yet making the decision has also been quite sobering. In considering the LRC challenge, we identified a host of logistical, financial, human resource and operations issues to be addressed. Our success in working on them over the last year is encouraging. It is now time to follow through. The *S.E.E.D.S. LRC Development Program 2000*, our framework for implementation, is presented on page 4.

Each LRC will provide core library services and sustainable development resources. (See "LRC Services..." on page 1.) Operating these distinct, yet complementary program components 'under one roof' is an important innovation.

The "lending" and "mobile outreach" library services are intended to ensure greater community access to books and exchange of information. Ironically, many libraries in "book-starved" areas do little book lending, and no extended outreach. Their policies tend to restrict rather than promote community access to their books. Local administrators, perhaps fearful of the loss or damage of the 'precious commodities', often seem more compelled to protect and less inclined to provide.

Each LRC's sustainable development programs will be reinforced by the library's special and general collections. The programs will address human rights, area ecology & environmental issues; local economic empowerment needs; life-long learning & educational enrichment strategies, and health & nutrition matters. Collaborations among area residents and groups will be encouraged. Also, the LRC staff and community will engage in *action research* as a means of learning from, and improving the quality of every LRC's programs and services.

We are striving to generate a synergy within each LRC that enables the facility as a whole, to have an even greater impact within the community than its individual components could produce separately.

We believe that LRCs can be useful institutions for change. Volunteer to help finance a LRC. Work with S.E.E.D.S. to assist a Global South community extend literacy and empower itself.



LRC Development Program 2000

1. S.E.E.D.S. will arrange to obtain, store, sort and ship a collection of at least **10,000 books** that will be donated to **establish the first LRC**.
2. S.E.E.D.S. volunteers will collaborate with strong, indigenous organizations to secure and refurbish an appropriate facility.
3. S.E.E.D.S. will work with other organizations to fund the LRC's first year of operations. This includes establishing the *revolving "Sustainable Development Loan Fund"*.
4. S.E.E.D.S. and its partners will form the nucleus of the LRC's 'founding Board of Directors'. This largely indigenous Board will hire a LRC Director, and be responsible for furnishings & equipment (F&E), and maintaining the LRC's on-going operations.
5. Indigenous partner organizations and other Ghanaians will provide (a) the actual LRC facility; (b) labor for facility improvements; (c) furnishings & equipment; (d) donated staff and other in-kind contributions for LRC operations, and (e) general fundraising assistance.
6. S.E.E.D.S. will raise \$25,000.00 for book transport, facility improvements and LRC operations through its **Global Communities: Sustainable Strategies (GCSS) Campaign**. May 30th, July 31st and November 30th are the target dates established for raising each 'third' of this goal.

I **N MEMORY OF SAMORI MARKSMAN, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE
BRINGING CRITICAL, EMPOWERING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC.**
**HE WAS A HUSBAND AND FATHER. HE WAS ALSO A TEACHER, COMMUNITY
ORGANIZER & ACTIVIST, AND AN INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED
INTELLECTUAL. THROUGH HIS WORK AT WBAI RADIO, SAMORI HELPED
PROVIDE A MOST IMPORTANT PORTAL INTO OUR CONSCIOUSNESS. WE
FONDLY RECALL HIS COMMITMENT, HUMANITY AND ACCESSIBILITY. SINCE
HIS PASSING ONE YEAR AGO, SAMORI CONTINUES TO BE A LIVING ROLE
MODEL.**

To Contribute: TO THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN, CONTACT ANITA HALL-DAVIS, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
To Donate : HIGH QUALITY BOOKS (REFERENCE, AFRICANA / BLACK, CHILDREN'S, COMMUNITY DEVELOP -
MENT, ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL OR TEXT BOOKS) AND HIGH QUALITY COMPUTERS

For an informative, entertaining speaker on "SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES IN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY"

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