



Opportunity Education Foundation

"Educating Children Around the World"

November 2014

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A GOOD BOOK....

has no ending. – R.D. Cumming

"Why did you do all this for me?"
he asked.

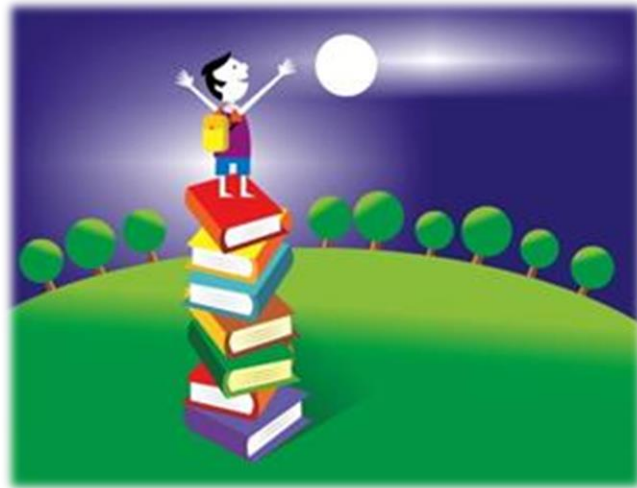
'I don't deserve it.

I've never done anything for you.'

You have been my friend,'
replied Charlotte.

'That in itself is a tremendous
thing.'

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White.



"A person's a person, no matter how small." Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss.

"There is no place like home." The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbyes so hard." Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne.

"We all can dance when we find the music that we love." Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae.

"And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Ronald Dahl.

"The moment where you doubt you can fly, you cease for ever being able to do it." Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie.

"I think I can. I think I can. I think I can. I know I can." The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper.

"Goodnight stars, goodnight air, goodnight noises everywhere." Goodnight Moon by Margret Wise Brown.

"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely." The Twits by Rod Dahl.

"And Max, the king of all wild things, was lonely and wanted to be where someone loved him, best of all." Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak.

"I don't need very much now.' said the boy. Just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired.' 'Well' said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could. 'Well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, boy, sit down and rest.' And the tree was happy." The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein.

We all have a favorite book that embodies a message that needs to be shared. The hardest part of this lesson will be choosing the book. For younger students, teachers can select a few book choices while older students can decide for themselves. Ask students to read carefully, looking for the one line or core message of the book/story. This message is the title of your letter to your pen pals – students can summarize their understanding of the book's message and find applications in their lives. A bonus would be to send this book along with the letters to your pen pals – and ask them to do the same!

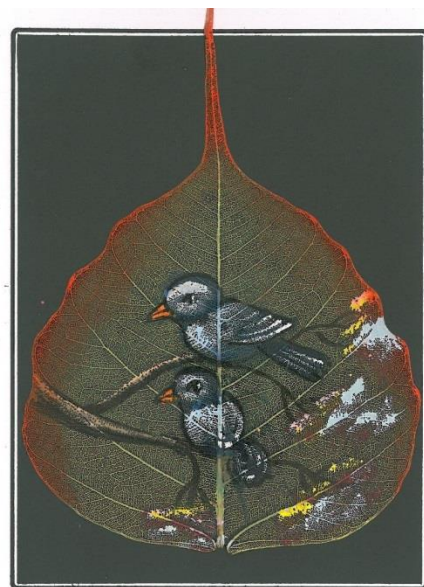
CARDS FOR A CAUSE!

Looking for a fun, fundraiser that can't lose?

Thanks to everyone who has responded! There is still time and we have cards left for the perfect holiday fundraiser and gift in one!

Selling these one-of-a-kind cards is a great opportunity to help a wonderful cause while teaching your students the basics of business!

