

# **LIBROS PARA PUEBLOS 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**What a remarkable year Libros para Pueblos had in 2012! With the help of our supporters we opened 15 new libraries for the children and young people who live in the villages of Oaxaca, Mexico. We are especially proud of this accomplishment because virtually all of our new libraries are located in distant, isolated parts of the state where most social outreach programs never go. At the same time we maintained and more fully developed our 50 existing libraries: dealing with constant political changes, ongoing training of librarians, repair and replacement of worn out books and infusions of new, more advanced books to continue to challenge and feed the young people's appetite for reading material.**

**Researching and beginning the installation of computers in the libraries was another focus this year. This is a vital goal for our organization in order to provide a reference source but, also, to provide the opportunity for children whose hands have never touched a mouse or keyboard to begin to become comfortable with the electronic world that dominates virtually everything outside of their small village.**

**An enormous challenge and accomplishment of the year was the implementation of our vision program. Working with the Hospital de la Luz in Mexico City we staged three massive campaigns to provide free eye care to the population, not only children but their entire family, in the villages where our libraries are located. Eyes were examined, glasses provided when necessary and more than 100 surgeries performed as a result of this year's first stage of the program. Two more campaigns are scheduled for 2013 as we move further out into villages that are more difficult to reach.**

**We continue to be a 100% volunteer board. Our dedicated people spend hundreds of hours traveling perilous, often unpaved mountain roads. Hotels are often rustic or nonexistent and the food is simple but, with the help of our donors and supporters, we continue to do our work with enthusiasm and delight. No matter how difficult the journey we are always rewarded with proof of our success when we arrive at the village to find the library full of children and young people with books in their hands and smiles of welcome.**

**Thank you to everyone who believes that education is the solution to the myriad of problems facing the people of Oaxaca and that developing an early love of the written word is the key to a lifetime of education. Together we are changing lives.... one child, with one book, at a time.**

**Janet Stanley, President  
Libros para Pueblos  
Oaxaca, Mexico**

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## **LIBROS PARA PUEBLOS MEMBERS**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Jim Breedlove is Curator, emeritus, for Latin American Collections, Stanford University Libraries. He was a lecturer (1969-1993) at the Institute of Latin American Studies, Stanford University. He has been a Oaxaca resident since 1998 and with Libros para Pueblos since its beginning.**



**Enid Dollard has been a full-time resident of Oaxaca for over 11 years, most of them with Libros Para Pueblos having served as secretary and treasurer. Prior to moving to Mexico, she spent over thirty years as Director of the School of Hartford Ballet and as Founder and Director of the Hartt College Dance Division of the University of Hartford. She served as President of the National Association of Schools of Dance and on the Council of Arts Accreditation Association as well as in other professional and civic organizations, task forces and grants panels.**



**Doug Harmon, from Rego Park, NY, lives in San Andrés Huayapam with his wife, Joan, their hija postiza, Mari and their dog, Nieves. Doug has been Treasurer of Libros para**

**Pueblos since October 2012.**



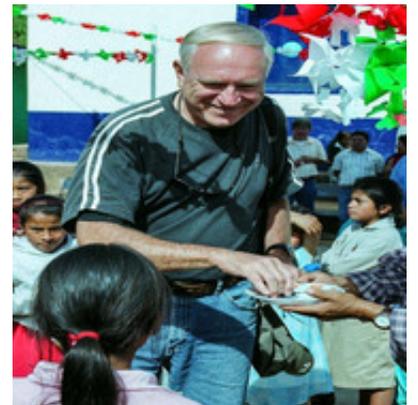
**Siobhan Murphy Grogan is originally from Cos Cob Connecticut where, as a child, she was able to walk to her local public library. Before moving to Mexico in 2009, she was a professional librarian at the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester, Connecticut. Currently she teaches English at Universidad La Salle Oaxaca. Siobhan is the current secretary of LPP.**



**Janet Stanley after a 40 year career in corporate America Janet moved to Oaxaca in 1999 and discovered her passion for Mexico, Mexican history and working with children. She is a docent at the Rufino Tamayo Museum of Precolumbian art and founder and director of the Spanish language children's programs at The Oaxaca Lending Library but focuses the majority of her time on Libros para Pueblos. Janet is currently the president of Libros para Pueblos.**



