

**November 5, 2024**

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,

Welcome to November and this week's short volunteer newsletter! The end of 2024 is somehow quickly approaching and soon we'll be reflecting on the year that was. Can you even believe it? As I was reading this article on [The Latest](#), Room to Read's blog, I was interested to see that our Girls' Education Program is also reflecting on the last year with our **Climate Justice Clubs in Nepal and Vietnam**. Climate Justice Clubs are an extension of Room to Read's Girls' Education Program's life skills curriculum, specially designed for students to explore topics related to climate change, climate justice and gender equality. [Take a look for yourself](#) to see what they learned in year one!

### **We'd love to see your face!**

Next month, we'd like to express our gratitude for our Volunteer Network in a social media post. As part of that gratitude, we'd like to create a collage of you, our incredible volunteers!

If you're comfortable with us sharing your photo as a larger collage on social media, would you take a couple of minutes and **send us a photo of yourself with the Room to Read logo**? You can print out a Room to Read logo from [our Media page](#) on our website. That's it...just your smiling face and a Room to Read logo! **Please send your lovely photo to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) by November 27th.**

### **Mark your Calendars!**

Next **Tuesday, November 12**, we're looking forward to hosting our **next Quarterly Call** and we'd love to see you there. The call will take place at **9amPST/12pmEST/5pmGMT/6pmCET**. We'll send out a meeting invitation with the Zoom link later today.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Our Sydney Chapter is hosting **"Fashion & Fizz"** event on Wednesday, November 27th at The Royal Oak in Balmain. If you are in the Sydney area and are interested in helping or want more information about the event, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we'd love to put you in touch with the Sydney team.
- We're excited to announce the launch of our **Dubai Marathon 2025** campaign. The race is scheduled for Sunday, January 12, 2025, and we're ready to engage supporters, friends, and partners. Both individual runners and corporate teams are welcome to participate!
  - Runners should sign up for the race at [official website](#).
  - After registering for the race, you can create a fundraising campaign on [YallaGive](#).
  - If you have any questions, reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

## Newsletter Ch-ch-changes

Prepare yourself! Our next newsletter on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, will look quite different. 😊 We'll send that **newsletter from our Engaging Networks platform** and it will look more similar to other Room to Read emails you receive. It will still come from [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and will still be written by Jay and April, the format will just look different. Once we launch, we'd love to hear your feedback!

Remember, if you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

Please reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you don't know where to start, have questions or just want to chat about your ideas.

Warmly,

Jay and April

## October 22, 2024

Hello, Room to Read volunteers,

**Friends! We have big reasons to celebrate...45 million of them, in fact!** Room to Read has now benefited more than 45 MILLION CHILDREN in historically low-income communities around the world. As a volunteer, you are an important part of this milestone. Thank you for giving your time as you share Room to Read with your networks and raise funds to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. **Please take a minute today and share this celebration with your social media networks!** We've attached a visual you can use and here is a caption you can edit and post.

As a volunteer for Room to Read, we have something big to celebrate! Room to Read (*Be sure to tag @roomtoread!*) has now benefited more than 45 MILLION CHILDREN around the world, making room for these children to develop literacy and life skills in a dignified and gender-equal way. I serve with Room to Read because I want to see a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. If you'd like to donate to Room to Read or join me as a volunteer, please reach out to me and I'd be happy to share more.

If someone in your network would like to donate, please give them the link to your Engaging Networks page or our [general donation page](#). If they would like to volunteer, please share our [Volunteer page](#).

## Room to Read's Legacy Community Reminder

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 pm EDT, our Legacy Giving team is hosting a virtual discussion with Chief Program Officer, Heather Simpson, and Nepal Country Director, Pushkar Shrestha. This exclusive opportunity is primarily for our legacy community, but **we've**

**opened a few spots for volunteers interested in learning more about legacy giving** or considering a legacy commitment. If you would like to attend and explore how to include a gift for Room to Read in your estate plans, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we'll send you the registration link.

## ICYMI-She Creates Change is now public!

As announced in previous newsletters, we hosted a *She Creates Change* YouTube Premiere on October 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate International Day of the Girl. We had more than 350 viewers tuned in live to Room to Read's YouTube channel and the film has been viewed more than 4,300 times to date. We're thrilled that *She Creates Change* is now available for streaming on [Room to Read's YouTube channel](#).

**Did you know?** To achieve our ultimate goal of reaching all 432 million adolescent girls (ages 12-18) worldwide with content and educational curriculum to create change in their lives and communities, *She Creates Change* has been integrated into Room to Read's Girls' Education Program and other outlets. Girls Education Program participants will see the videos throughout the course of the program, which will serve as an engaging tool to drive follow-up discussions and reinforce existing lessons. To reach adolescents worldwide with this content, Room to Read, in partnership with Rebel Girls, has developed two books, [Rebel Girls: She Creates Change](#) and [Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Inspiring Young Changemakers](#) to share stories of participants from Room to Read's Girls' Education Program. We encourage you to check them out if you haven't already! Also, they make great holiday gifts for the young people in your life 😊

## Mark your Calendars!

Due to some logistical changes, we need to make a change to the date for our next Quarterly Call. We'll update you on the new date in our next newsletter.

## Chapters Update

It's a busy season for many of our Chapters. We want to celebrate their efforts and hope they're inspiring to you! If you have an event to add, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We'd love to share with everyone!

- Coming up on Giving Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Chicago Chapter is hosting You Create Change, a Giving Tuesday Fundraiser featuring keynote speaker, Grammy award winning artist Che "RhymeFest" Smith. If you or someone you know is in the Chicago area and would like to attend, visit [bit.ly/YouCreateChange24](https://bit.ly/YouCreateChange24).
- On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the New Jersey Chapter hosted their annual Changemaker Breakfast where attendees heard from two authors who challenged them to try something new outside their comfort zones. Great job, New Jersey Chapter!

Chapter Leader Jen, former Chapter Leader Nicole, and Room to Read Development Manager Sinead are pictured.

- Our Paris Chapter hosted a Zoom discussion fundraiser with Nina and Grace Weinstein on October 16<sup>th</sup> about how news is reported in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Well done, Paris Chapter!

## Fill Every Shelf Results

Thank you for participation in last month's Fill Every Shelf campaign! This campaign focused on increasing our number of monthly donors and we **celebrate 33 new monthly donors** as a result! We appreciate your support!