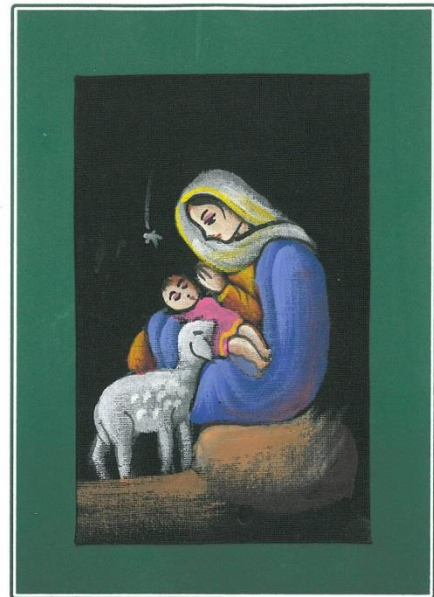
It will be simple to sell these beautiful hand painted note cards and Christmas greeting cards. The true beauty lies how the money will help and in the amazing women from Indian villages who have painted each unique card. These women raise money with these cards to help support their families and educate their children.



The cards were sent to us by Fr. Inna Reddy – who offered OEF the cards with hopes for a generous sister school or donor to come along and buy them. He plans on using the proceeds to install solar energy panels to help offset the staggering costs of supplying electricity to his school. This will free funds that can go towards educating students at his school.

Fr. Reddy's school, Bishop Thumma Bala Primary, is located in the Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh, India and is new to the OEF program. The school is in a very remote, rural area that struggles to provide consistent electrical power. Started June 2013, the school has quickly filled to over 450 students from pre-school to grade 6 with only 10 staff members to manage it all!

Students come from 7 different villages with parents who are mostly uneducated, agricultural day laborers. Most cannot afford to pay tuition fees, which obviously makes it difficult to attract and pay staff, as well as buy books and school materials. Father Inna doesn't have a home; he resides in the school, sleeping in a classroom.



While the cards are exceptional, it truly is the real people behind them, who will benefit which make these cards an amazing gift.

There are a variety of pictures on the fronts of the cards, some of every day images (birds, butterflies etc.) and some with Christmas themes – all of the cards are blank inside to allow for personalization. 500 of the cards are 5x7 painted on canvas and attached to paper, 500 are painted on a leaf, which is affixed to the card. They are all individually wrapped in cellophane to preserve the integrity. Each card is so pretty, you could frame it!

In regards to fundraising, sometimes the best approach is just to have your buyers "make a donation" to the cause, rather than naming a specific price. Suggested card price ranges from \$2–\$5 per card, with your school keeping \$1 per card and donating the rest to Bishop Thumma Bala Primary. However, you can handle the sales however you see fit – take advantage of empowering your students to manage the "business". Here is an opportunity to challenge your students to learn the basics of business, accounting and salesmanship.

Please contact Teresa Roll at Opportunity Education Foundation, (402)614–5381 or schools@opportunityeducation.org for more information. I can immediately mail you whatever quantity of cards you want and provide whatever you need to succeed.

WHAT'S NEWS IN SISTER SCHOOLS!

Welcome Juliana Bwire

OEF welcomed Juliana Bwire to our Omaha office in October. She is the Program Manager for the Opportunity Education Foundation's Tablet Program in Tanzania, providing training and ongoing support to the secondary schools. While she was in Nebraska she was graciously hosted by Wanda Glasshoff and Judy Sorensen. We are grateful for the many ways they made her visit fun and informative, including a great steak dinner and a visit to the capital building. We are grateful to these special ladies for opening their homes and hearts to Juliana.



Noteworthy Achievement!

Swampscott Middle School in Swampscott, MA donated \$2,300 to their pen pal school, Siyabulela Primary School in Langa, South Africa. The money was raised over the last 2 years by selling the beautiful note cards (pictured), having faculty barbecues, and students making bracelets. Great thanks to everyone at Swampscott for this noteworthy cause!



WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS!

We welcome the following schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to meet Language Arts, Social Studies and History/Civics standards - share [this link](#) to invite others to join.



A special thanks to all the new schools that signed up at the NAME Conference in Tucson, AZ.