**Joe Wilkes is a retired teacher from Texas. As a Board member, he has been the book buyer for the last three years.**



## **AD HOC MEMBERS**

**Suzi Leonard, Bachelor of Journalism, University of Texas/Austin, retired at age 46 from broadcast sales management to pitch a tent in the Peruvian Amazon and launch an 8-year study of primates. She set up volunteer programs to bring zookeepers from around the US and Canada to experience their zoo creatures in natural environments. She then spent 11 years in Quito, Ecuador before moving to Oaxaca in August 2012. Suzi now is the volunteer coordinator for Libros para Pueblos, and invites anyone who can spare a few hours or a few years, to pitch in and help.**



**Don Northey, Ph.D. has been involved organizing education exchange programs between Oaxaca and Canada starting in 1988. Don has been a primary and secondary teacher, coordinator of international teacher education programs, instructor in teacher education courses in Canadian universities as well as in Hong Kong, India, Japan, Laos, Mexico, Malawi, and Trinidad and Tobago for 42 years.**



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## **LIBROS PARA PUEBLOS BACKGROUND**

**Libros para Pueblos was established in 1998 to provide opportunities for children in Oaxaca to explore the exciting world of books. The founders wanted the communities to be the owners and managers of the libraries. In addition, they expected children to have the right to borrow books, which is not possible in many libraries in Mexico.**

**This dream became a reality in 1998 with the establishment of the first library in Vicente Guerreo which is still part of Libros para Pueblos. From the beginning, the communities provided staffing and facilities while LPP provided the books. Originally the majority of libraries were opened in primary schools and in the valley of Oaxaca. Since this time, libraries have been established in state libraries, municipal centers and other facilities in various areas of the state of Oaxaca such as in the Oaxaca coast and the Huajapan de Leon area.**

**Sponsors have always played an important role in supporting the libraries by providing funds to buy books. Up until 2008 individuals donated to a general fund, however, in 2008 individual sponsors signed on to support a specific library for five years or more. The number of sponsored libraries also expanded greatly in 2011 when an anonymous Mexican benefactor agreed to pay the book costs for establishing an annual designated number of libraries. Because of the generosity of our benefactor and your very important support as**

sponsors, LPP has dramatically expanded the number of sponsored libraries.

The libraries are located in small villages and in larger communities. Each library is unique. For example, the Museo del Ferrocarril Mexicano del Sur library below is in a refurbished railway car in which this family is enjoying reading together.