## Welcome, welcome!

We are so happy to welcome many new volunteers to our network! We hope you are encouraged by the work that Room to Read is doing and that you are part of as you raise funds and awareness of the issues of illiteracy and gender inequality.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| • Mostafa from<br>Coxs Bazar,<br>Bangladesh  | • Lehara from<br>Colombo, Sri Lanka         | • Jessie from<br>Chula Vista,<br>CA       |
| • Saurav from<br>Patna, India                | • Ofir from Scarsdale,<br>NY                | • Kae Andrea<br>from Imus,<br>Philippines |
| • Alexa from San<br>Francisco, CA            | • Kaija from<br>Buckinghamshire,<br>England | • Aundrea from<br>Princeton, NJ           |
| • Priyana from San<br>Francisco, CA          | • Uyen from Ho Chi<br>Minh City, Vietnam    | • Maria from<br>Fort Pierce, FL           |
| • Lolo from<br>Johannesburg,<br>South Africa | • John from Uganda                          | • Angelina from<br>Palm Springs,<br>CA    |
| • Surbhi from San<br>Francisco, CA           | • Lily from Sugar<br>Land, TX               | • Katie from<br>London,<br>England        |
| • Shruti from New<br>Delhi, India            | • Jitendra from<br>Ranchi, India            | • Sandy from<br>New York, NY              |

If you haven't already done so, please join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and welcome new volunteers there. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!



Please reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you have questions or just want to chat about your ideas.

Warmly,

Jay and April

## **October 8, 2024**

Hello, Room to Read volunteers!

**Happy almost International Day of the Girl!!** International Day of the Girl, celebrated each **October 11**, recognizes girls' rights, and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

To celebrate IDOG on Friday, Room to Read is proud to host a **YouTube premiere of the newly edited 30-minute version of She Creates Change!** This premiere will take place at 8 a.m. San Francisco/11 a.m. New York/4 p.m. London/8:30 p.m. Mumbai time on Room to Read's [YouTube](#) channel.

- If you're able to **join during the premiere**, gather some friends and watch together! We will be there and hope you will too!
- If you're not able to join at the time of the premiere, consider **hosting a screening of this new version of She Creates Change**.
- Either way, be sure to **share about this premiere and International Day of the Girl** on your social media accounts and tag Room to Read.

Here's how you can share this celebration with your community and networks!

- Use [this graphic](#) or [this graphic](#) to share on your social media.
- Use this caption with your graphic on social media.
  - @RoomtoRead's animated short film #SheCreatesChange is premiering LIVE on YouTube on October 11, #InternationalDayoftheGirl! It's a celebration of gender equality and women's empowerment, and I can't wait to be inspired. Make sure to subscribe to Room to Read's YouTube channel NOW to stay notified and tag all your fellow changemakers to do the same: [youtube.com/user/Roomtoread](https://youtube.com/user/Roomtoread)
- Visit our newly designed, updated You Create Change [landing page](#) and share it with others.
- If you host a viewing party, remember this [Event Kit](#) has many great resources to help you in planning.

Right now, you can read more about the amazing girls featured in the She Creates Change films on [The Latest](#), our Room to Read blog.

## Discover Room to Read's Legacy Community

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 pm EDT, our Legacy Giving team is hosting a virtual discussion with Chief Program Officer, Heather Simpson, and Nepal Country Director, Pushkar Shrestha. This exclusive opportunity is primarily for our legacy community, but **we've opened a few spots for volunteers interested in learning more about legacy giving** or considering a legacy commitment. If you would like to attend and explore how to include a gift for Room to Read in your estate plans, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we'll send you the registration link.

## Mark your Calendars!

Our next Quarterly Call will take place on **Tuesday, October 29** at 10amPST/1pmEST/5pmGMT/6pmCET! Quarterly Calls are a great opportunity to meet other volunteers, hear updates about Room to Read, and discuss upcoming campaigns. We really hope to see you there!

As you watch the stories of Yashika, Dewmini, Trang, Keya, Naifat, and Diksha on Friday, we hope you will remember that they are representative of thousands of girls whose lives and futures have been changed through what they've learned in our Girls' Education Program. As you reach out into your community to share about the issues of gender inequality and illiteracy, you are continuing to provide opportunities for girls around the world to be empowered. **YOU are a part of their stories!**

Please reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you have questions or just want to chat about your ideas.

Warmly,

Jay and April

## [September 24, 2024](#)

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers!

If you follow Room to Read on social media, you may have seen these two posts that captured our attention this week.

- In historically under-resourced communities in Tanzania, **primary schools often lack the space needed for libraries**, leaving children without a dedicated reading area or room to discover new books. That's why Room to Read partnered with the Tanzania Institute of Education on one particularly creative solution: **a container library!** So, what's a container library? It's a library built within a shipping container — one refurbished with

care. These libraries incorporate all of the elements of the Room to Read library model. They offer a bright, welcoming, child-friendly space filled with diverse books in local languages. They host teacher-led library reading activities like read-alouds, paired reading and independent reading. And they create room for ongoing Room to Read teacher trainings so all children have highly skilled educators. All within a stand-alone container. Discover more about how our innovation solutions are tackling space constraints and fostering literacy skills around the world: <https://okt.to/c4orvB>

- "Since the inception of the library, children have been **drawn to the colorful and engaging world of age-appropriate books**. Even children as young as second graders, who are still decoding letters, are reading and comprehending with astonishing proficiency." – Yashoda, a Room to Read librarian in Nepal

At Room to Read, we know that libraries help children build both reading skills and reading habits — habits like independent reading and checking out books to take home to share with family. In 2023 alone, children around the world checked out **more than 10 MILLION BOOKS from Room to Read libraries!** That's an average of more than 13 books checked out by every child currently benefiting from Room to Read's literacy programming.

You can help Room to Read fill more library shelves with more books for more children to enjoy at school and at home. Learn how: <https://okt.to/vIT4BR>

Isn't it cool that the first story shows the lengths Room to Read will go and the creativity we'll use to provide students with child-friendly books in their local language and the second story shows what happens when we do that?! We are so glad to work with you to provide these opportunities for students and hope you will share them with your networks!

And now...on to the rest of the newsletter...

## Fill Every Shelf Match Extended for One More Day!

During our Fill Every Shelf monthly giving match campaign, which closed on Friday, we heard from donors who wanted to have their gift matched but weren't ready to commit to a monthly donation. Our board members have agreed to extend the match to donors making a one-time contribution as well. With this match, every dollar donated can fund TWO books! Share [this link](#) and match with your networks **TODAY!**

## Volunteer Happenings

- Congratulations to the **London Chapter on their recent relaunch!** New Chapter Leader, Kirsty MacLeod, is leading the charge for the London crew and we can't wait to see what they do.
- The **New Jersey Chapter's Changemakers Breakfast** is coming up on Friday, October 11th at the Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren. Join us for breakfast, networking, and a fireside chat where we will celebrate International Day of the Girl, local authors, and Room to Read. If you're in the New Jersey area, join them!
- On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the **Paris Chapter will host Nina Weinstein-The Woman Behind the News on Zoom!** This discussion with award-winning American Executive Producer Nina

Weinstein will offer an inside look at the complicated world of media today. Let the Paris Chapter know you'll join them via [this link](#).

- If you're in the Chicago area, save the date for the **Chicago Chapter's upcoming You Create Change** event on Tuesday, December 3 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at The Hoxton. More information is coming soon.