Welcome to:

Clear Creek High School, Evergreen, CO, and Mondale High School, WC-SA
St. Lucy School, Edmonton, Canada and Sir John Primary, Tanzania
Providence Elementary, New Providence, PA and Ikaya Primary School, WC-SA
Godley Station, Pooler, GA and Kobina Ansah Municipal Assembly Basic School, Ghana
Godley Station, Pooler, GA and Infant Jesus English Medium School, India
Godley Station, Pooler, GA and Stanford English Medium School, India
Lake Taylor High School, Norfolk, VA and Zeekoevlei High School, WC-SA
St. Lucy School, Edmonton, Canada and Mwl. Julius K. Nyerere School, Tanzania
Direct Link, Tucson, AZ and Divine Word School, India
Direct Link, Tucson, AZ and Achane Higher Secondary School, Nepal
Direct Link, Tucson, AZ and Die Duine Primary School, WC-SA
Learn, Play, Grow 4 Success, N. Truro, MA and Uuguja Ukuu Primary, Tanzania
Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, VA and Catholic Primary, Bonadikombo, Cameroon
Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, VA and Manhyia Primary School, Ghana
Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, VA and Dr. Karamvir Public School (JR. Wing), India
Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, VA and Nelis English Medium School, Tanzania
Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA and Windsor High School, WC-SA

OEF would love to have more international schools – if you have educator friends, anywhere in the English speaking world – forward them to us and we will connect their school to one of our outstanding schools in Africa or Asia.

Email today and start writing tomorrow! schools@opportunityeducation.org

THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Akyawkrom Primary School in Ghana was established in 1921 by the Methodist Church. Today the school educates children of all denominations.

The Parent Teacher Association and School Management Committee are very active and provided the funds to improve security in the rooms set aside for the OEF program. A supportive town committee provided a generator to help cope with electricity outages.



The school has 566 pupils: 136 in just two kindergarten classrooms, 337 in grades 1 to 6 and 93 in grades 7-9. There are only 12 classrooms with 15 teachers.

It is a public school which charges no fees and relies on a grant from the government. Problems faced by the school include a lack of secure storage space to protect materials and intermittent power outages.



Akyawkrom Primary is very proud of its computer room which houses 20 donated computers. Students enjoy success in sports competitions, singing and academic contests.

Your students will enjoy learning more about this school located in the Ashanti region of Ghana which is known for its gold exports and second in the world for cocoa production.

Writing letters is an excellent opportunity to learn more than textbooks or even the internet can offer...just email us and we will put a Welcome Folder in the mail to you today!

Email schools@opportunityeducation.org and you can start writing today!

If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link.

If you prefer a different school, simply email us and note what grade and country you would like to write to and we can get you writing, right away!

FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Kerry Fial, from Port Clinton Middle School, Port Clinton, Ohio.

On behalf of your pen pals from Mahadev Primary School, Nepal and Keemba Basic School, Zambia – thank you for sending letters!

Kerry, send an email to: schools@opportunityeducation.org to claim your prize!



Want to win next month?

Just email schools@opportunityeducation.org after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!

START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Now is the perfect time to write your pen pals!

No lesson plan is needed, but if you need one – we have them!

Writing letters is a great activity to keep students productive during homeroom, study hall or downtime.

You can also integrate cross-curricular objectives into lesson plans that we have created to maximize learning through letters.

[Click Here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#)

[Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

We also have 4 options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program.

OPTION 1: To keep up with our "Friends" – we have a Facebook page just for you! Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityEducation>

OPTION 2: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries. Visit our Pen Pal Blog. <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>

OPTION 3: Pinterest. <http://www.pinterest.com/opportunityed/>

OPTION 4: Twitter. <https://twitter.com/OpEdFoundation>

Check out our social media for interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education plus lesson plans to integrate pen pal letters into your standard requirements.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write Your Pen Pals!

Even if it's been a while, now is still the best time to write. The name, address and mailing instructions are available on our website start by [clicking here](#).

You can also email: Schools@OpportunityEducation.org

Get Others to Write!

We have 355 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals. Share the following link – and make sure you CC schools@opportunityeducation.org – to get a gift certificate. [Click Here to Refer A Friend and Get a Gift Certificate!](#)



Visit an Opportunity Education School!

Take a life-changing trip to teach, share and learn in an Opportunity Education school in Africa or India. [Click Here to Learn More.](#)

Picture of the Month:

The shirt says it all!

Every year, the students at St. Patrick's School in Elkhorn, Nebraska buy t-shirts to wear on special days. All the t-shirt proceeds will buy lunches for their pen pals at St. Mary's in Mubende, Uganda. A special thanks to Charlie Wear, a 4th grader at St. Patrick's who has generously bought a t-shirt for our OEF office the last two years.



For more information please contact:

TERESA ROLL

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