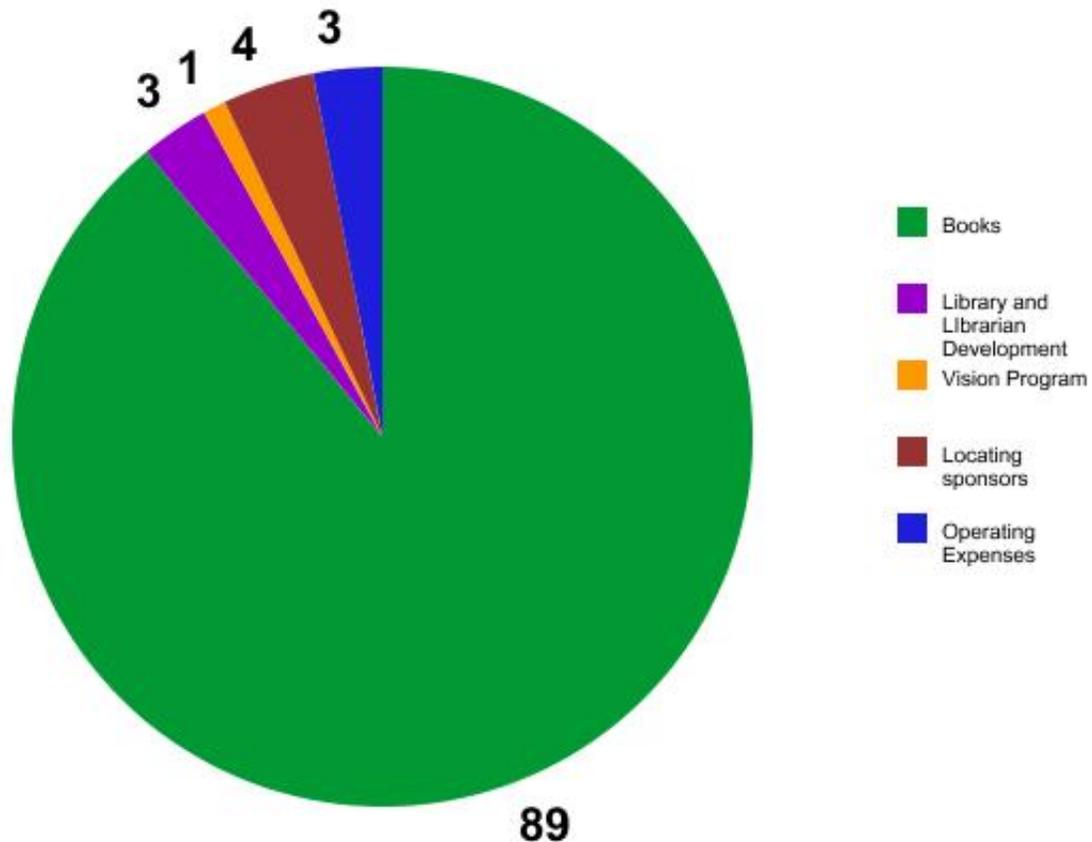


See a map showing the location of over sixty LPP libraries on the [LPP website](#).

## **DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Because our members contribute their volunteer time, we are able to keep our operating costs low. This means that a high percentage of your sponsorship funds are available to purchase and deliver books as well as to support the librarians.

## Distribution of Contributions



At Libros para Pueblos we recognize that making a five year pledge to provide the funding necessary for the infusion of new, more challenging books each year is a major commitment for the individuals and groups that agree to partner with us on the development of a library. Because of this we have two financial levels so a sponsor or group of sponsors can decide what best suits their individual circumstance. The \$600 USD level guarantees (at this time) a minimum, hopefully more, of 60 new books a year. The \$800 USD minimum is 80 new books a year. The sponsors of a library decide what best fits their individual circumstance during any given year: one year may be \$600 and the next \$800 for example. We appreciate whichever level you choose. The funds go to support further reading opportunities for children in your selected library.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

### VISION PROGRAM

Early in 2012 Libros para Pueblos teamed up with the Hospital de Nuestra Senora de la Luz in Mexico City to offer free eye exams and eye care to the children and adults in villages where our libraries are located.

We had two campaigns: Oaxaca Valley and Mixteca region in the northwest corner of the state. The result was hundreds of pairs of glasses. It was rewarding to see the look of wonderment and pleasure when individuals tried on the delivered glasses.

As a result of the examinations, about 100 people were identified with eye problems that required surgery in Mexico City. This was a huge undertaking. Many of the older people had never been outside of their village, many did not speak Spanish and all were frightened and unsure of the entire venture.

The first day in Mexico City was for pre-op examinations and the most difficult of the surgeries. On the second day the majority of the operations were conducted while the third day included postoperative examinations, a farewell lunch and return by bus to our places of origins. The hospital and staff provided first class care treating patients with great care and respect.

This program is an addition to our workload and expenses but one that we feel is well worth the investment. By teaming up with the hospital, splitting the costs and the work, we were able to truly change lives and give sight back to some people who had not been able to see clearly for many years.

Thank you to those who have contributed money to help make this project possible. If you would like to donate directly to this project, please go to our website for further information. Just label your donation “for the vision program”. We are currently exploring a variety of models for providing quality eye care for community members for an equally effective campaign in 2013!



## ORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

The LPP Board, which is both an administrative body and a working group, all volunteers,

had an Organizational Planning Workshop on November 10, 2012. The day was facilitated by Sandra Thomson, an NGO Development Consultant in British Columbia, who spends part of each year in Oaxaca. Sandra donated her time and expertise to LPP.