## The Newest Member of Room to Read's Creator Collective

"Before I discovered books, my life was isolated to the corners of my house and my own limitations of language. When I learned to read, I began to imagine a world where I could have both experiences and agency, one where I could be a creator of my own stories. Such access should be a right — not a privilege — for children around the world." – Thao Thai, Room to Read Author Advocate

We're so excited that **Thao Thai has joined Room to Read's Book Creator Collective**, our vibrant network of authors and illustrators who share our passion for the transformative power of storytelling! Thao is the author of "Banyan Moon," a Read with Jenna title, a Barnes & Noble Discover Pick and Book of the Month selection, and the recipient of the 2024 Ohio Arts Council's Individual Excellence Award. She has been published in the Los Angeles Review of Books, WIRED, Elle and Lit Hub, among other publications, and we are honored to have her partnership in creating lasting change through education.

Meet Thao and learn more about Room to Read's Book Creator Collective: <https://okt.to/k64CY5>

## Save the Date!

Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar.

- **International Day of the Girl** is coming up on **October 11**. In our next newsletter, we'll share an exciting She Creates Change-related announcement centered around International Day of the Girl.
- Our **next Quarterly Call** is happening on **Tuesday, October 29 at 10amPST/1pmEST/6pmCET**. We hope all volunteers are able to join us!

And that's it for this week's newsletter. 😊 As always, if you have any questions at all, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we'd be happy to talk through your questions.

Hope you have a great week!

Warmly,  
Jay and April

## [September 10, 2024](#)

Hello, Room to Read volunteers!

**Happy International Literacy Day!!** Although ILD was officially on September 8, we're celebrating all month long 🎉🎊 Need a little inspiration? Look no further than this recent blog

post on Room to Read's social media. We thought it was such an interesting challenge that our staff in Sri Lanka overcame.

For many years, a primary school principal in #SriLanka dreamed of having a school library. But time and time again his dream was deferred by an unlikely segment of his community: the children's parents. Worried that a library would distract from exam prep, which in Sri Lanka determines a child's provincial school placement, **parents largely opposed having a dedicated reading space and a new "library period" during the school day.** When Room to Read partnered with the school, our literacy facilitators worked with the principal to organize parent-teacher meetings to discuss the value of reading storybooks at a young age — how **reading supports cognitive skills and language proficiency, helps children learn to read and write with comprehension, and builds a foundation for all future learning.** The meetings proved effective. "Earlier, I thought reading storybooks was a waste of time and it distracted my child from preparing for exams," one parent shared. "But by attending these sessions, I understood how reading can help them improve their language skills and comprehension. **I am more positive about my child spending time in the library now. We want our children to be holistic human beings.**" Read more about the village that once feared reading on [The Latest](#).

We hope you are encouraged in your volunteer work because you are a part of this success!

### Have you shared about the Fill Every Shelf Campaign?

One great way to celebrate International Literacy Day is to promote our Fill Every Shelf Campaign! Tell your friends and family and post it on your social media pages. The campaign **started last Thursday (August 29) and will run through September 20.** This year, we're focusing on **increasing recurring donors of \$25 per month.**

Remember...our challenge to you is to **recruit ONE new monthly donor** who will give \$25...just one! That's equivalent to two new full shelves of books each month. We want to celebrate with you as you bring on new monthly donors, so **email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) to let us know when you recruit a new monthly donor.** For each monthly donor you recruit, we'll enter your name in a drawing for a Room to Read notebook.

Share one of these facts on your social media to encourage your followers to become Room to Read monthly donors. Don't forget to tag Room to Read!

- September 8<sup>th</sup> is International Literacy Day! UNICEF reports that seven out of ten 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple story. This drastically limits their future opportunities and the progress of entire societies. You can change how this story ends.
- Children are more likely to become skilled and eager readers when they have choice and easy access to books in a wide variety of genres, topics, formats, styles, and levels. There is no such thing as too many books.

- Room to Read is able to fill a shelf with child-friendly books for about \$12!
- Monthly donors provide reliable funding we can count on to expand our programs where the need is most urgent. (Learn more about monthly giving [here](#).)
- Here's an image you can use to post about the campaign on your social media. Be sure to tag Room to Read in your posts!

## Big Events are Coming Up!

- We are overjoyed to share that *She Creates Change* will be theatrically released at [Quad Cinema](#) in NYC with daily screenings from September 13-19. A newly produced cut of the film, with a run time of approximately 33 minutes and an emphasis on the animation content, will be shown for general audience ticket sales once per day for seven consecutive days. Tickets are now available at [quadcinema.com/film/she-creates-change](http://quadcinema.com/film/she-creates-change). If you are attending a screening at Quad Cinema, please take photos of your experience, and share them with us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). Our marketing team would love to use them!
- The **New Jersey Chapter's Changemakers Breakfast** is coming up on Friday, October 11th at the Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren. Join us for breakfast, networking, and a fireside chat where we will celebrate International Day of the Girl, local authors, and Room to Read. If you're in the New Jersey area, join them!
- If you're in the Chicago area, save the date for the Chicago Chapter's upcoming **You Create Change** event on Tuesday, December 3 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at The Hoxton. More information is coming soon.

## Wondering What You Should Do as a Volunteer?

Being a Room to Read volunteer has so much flexibility that sometimes it can be tough to know what to do. **Here are two easy steps EVERY Room to Read volunteer should take.** (If you've been a volunteer for a while and haven't done these two things, now is the perfect time to do them!)

1. If you have not already done so, now is a perfect time to set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations. You can [find easy instructions here](#) on the [Community Resource Hub](#). Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations to your fundraiser and how much they've donated. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.
2. Join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and participate. You can comment on existing posts or post your own question or comment. We would love to build a community there and you are an important part of that!

We're often asked what a volunteer should plan to do on behalf of Room to Read. Here's a good rule of thumb. **As a volunteer, we recommend that you:**

- share any campaigns from our volunteer newsletters, (**Like the Fill Every Shelf campaign above!**)
- reach out to one local community group or organization **each month** to invite them to partner with Room to Read,
- post about Room to Read on your social media **once a month**, and
- host an in-person or online event **once per calendar year**.

Of course, you may choose to do more than this, we only offer this as a baseline. As always, if you have any questions at all, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we'd be happy to talk through your questions.

Hope you have a great week!

Warmly,  
Jay and April

[August 28, 2024](#)

Hello, Room to Read volunteers!

I just have to share this blog post with you. As a child who was a huge reader myself, I saw myself in Lio's story. Lio, a Grade 5 student from Battambang Province, Cambodia, used to have a hard time paying attention in class and liked to play a lot. Once he was introduced to the school library, Lio's love for reading took off! In just three months, Lio checked out so many books to read with his mother and to read aloud to his younger siblings. Any guesses about how many books Lio checked out? Make a guess and then visit [this blog post](#) on [The Latest](#) to see how close you were...and to read more about Lio's story! (I'll give you a hint...it's more books than I've read in the past two years combined. 😊)

Through your volunteer work, you are a part of Lio's story!