In the course of the day, we identified important issues the Board is facing - for example, the need for a paid director and support staff, librarian training, and several other growth issues. With Sandra's guidance we clarified "where we are" as an organization, needed operational changes, our internal strengths and weaknesses, and demographic and societal opportunities and challenges specific to Oaxaca. By the end of the day we had a 5-year Vision Plan, and more immediately, an action plan for the next year, including, among other things, a new volunteer plan which we are already implementing. We agreed to have another day with Sandra in November, 2013.

In her report on the day Sandra observed that LPP is a "high functioning non-profit" with well-run, successful fundraising skills, undergoing rapid growth and ready to make the challenging leap from "all volunteers" to an organization with some paid staff.

## LIBROS PARA PUEBLOS TOURS

A variety of tours were organized over the past year such as a Day of the Dead Tour and visits to various LLP library communities to inform the public of the work of LLP and to encourage the participants to become library sponsors. Each community and library made the visitors feel very welcome. Participants could readily see the enthusiasm of the parents and children as they proudly shared their library.



## GROWTH IN LIBRARIES

This past year has seen tremendous growth in the number of LPP libraries. This has been facilitated by our benefactor's contributions, the strong community interest, individual contributors and the support of our many sponsors. The process of establishing a new library involves visiting a given community several times in the application process, ordering and delivering books, participating in a community organized inauguration, providing follow-up and offering support in dealing with a myriad of other challenges. Below are pictures from some of the libraries opened this year and their inauguration ceremonies.



We were able to successfully open 15 libraries in 2012 which is a major achievement. We greatly appreciate the work of our regional co-ordinators: Carmen Betty Sanchez Ramirez (Huayapam area) and Tinka Raymond (coast area) for offering support to LPP libraries in their areas.

The support from our benefactor provided the initial instalments of books to all of these libraries. However, three libraries from our 2012 campaign are still in need of sponsors. These libraries are [Los Naranjos](#), [San Pedro Pochutla](#) and [Zaptitlan Palmas](#) Your help would be appreciated in assisting us find sponsors for these libraries!

## **SOME DIRECTIONS FOR 2013**

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IN MARCH 2013**

Because volunteers can change the world, Libros Para Pueblos is looking for 6 enthusiastic teachers, librarians, or just amazing moms and dads to join a pilot volunteer project March 23-31, 2013, to work with the librarians in a few of our children's lending libraries in remote villages. The participation fee of \$1500 covers all costs of hotel, food, transportation, museum entrances, and lectures, plus includes a tax deductible donation to this seriously nonprofit organization, but not airfare to Oaxaca.

For a personal account of how one child was awakened by that first library see [Bob Myers](#) Many of the libraries are located in isolated indigenous villages whose second language is Spanish. This is an opportunity to contribute to the core heart of Mexico. We never leave a library without big smiles plastered on our faces. If you're devoted to opening the doors to

reading to children who need and appreciate it, please consider joining us.

During this pre-Easter week in March, we will spend the first four days working long hours with the librarians, children and communities in three to five developing libraries, and the last three days soaking up the Easter pageantry in the colorful environs of Oaxaca.

The work will be hand in hand with the librarian, drawing children into books through storytelling, readings, crafts, art, and song. If the libraries with the most need in March are far from Oaxaca, volunteers may stay in the library village Sunday through Tuesday, but they will never be alone. Either there will be two volunteers or a volunteer and a LPP representative with them.

- Please visit our [website](#) and then email me with any questions (Suzi Leonard [suzileonard@outlook.com](mailto:suzileonard@outlook.com)). This is going to be an amazing week and we need great advisors for this pilot program.

## PLANNED GIVING - CREATING A LEGACY

Libros Para Pueblos is offering an additional opportunity to support its work with children in communities in Oaxaca. Under planned giving, after you have taken care of the needs of your loved ones in your will, you may wish to support a charity such as Libros Para Pueblos. Your contribution would enable us to continue to meet the important reading needs of children in the state of Oaxaca. There are a variety of methods that you could use such as:

1. **General bequest:** funds coming from an estate to an individual/organization to be used by the organization as best meets its needs. This can be indicated as a specific monetary amount, a specific asset or a designated percentage of an estate as written in a will.
2. **Specific bequest:** a specific item or property is bequested for a designated purpose e.g. funds to be used to buy computers for libraries

The funds can be passed on as indicated in a will, through designation in a life insurance policy, designated beneficiary in a RRSP/RRIF's (Canada) or IRA account (US), beneficiary in an annuity or publicly traded stocks. Whatever method(s) you choose to use, it is important consult your lawyer.