## Welcome, welcome!

We are so happy to welcome many new volunteers to our network! We hope you are encouraged by the work that Room to Read is doing and that you are part of as you raise funds and awareness of the issues of illiteracy and gender inequality.

- |  |                                   |                                 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ● Ayushi from Delhi, India                   | ● Thasneem from Coimbatore, India | ● Ibrahimu from Pwani, Tanzania |
| ● Sriya from Basking Ridge, NJ               | ● Sandra from Alexandria, VA      | ● Evelyn from Yorba Linda, CA   |
| ● Maximillian from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam | ● Shaun from Sydney, Australia    | ● Elise from New York, NY       |



- Leonard from Katy, TX
- Beth from Bloomington, IN
- Angela from Mumbai, India
- Rebati from Kathmandu, Nepal
- Donna from Palm Springs, CA
- Lyna from Algiers, Algeria
- Heather from Somerset, NY
- Mostafa from Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- Gayani from Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Zahra from New York, NY
- Mmdatishipi from Pretoria, South Africa
- Ben from Juba, South Sudan
- Steven from Brooklyn, NY
- Anish from Woodbury, NY
- Cate from Orinda, CA
- Lehara from Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Navruzakhon from Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Nada from Fez, Morocco
- Amara from Hyderabad, India
- Truong from Hai Phong City, Vietnam
- Ashley from Hong Kong
- Chitra from Pleasanton, CA
- Haniyah from Milton, Canada

If you haven't already done so, please join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and welcome new volunteers there. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

## Fill Every Shelf Campaign

It's almost time for Fill Every Shelf! The campaign will **start this Thursday (August 29) and run through September 20**. This year, we're focusing on **increasing recurring donors of \$25 per month**.

Our challenge to **all volunteers is to recruit one new monthly donor** who will give \$25 during the Fill Every Shelf campaign. That's equivalent to two new full shelves of books each month! We want to celebrate with you as you bring on new monthly donors, so email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) to let us know when you recruit a new monthly donor. For each monthly donor you recruit, we'll enter your name in a drawing for a Room to Read notebook. 😊



Share one of these facts on your social media to encourage your followers to become Room to Read monthly donors. Don't forget to tag Room to Read!

- September 8<sup>th</sup> is International Literacy Day! UNICEF reports that seven out of ten 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple story. This drastically limits their future opportunities and the progress of entire societies. You can change how this story ends.
- Children are more likely to become skilled and eager readers when they have choice and easy access to books in a wide variety of genres, topics, formats, styles, and levels. There is no such thing as too many books.
- Room to Read is able to fill a shelf with child-friendly books for about \$12!
- Monthly donors provide reliable funding we can count on to expand our programs where the need is most urgent. (Learn more about monthly giving [here](#).)

Here are some great blog posts you can share about the importance of libraries. (And don't forget about [Lio's story](#)!)

- [The village that feared reading](#) (Sri Lanka)
- [“When we create something tangible for the students, that’s what love is.” An interview with a national core facilitator of Room to Read’s library model in Vietnam](#)
- [Five countries where Room to Read libraries are flourishing](#) (updated from 2023)
- [Partnerships pave the way: Scaling Room to Read’s library model](#) (updated from 2022)
- [Reading Champions: Scaling Room to Read’s library approach to nurture a strong culture of reading in South Africa](#)
- [Love for libraries in Indonesia: Room to Read expands to new regions](#) (from 2023)

## August is Make-a-Will Month!

Our Make-a-Will Month campaign ends this Saturday, and we want to thank those of you who have participated in this campaign and helped to raise awareness of the power of legacy gifts to support Room to Read students. There's still time to highlight this campaign before the end of the week. If you would like to do so, please see details below.

### How Volunteers Can Support this Campaign:

- Attached to this email is a social post image that you can use to get the word out to your community.
- Social Caption: *Writing your will holds countless benefits, but did you know that by including a gift for Room to Read **you** can help benefit an entire generation? Whether you aspire to support education, end poverty, or promote gender equality, remembering Room to Read in your will can create lasting change. Learn more here: [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/legacy)*

- If you know anyone that might be interested in including a gift for Room to Read in their will or trust, please encourage them to contact [Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org) for support or more information. Remember, **creating a gift in your will costs you nothing now, so this can be a powerful option for those who are looking for ways to support our students but are unable to make a donation at this time.**
- During this time, we also invite our volunteers to consider their own legacy. If you're ready to make a commitment, or simply interested in learning more, our Legacy Giving Manager is available to speak with you ([Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org)).

## She Creates Change's Theatrical Debut!

*She Creates Change* continues to go from strength to strength as partners and donors around the world embrace our award-winning storytelling and educational content. This meaningful project has renewed significance as we honor the legacy of global board member Susan Wojcicki, by realizing her vision to reach girls everywhere so they may redefine what is possible—as Susan did in her own life.

We are overjoyed to share that ***She Creates Change* will be theatrically released at Quad Cinema in NYC with daily screenings September 13-19.** A newly produced cut of the film, with a run time of approximately 33 minutes and an emphasis on the animation content, will be shown for general audience ticket sales once per day for seven consecutive days.

Our theatrical release is aligned in timing with the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly and offers an opportunity to invite partners and supporters who will be in New York to take a trip to the movies in celebration of world change. *Showtimes for the seven screenings will be posted to the [theater's website](#) soon. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the theater box office. All ticket sale proceeds benefit Room to Read.*

## Wondering What You Should Do as a Volunteer?

Being a Room to Read volunteer has so much flexibility that sometimes it can be tough to know what to do. Here are two easy steps **EVERY Room to Read volunteer** should take. (If you've been a volunteer for a while and haven't done these two things, now is the perfect time to do them!)

1. If you have not already done so, now is a **perfect time** to set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations. You can [find easy instructions here](#) on the [Community Resource Hub](#). Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations to your fundraiser and how much they've donated. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.

2. Join the “[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)” group on Facebook and participate. You can comment on existing posts or post your own question or comment. We would love to build a community there and you’re an important part of that!

We’re often asked what a volunteer should plan to do on behalf of Room to Read. Here’s a good rule of thumb.

**As a volunteer, we recommend that you:**

- share any campaigns from our volunteer newsletters,
- reach out to one local community group or organization **each month** to invite them to partner with Room to Read,
- post about Room to Read on your social media **once a month**, and
- host an in-person or online event **once per calendar year**.

Of course, you may choose to do more than this, we just offer this as a baseline. As always, if you have any questions at all, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we’d be happy to talk through your questions.

Hope you have a great week!

Warmly,

Jay and April

**[August 13, 2024](#)**

Before you jump into this week's newsletter, we have a quick question for you...do you use Facebook regularly (3-4 times a week)? ([View/vote in browser](#))

Hi Room to Read Volunteers,

We hope your week is going well. Really quickly, we want to remind you that our **She Creates Change Viewing Party will take place tomorrow (Wednesday, August 14)** and we hope that you’ll join us at 4pmPDT/7pmEDT on Zoom at [this link](#).

## **Fill Every Shelf Campaign**

The Fill Every Shelf campaign is back! This year, we’re focusing on increasing recurring donors of \$25 per month. The campaign will run from August 29 to September 20. We’ll have more information and resources in the next newsletter.

Did you know...

- UNICEF reports that seven out of ten 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple story. This drastically limits their future opportunities and the progress of entire societies. You can change how this story ends.

- Children are more likely to become skilled and eager readers when they have choice and easy access to books in a wide variety of genres, topics, formats, styles, and levels. There is no such thing as too many books.
- Room to Read is able to fill a shelf with child-friendly books for about \$12!
- Monthly donors provide reliable funding we can count on to expand our programs where the need is most urgent. (Learn more about monthly giving [here](#).)

Our challenge to **all volunteers is to recruit one new monthly donor** who will give \$25 during the Fill Every Shelf campaign. That's equivalent to two new full shelves of books each month! We want to celebrate with you as you bring on new monthly donors, so email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) to let us know when you recruit a new monthly donor. For each monthly donor you recruit, we'll enter your name in a drawing for a Room to Read notebook. 😊

## August is Make-a-Will Month!

Our Make-a-Will Month campaign is in full swing, with two legacy commitments secured already this month. As a reminder, the goal of this campaign is to encourage Room to Read supporters to consider their legacy and include Room to Read in their will or trust.

### How Volunteers Can Support this Campaign:

- Attached to this email is a social post image that you can use to get the word out to your community.
- Social Caption: *Writing your will holds countless benefits, but did you know that by including a gift for Room to Read **you** can help benefit an entire generation? Whether you aspire to support education, end poverty, or promote gender equality, remembering Room to Read in your will can create lasting change. Learn more here: [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/legacy)*
- If you know anyone that might be interested in including a gift for Room to Read in their will or trust, please encourage them to contact [Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org) for support or more information. Remember, **creating a gift in your will costs you nothing now, so this can be a powerful option for those who are looking for ways to support our students but are unable to make a donation at this time.**
- During this time, we invite our volunteers to consider their own legacy. If you're ready to make a commitment, or simply interested in learning more, our Legacy Giving Manager is available to speak with you ([Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org)).

## All the Shout-Outs

We know there is so much going on in your communities and we love to share happenings from volunteers! If you have something going on, email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) so we can share it! Here are some of the latest...

- In July, volunteer Leora Langs celebrated her birthday with a Facebook fundraiser with the proceeds going to Room to Read. Leora was able to raise \$946 from her simple message on social media!
- The New Jersey Chapter's [6<sup>th</sup> Annual Changemaker Breakfast](#) is coming up on Friday, October 11 from 8am-11am. The event will celebrate International Day of the Girl with featured Author and Artist Jenny Laden, Winner of the Best Young Adult Audiobook, 2023. Ticket includes catered breakfast, donation to Room to Read, fireside chat by Author Jenny Laden, and mingling with other attendees.
- On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Paris Chapter will host Nina Weinstein-The Woman Behind the News on Zoom. This discussion with award-winning American Executive Producer Nina Weinstein will offer an inside look at the complicated world of media today. We'll share the invitation here soon if you'd like to join!

## Champion for Girls' Education

As you may have seen in the news over the weekend, our Board Member and donor, Susan Wojcicki, passed away following a two-year battle with cancer. Needless to say, this is incredibly sad news. Susan was a hugely impressive, generous, and kind woman.

Our CEO, Geetha Murali, shared with our staff, "It was a great privilege and a joy to have known Susan and to have worked with her so closely for so long. She cared deeply about Room to Read and was very meaningfully committed to our girls' education program. She was the game-changing investor and visionary that first brought our She Creates Change series to life. Her mission and her memory will live on in the millions of children - especially girls - whose lives will be forever improved because of her kindness and her generosity. Susan was a trailblazer for women in tech and women worldwide. She was smart, creative, and driven. She spent many sessions with me and our management team imagining Room to Read's future. We are a better organization because of her."

As we keep Susan's family in our thoughts, we thought it appropriate to share a [link to She Creates Change](#), a program which Susan championed so valiantly. Her legacy will continue in many ways and She Creates Change is an important part of it.

We hope you have a great week. Thank you for all you do on behalf of Room to Read. Please remember that we would love to talk with you at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you ever have any questions about what you should be doing as a volunteer. No question is too small or silly...we promise.

Warmly,

Jay and April

**July 30, 2024**

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,

How on earth is it the end of July?! It feels like New Year's Day was just a few days ago. We hope these last seven months have been fruitful ones for you...in life and as a volunteer. We'd love to hear how your volunteer experience with Room to Read is going this year. Send us a quick email at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and let us know how things are going.

I came across some heartbreaking statistics this past week.

- One in three girls will face gender-based violence in their lifetime.
- Women and girls are 14 times more likely to be killed by climate-fueled disasters.
- Since 2017, the number of women and girls living in conflict-affected countries has increased 50%.

Luckily, I also came across [this blog post](#) on The Latest about Room to Read's Girls' Education Program. "Through our [Girls' Education Program](#), Room to Read supports adolescents to stay in school longer, progress towards completion of secondary school and acquire the skills and agency they need to make informed decisions about their lives and future — and ultimately realize their full potential." Now, more than ever, girls need to be equipped with skills and knowledge that help them rise above the difficult circumstances around them. What a privilege we have to be a part of providing this opportunity to girls around the world and inviting others to be a part as well!

## **She Creates Change Viewing Party**

Speaking of our Girls' Education Program, we can't wait to be inspired with you! On **Tuesday, August 13, at 9amPDT/12pmEDT** and on **Wednesday, August 14, at 4pmPDT/7pmEDT** we will host She Creates Change Viewing Parties just for our volunteers! Together we'll watch four of the films about brave girls in our Girls' Education Program and have a short discussion time where you can ask any questions you have. The invitation with a Zoom link will go out later this week.

## **August is Make-a-Will Month!**

This Thursday kicks off our annual legacy giving campaign, Make-a-Will Month, where Room to Read calls on our most dedicated supporters to join our Legacy Community by including a gift for Room to Read in their will. While we will be sharing resources for you to promote this campaign later this month, we would be remiss not to invite YOU to join our Legacy Community! After all, Room to Read volunteers are our most passionate advocates. Several Room to Read volunteers have already joined our Legacy Community, with one sharing that "joining this community feels like a natural next step to build on my commitment to ensure quality education for all".

If you would like to learn more about taking part in this special group of supporters creating powerful change for our students for generations to come, please visit [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/legacy) or email [Caitlin.nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.nagel@roomtoread.org) for more information.

## Room to Read Program Updates

This last week, we were excited to receive some program updates. We hope they're as much of an encouragement to you as they were to us.