Libros para Pueblos comes under the Oaxaca Lending Library Foundation which is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization (Federal tax ID # 20-0526066). If you choose to leave a bequest to Libros para Pueblos, you may wish to

specify one or more of the following options:

- 1. Funds left to Libros para Pueblos to be used by the organization to meet what is determined as its greatest needs**
- 2. Funds left to provide continued annual sponsorship for the library (ies) you have been supporting**
- 3. Funds left to provide annual sponsorship for a new LPP sponsored library**

**We thank you for considering your continued support of Libros para Pueblos. If you have any questions, please contact us at [librosparapueblos@yahoo.com](mailto:librosparapueblos@yahoo.com)**

## **LIBRARIAN DEVELOPMENT**

**From 2008 to 2011, Libros para Pueblos used its annual conference, the Convivio, to provide support and training for LPP librarians, many of whom may only hold the position for 1 to 3 years. Presentations, hands-on-workshops, and sharing of information sessions were part of these convivios. Confronted with the wonderful problem of having grown to over 60 libraries the Board has been developing other strategies to provide the librarians and their communities with effective support and guidance.**

**Beginning in 2012, rather than holding an annual convivio attended by two representatives from each location, the Board decided to instead provide support on a one-to-one basis to LPP librarians on site. This began in the fall of 2012 by providing children's workshops in LPP libraries to demonstrate ways that crafts, movement and music along with reading activities may be designed to draw children into the library and to motivate them to read. Drawing on Janet Stanley's success and experience with Ninos Adelante and with contributions from other board members, the first round of workshops were a resounding success, measured in part by the number of books in the hands of children as they left the workshops.**

**A Librarian Training Committee of the Board has been formed to expand these efforts. It is exploring other ways such as regional workshops, individual workshops and development of resource material to enhance its commitment to librarian training and to meet the specific and often unique needs of each of its libraries.**

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

With the wide range of exciting activities at LPP, we are in need of more volunteers to support program development and implementation. Suzi Leonard ([suzileonard@outlook.com](mailto:suzileonard@outlook.com)) has taken on the responsibility of volunteer coordinator. Some opportunities take place on designated occasions several times a year such as the sorting and packing of new books. In this and other examples, you can be a Oaxaca resident, or a person who visits Oaxaca for short periods of time. Even when you are not in Oaxaca you can offer valuable support such as translating documents from Spanish to English or vice versa, or doing research to locate educational computer programs that can be used in communities which do not have Internet service. Since libraries can offer diverse learning opportunities, we are encouraging LLP libraries to offer story telling, craft activities and computer learning opportunities. Volunteer help is needed in each of these and other areas. With more hands we can offer further learning opportunities for children and young people in Oaxacan communities.

## **WHAT NEXT?**

We hope that this 2012 Annual Report, has helped you become more familiar with the valuable activities of Libros para Pueblos. If you are wondering what are some further ways that you can support LPP, in addition to your valuable library sponsorship, some possibilities are:

- 1. Pass this Annual Report on to your friends**
- 2. Talk about your LPP experiences to encourage your friends to become involved**
- 3. Share the information about the "Volunteer Opportunity in March" with friends and other organizations**
- 4. Visit the [LPP website](#) for more program information**
- 5. See if there are any LPP volunteer opportunities that you are interested in joining**
- 6. Consider the Planned Giving Program**
- 7. Send us information on any grant funding opportunities that you are aware of that would apply to the work of LPP**
- 8. Visit the library that you are supporting – bring a friend!**

## 9. Other ideas?

We gratefully thank you for your valuable support as a sponsor as it is critical to the success of the work of Libros para Pueblos. The children's smiles, enthusiasm and appreciation for the opportunity to enrich their experiences is evident each time we visit one of the libraries. As one child explained incredulously: "You mean I can really take the book home to read?" Thank you for choosing to be part of the Libros para Pueblos team!