- **Sri Lanka:** Room to Read provided technical support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the National Institute of Education (NIE) in reviewing and revising the literacy preservice curriculum. Room to Read's approaches and methodologies in library management, library activities and instruction were incorporated into the curriculum. This revised curriculum will be submitted for the NIE council's approval, with endorsement from the Academic Affairs Board of NIE.
- **Indonesia:** One of our staff members conducted two workshops with six Indonesian book publishers and their editorial teams as part of Room to Read's next phase of supporting the Indonesian children's book publishing ecosystem. This is the first time Room to Read is fully focused on enhancing editors' capacity and establishing the role of the editor as crucial to a successful book business and to improving the variety and quality of production.
- **Laos:** In Luang Prabang, Laos, the Literacy Program team distributed home library packages and conducted orientation workshops for parents and caregivers on how to engage their children with the included storybooks. Participants left the workshops feeling confident in their ability to foster and encourage their children's enjoyment of reading at home.
- **Cambodia:** Recent results from the Cambodian Ministry of Education indicate that the new national Grade 3 literacy curriculum is significantly improving children's reading outcomes. Students benefiting from the national curriculum showed a 26% increase in reading fluently with comprehension at the end of Grade 3. This curriculum was developed by Room to Read in partnership with our USAID IPEA partners.

I love ending this newsletter with these updates. The work that Room to Read is doing around the world is enabling students, families, and communities to change their lives. As you are reaching out into your own community to share about Room to Read, we hope stories of bravery and resilience like these are the ones you're sharing.

Have a great week!

Warmly,  
Jay and April

**July 16, 2024**

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,



We hope your week is going well! How are your efforts on behalf of Room to Read going? You know we always want to celebrate or brainstorm with you, so please reach out to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) any time!

I was looking at our blog, [The Latest](#), earlier this week and read a post about how Room to Read is reaching out to children living in refugee situations. “Children displaced by natural disasters or conflict face significant barriers to quality education, including the challenge of learning in foreign environments and languages. For children living in these realities, a lack of books and lessons tailored to their experiences can prevent them from developing the foundational skills they need for their futures. Room to Read is committed to increasing literacy and gender equality within underserved communities where children do not typically have access to relevant and engaging books, and girls face systemic barriers to education.” Can you imagine being a child in these circumstances during years that are so fundamental to your educational future? Take a look at [this blog post](#) to read more about how Room to Read is reaching students in these difficult situations.

## Welcome, welcome!

We love welcoming new Room to Read volunteers to our group! You’re making it possible for Room to Read to support the students we just talked about from the blog post.

- |                                   |   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| • Cole from Lisle, IL             | • Megan from Sikeston, MO               | • Harini from San Antonio, TX |
| • Shagun from Makati, Philippines | • Dhani Ram from Dhanagadhi, Nepal      | • Parnika from Mumbai, India  |
| • Glorious from Baltimore, MD     | • Francis from San Francisco, CA        | • Suhani from Jammu, India    |
| • Chloe from Pleasanton, CA       | • Sara from Seattle, WA                 |                               |
| • Ahana from Pleasanton, CA       | • Veleshia from Cape Town, South Africa |                               |

One fun note about Harini...in 2022, she won the Scripps National Spelling Bee here in the US! We’re so glad you’re using your platform to stand for literacy and girls’ education, Harini!

## Mark Your Calendar!



We have two important items to remind you to put on your calendar. You don't want to miss these!

- In July we look forward to hosting our next Office Hour. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, July 25 at 9amPDT/12pmEDT**. Office Hours are a great opportunity to chat with Jay and April, ask any questions, and get to meet other volunteers.
  - If you have not received an invitation with a Zoom link, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).
- On **Tuesday, August 13, at 9amPDT/12pmEDT** and on **Wednesday, August 14, at 4pmPDT/7pmEDT** we will host She Creates Change Viewing Parties just for our volunteers! Together we'll watch four of the films and then have a short discussion time where you can ask any questions you have. The invitation with a Zoom link will go out soon.

## Welcome to a new Room to Read Ambassador!

Last week, Room to Read announced Kiara Nirghin, award-winning technologist, bestselling author, and sustainability advocate, as a global ambassador. Kiara's ambassadorship will launch with a \$10K You Create Change fundraising campaign to support our Girls' Education Program. You can learn more about Kiara and her campaign in [this blog post on The Latest](#).

## Shout it Out!

We have a couple of Chapter and volunteer events to share and celebrate! Remember, if you have any events or activities you'd like to share, please let us know about them at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

- On Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm CET, the Paris Chapter will host a Zoom discussion with Nina Weinstein. Ms. Weinstein is an award-winning executive producer who is currently working on a panel discussion about democracy in the US to be aired in September. If you are interested in joining this event, please email [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and we'll get you in touch with the Paris Chapter.
- Recently the Vancouver Chapter partnered with the TMX Charity Golf Classic to raise over \$40K for Room to Read! While it was a hot day, Chapter Leader Sharon Davis said all guests were taken care of well and had a great time! They were able to partner with Hello Nori, a local sushi hand roll restaurant to provide snacks and drinks, as well as a fun atmosphere. Way to go, Vancouver Chapter!

## Steps for Every Volunteer

Being a Room to Read volunteer has so much flexibility that sometimes it can be tough to know what to do. Here are two easy steps **EVERY Room to Read volunteer** should take. (If you've

been a volunteer for a while and haven't done these two things, now is the perfect time to do them!)

1. If you have not already done so, now is a **perfect time** to set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations. You can [find easy instructions here](#) on the [Community Resource Hub](#). Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations to your fundraiser and how much they've donated. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.
2. Join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and participate. You can comment on existing posts or post your own question or comment. We would love to build a community there and you're an important part of that!

We're often asked how much a volunteer should plan to do on behalf of Room to Read. Here's a good rule of thumb. **As a volunteer, we recommend that you:**

- reach out to one community group or organization **each month** to invite them to partner with Room to Read,
- post about Room to Read on their social media **once a month**, and
- host an in-person or online event **once per calendar year**.

Of course, you may choose to do more than this, we just offer this as a baseline.

If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

We hope you continue to have a great week. As always, we appreciate your dedication to Room to Read and celebrate the lives of students that are changed because of your work.

Warmly,

Jay and April

[July 2, 2024](#)

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,

Hope your week is going well! I was inspired by a post on our blog, [The Latest](#), this week and want to share a bit of that with you. When 13-year-old Meng lost his mother and had to move to a new region in Cambodia, he was shocked to learn that he would be placed in Grade 1 rather

than Grade 6 with his peers. He had never learned to read and would need to master this fundamental skill before moving to the next grade. Can you imagine being 13 in the Grade 1? With the help of Room to Read's training on literacy best practices, early grade instruction methods, and library reading activities, Meng's teacher, Ms. Pisey, was well equipped to provide Meng the approach she needed.

Read more about Meng and Ms. Pisey at [this blog post](#). I'm so inspired by Meng's perseverance and hard work and I'm so proud of the progress he has made. We are each a small part of the opportunity Meng had to change his life and learn to read and write!

## Quarterly Call Recording

We loved seeing your faces on the Quarterly Call last week! A huge shout-out to those who joined the call. Many thanks to Chau Doan from our Vietnam office who shared a bit about her role as the Communications Officer. We encourage you to watch the [recording of the call and view the PPT slides](#) as well.

Here's what we covered during the Call:

- Welcome, Purpose, and Heartwarmer
- Update on Room to Read Vietnam from Chau
- Mid-Year Check-in
- Brainstorm World Education Day Activities
- Looking Ahead
- Open Forum and Closing

## Young Ambassadors

We have a new resource for school-age students in your area. This [Young Ambassador Program](#) invites youth to learn more about the issues of illiteracy and gender inequality and take action through Room to Read. Once students have completed the activations, they are eligible for a certificate and a small Room to Read gift. Share this with the students in your life!

## Mark Your Calendar!

We have two important calendar items to share!

- In July we look forward to hosting our next Office Hour. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, July 25 at 9amPDT/12pmEDT**. Office Hours are a great opportunity to chat with Jay and April, ask any questions, and get to meet other volunteers.
- On **August 13 at 9amPDT/12pm EDT** and on **August 14 at 4pmPDT/7pmEDT**, we are excited to host She Creates Change Viewing Parties! We'll watch four of the She

Creates Change films and have time for discussion as well. We hope you'll join us for one of the sessions.

## She Creates Change

Speaking of She Creates Change, now is a **GREAT** time to plan a viewing party of your own for the fall or winter.. She Creates Change is a multi-media storytelling initiative spanning six award-winning animated and live-action films. These stories of six girls in our Girls' Education Program explore subjects like financial literacy, discrimination, climate justice, menstruation, and harassment. She Creates Change amplifies the true stories of relatable young women to show girls that they too can create positive change in their own lives and communities.

You could hold a screening of one, a few, or all of the She Creates Change videos. This screening could be in your living room with some friends, at a local community room, or at a small theatre in your town. To equip you for any of these, we've gathered great tools and resources together in this [Event Kit](#).

If you're in the US, we wish you a very happy Fourth of July! Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to chat about your plans!

Warmly,

Jay and April

## June 18, 2024

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,

Hope your week is going well! We have several short updates in this week's newsletter, so let's jump in!

## Reminder about Educator Shortage Campaign

If you haven't shared about the campaign on your social media this week, now is the perfect time! Remember that the match will go through **June 30** (as long as funds allow).

- **Share on your social media** about this match. You can use a **photo from [this folder](#)**.
- **Email your networks and share this opportunity** for them to double their impact.
- **Encourage friends and family to thank an educator** for a great school year by making a donation in their honor. <https://go.roomtoread.org/thank-an-educator/>

## Mark Your Calendar!

We have two calendar items to share!

- Our next Quarterly Call will take place on **Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pmPDT/9pmEDT which is Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 9amSGT and HKT/10amJST/11amAEST.**
  - If you have not received the meeting invitation with a Zoom link, please respond to this email and let us know!
- In July we look forward to hosting our next Office Hour. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, July 25 at 9amPDT/12pmEDT.** Office Hours are a great opportunity to chat with Jay and April, ask any questions, and get to meet other volunteers.

## Calling All Runners (or friends of runners) 😊

After a very successful 2024 Tokyo Marathon, registration for the 2025 Tokyo Marathon starts on Tuesday, June 25! Room to Read is thrilled to be a charity partner again and has opened registration for our charity runner spots. Get more information on the [Room to Read Japan Tokyo Marathon 2025 information page](#) which is updated regularly. Here's some basic information you can share with the runners in your life.

- Race day: Sunday, March 2, 2025
- Application Period: Tuesday, June 25 11a.m. (JST) – Wednesday, July 10 5p.m. (JST)
- Slots: 150
- Minimum bid: Starts at US\$2,000 (in JPY 310,000) / runner
- Fundraising Target: US\$4,000 (in JPY 620,000) / runner
- Entry fee: \$160 (applied only for secured runners)

The Tokyo Marathon is highly competitive, with an acceptance rate below 3%. Of the 39 participating charities, Room to Read is the only charity that accepts multiple currencies (tax-deductible in many countries), corporate matches, and provides a fundraising platform that you can use to receive support from colleagues, family, and friends! Take a look at our [FAQ](#) or contact [jp.marathon@roomtoread.org](mailto:jp.marathon@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions.

## Welcome to our New Volunteers!

We love welcoming new Room to Read volunteers to our group!

- |                                  |                                   |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Amrita from<br>Charlotte, NC   | • Essau from<br>Arusha, Tanzania  | • Jozen from<br>Sacramento, CA          |
| • Hansika from<br>Sammamish, WA  | • Zoe from<br>Cypress, CA         | • Izra from Sharjah,<br>UAE             |
| • Dameon from<br>Brandywine, MD  | • Smriti from<br>Feltham, UK      | • Praveen from<br>Kathmandu,<br>Nepal   |
| • Onyango from<br>Nairobi, Kenya | • Juliana from<br>Lake Forest, CA | • Andrea from<br>Zurich,<br>Switzerland |

- Lizl from South Africa
- Harsh from Gurugram, India
- Sao Deeptha from New Delhi, India

## Steps for Every Volunteer

Being a Room to Read volunteer has so much flexibility that sometimes it can be tough to know what to do. Here are two easy steps **EVERY Room to Read volunteer** should take. (If you've been a volunteer for a while and haven't done these two things, it's never too late!)

1. If you have not already done so, now is a **perfect time** to set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations. You can [find easy instructions here](#) on the [Community Resource Hub](#). Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations to your fundraiser and how much they've donated. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.
2. Join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and participate. You can comment on existing posts or post your own question or comment. We would love to build a community there and you're an important part of that!

We're often asked how much a volunteer should plan to do on behalf of Room to Read. Here's a good rule of thumb. **As a volunteer, we recommend that you:**

- reach out to one community group or organization **each month** to invite them to partner with Room to Read,
- post about Room to Read on their social media **once a month**, and
- host an in-person or online event **once per calendar year**.

Of course, you may choose to do more than this, we just offer this as a baseline.

If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

## Shout-Out Corner

We love shouting out activities! If you have an event or activity you'd like to share, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

- Several of our Sydney volunteers were an integral part of the recent Sydney gala! We are so grateful for your time and efforts! Here are a few pics from the night.
- Board members are getting on board with She Creates Change screenings too! Leo Golden, son of Eric and Ayako Golden (Japan Board), introduced Room to Read to his schoolmates. A She Creates Change screening and educational sessions were arranged at Leo's school where Leo introduced Room to Read and spoke beautifully about why he is passionate about world change through education. (Side note: **Now is a GREAT TIME for you to make plans for a She Creates Change screening in your home, community, or town!** Respond to this email and let's talk about how we can support you!)

We hope to see your face next week on the Quarterly Call! As always, please email us with any questions or comments. Have a great day!

Warmly,

Jay and April

[June 4, 2024](#)

Hello there, incredible Room to Read volunteer!