# Muchas Gracias!

## LIST OF 2012 LIBRARY SPONSORS

Abigail Gewirtz	Ginny Darvill	Lois Weinberg
Adam Foster	Gordon Wing	Lorna Stone
Alan Godin	Grace Peters	Theo & Lorna Mace
Alan Goodman	Helen Honse	Lynda Wilde
Alison Mitchell	Hilda & John Denham	Lynn Breedlove
Allan Sroufe	Henriette & Jeremy Warren	Marilyn A. Dunn
Allen Gunderson	Hunter Moorman	Mary & Gerald Ann Sroufe
Ann VanSlyke	Ian M. Lange	Mary Jo Campbell
Anne & Will Fleeson	Isabel Foster	Mary Phillips
Barry Barkow	James Rosen	Mary Randall
Bert Cornick	Jane Robison	Maureen De West
Beverly Carlson	Jane Shuttleworth	Merle Westbrook & Peter
Bill Juby	Janet Stanley	Dollard

Brad Askew  
Bud Combs  
Cait Murphy  
Carl Owens  
Carol Brett  
Carolyn & Peter Martin  
Carrie & Lauren Lenhart  
Caryn C. Whitney  
Cathey Lopez  
Cathy Lewis  
Charles Strain  
Cheryl Cathcart  
Cindy Nelson  
Claudia & Wade Askew  
Coral Wight  
Cornelia Brown  
Danielle Allen  
Darcey Gregory  
David Lind  
David Morris  
David Weir  
Deborah Baskin  
Deborah Colby  
Diana Stewart  
Diane & Richard Brainerd  
Don Northey  
Donna Radtke  
Dori Katz & Andrew Gold  
Dorothy Brozek  
Ed Pomeroy  
Ejutecos Unidos  
Elaine S. Garrett  
Elaine McDevitt  
Ellen Phillips  
Enid Dollard  
Evelyn Mazack  
Gary Perrin  
Gary Way  
Gary Schell  
Geri Anderson

Jaye Phillips  
Jayson Hackler  
Jeanne & Robert Modaf  
Jim Breedlove  
Joan and Doug Harmon  
Jo-Ann Lang  
Jo Ann Wexler  
Joanne M. Donovan  
Joe Wilkes  
John Burch  
John Harrison Wray  
John Holden Wray  
John Marshall  
John Nicholson  
Jose Causadia  
Judith A. Vollmer  
Judith Kaufman & Steve Kemper  
Judith Zimmerman  
Judy Wray  
Julie Landau  
Julie & Waldemar Bzenas  
June Sroufe  
Karen M. Kramer  
Karen Wuebbens  
Katherine Vanbuskirk  
Kathryn Bertelli  
Kathy Mazzetti  
Kathy McMann  
Kay Burch  
Kristi Vanderhoof  
Laura Brooks  
Laura Marshall  
Laura Supkoff  
Laura Walker  
Laurel Anderson  
Laurie & Charles Mokriski  
L. David Brown  
Leslie Gray  
Linda & Hans Landig  
Lisa Emily Olsson Ravicz

Michael Prince  
Michelle Verduzco  
Mollie Wray  
Molly & Michael Andolina  
Nancy Hild  
Nancy & Mark Jacobs  
Neal Adams  
Norman Goluskin  
Oreen Scott  
Pat Danloe  
Paula Rosen  
Penny Pomeroy  
Robert Adler  
Ron Olisar  
Rose Spalding  
Rotary Oaxaca  
Ruth & Dennis Maulsby  
Sally Godard  
Sam Principi  
Sandra Kades  
Sandra Thomson  
Santiago Casel  
Shari Brown  
Stan Sales  
Steve Landau  
Steve Thompson  
Steve & Victoria Tarpin  
Susan Scher  
Susan Schroen  
Suzanne Giovannoni  
Suzi Leonard  
Taylor Phillips  
Teresa Welsh  
Teri Gunderson  
Terry Lynch  
Theo Mace  
Toni Casel  
Trintje D. Jansen  
Virgina Darvell  
Watkinson School