We hope your week is going well. We're very excited to focus this week's newsletter on our **Educator Shortage campaign** that has a **1:1 match from the Varkey Foundation**. You may have already received an email from Room to Read encouraging you to donate. 😊

These are some easy ways **we're asking YOU to expand the reach of this generous match**:

- **Share on your social media** about this match. You can use or customize one of the captions below **with a photo from [this folder](#)**.
  - **Suggested caption (short)**: One trained teacher = hundreds of educated children. Join me in supporting @RoomtoRead as they expand and accelerate their support for teachers around the world to benefit more children, more quickly. Give now through June 30 and your gift will have double the impact through a limited-time match from the Varkey Foundation: <https://bit.ly/4bCeC0Z>
  - **Suggested caption (long)**: To meet universal primary and secondary education needs in 2030, 44 million teachers need to be recruited globally. In the rush to fill the gap, many countries are lowering standards, often leaving new teachers with little or no training. @RoomtoRead trains teachers and librarians in literacy and library best practices and provides ongoing support from literacy coaches. Join me in supporting this crucial work to ensure all children have quality educators.

Give now through June 30 and your donation will be matched by the Varkey Foundation for double the benefit: <https://bit.ly/4bCeC0Z>

- **Suggested caption (give in honor)**: Every child deserves a great teacher. Now through June 30, join me in showing a great teacher in your life how much they've inspired you by donating in their honor to @RoomtoRead. For a limited time, your donation will be matched by the Varkey Foundation, helping to ensure more children have access to well trained and highly skilled educators: <https://bit.ly/4bCeC0Z>
- **Be sure to tag Room to Read (@RoomtoRead) and the Varkey Foundation.**
  - Facebook: @VarkeyFoundation
  - X: @VarkeyFdn
  - Instagram: @varkeyfdn

■ LinkedIn: @varkeyfoundation

- **Email your networks and share this opportunity** for them to double their impact.
- **Encourage friends and family to thank an educator** for a great school year by making a donation in their honor. <https://go.roomtoread.org/thank-an-educator/>

Here are some basics about the Educator Shortage and the match.

- Globally, 44 million teachers need to be recruited to meet universal primary and secondary needs in 2030.
- In the rush to fill this gap, many countries are lowering standards, often leaving new teachers with little or no training. You can help Room to Read address this urgent challenge at its source. Our local teams train teachers and librarians in literacy and library best practices.
- The match will run through the month of June as long as funds allow.

If you have friends, family, or coworkers who want to know more about why teacher training makes a difference, send them [this post](#) from our blog, The Latest. The beginning of this post inspires me and warms my heart.

### "Who wants to read to the class?"

Tiny hands shot up in the air. Grade 1 teacher Namex Pen picked Reaksa, who scrambled to her feet. The 6-year-old ran to the first-level bookshelf in the newly-established Room to Read school library in Cambodia and grabbed her current favorite, "Chek Chek Wants to Get Married."

"I love reading stories!" said Reaksa, who checks out three books a week to take home. No one had ever read stories to her before — and the same goes for her classmate Kimhour. Like Reaksa, Kimhour borrows books to read to her 8-month-old cousin at home.

Tiny six-year-olds who are so excited to read become adults who have a higher chance of finding better jobs. We get to be a part of this! Invite your networks to be a part of this as well.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Just one more thing for this week's newsletter. Mark your calendar for our next Quarterly Call! You don't want to miss it. The call will be on **Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pmPDT/9pmEDT which is Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 9amSGT and HKT/10amJST/11amAEST.**

If you have any questions about the Educator Shortage Campaign, the Quarterly Call, or anything else in the realm of volunteers, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). It would make our day to talk with you.



Have a great week!

Jay and April

**May 21, 2024**

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,

Okay, students...we're so glad you're here for Climate Justice Club! Everyone, gather up and take your seats. It's time for Ms. Quyen's lesson on climate change and how that has an impact on gender inequalities. Today we get to test the impacts of climate change on model communities you've have built. **(How much do you wish we could really join this club in the Vinh Long province of Vietnam?!)**

You get to do the next best thing to being there...you can read all about it on [The Latest](#) (Room to Read's blog). Take a look at [this article](#) to learn along with students!

## **Educator Shortage Campaign**

As we shared in our last newsletter, globally, 44 million teachers need to be recruited to meet universal primary and secondary education needs in 2030. In the rush to fill this gap, many countries are lowering standards, often leaving new teachers with little or no training. Without concerted efforts, these chronic shortages of qualified teachers will continue to deny the fundamental right to education for millions of children for decades to come. You and your networks can help Room to Read address this urgent challenge at its source by training and supporting educators to teach children to read and write effectively.

Here's a bit about the campaign and how you can share it with your networks.

### **Campaign: Thank an Educator**

- The call to action is to encourage your network to donate to Room to Read in honor of a teacher or other educator they appreciate.
- Here is a link to the custom landing page and donation page, and tailored e-card selection. You can copy and share this link with your networks <https://bit.ly/3QiPzaX>
- You can share this on your social media platforms, in person, or by email.

### **Campaign Goals & Dates:**

- Primary Goal: USD \$50,000

- Please note that the campaign has been pushed back about a week to May 29. We'll share social media posts and captions with you closer to the campaign launch. The campaign will run through the end of June.
- There will be a 1:1 match throughout the campaign (while funds remain).

## All the Shout-Outs!

We know there is so much going on in your communities and we love to share happenings from Chapters and volunteers! Here are some of the latest...

- Volunteers at the University of North Carolina (Go, Heels!) hosted a screening of She Creates Change in late April. They had great conversations with attendees who were very engaged in the films. Way to go, amazing Chapel Hill volunteers (Kayla, Linda, and Linda)! Here's a great photo from the event.
- Heather Sekiguchi, a beloved volunteer in Japan, connected Room to Read with international schools in Japan which hosted She Creates Change screenings and sent home letters to over 130 families about Room to Read! Way to go, Heather!

Just a reminder to send any event or activity news to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We'd love to highlight your efforts!

## World Book Day: 4 Ways to Promote Effective Book Use

Our Vice President of Literacy, Christabel Pinto, recently published an insightful article in honor of World Book Day in the US, celebrated on April 23rd. Drawing upon her extensive experience in implementing our Literacy Program across diverse global contexts, Christabel offers valuable ideas on how to promote effective and enjoyable use of books. We encourage you to check out the article [here](#).

## Role of Community Engagement in Child Friendly Libraries

Recently, Laurie McMahon, our Chief Development Officer, found inspiration in discovering the significance of community engagement in creating child-friendly libraries. Prior to the establishment of these libraries in Lahore and Bahawalpur through the Pakistan Literacy Project, schools primarily interacted with parents through annual Parent-Teacher meetings after exams, offering updates on their children's academic progress and important school dates.

The establishment of Community Resource Groups (CRG) marked a significant step forward in fostering community engagement. Endorsed by the District Education Authority and the School Education Department, the CRG's role became integral to sustaining the school libraries. The impact of CRG involvement is profound. Increased book checkouts, rising school enrollments, and a surge in donations signify growing community support. Moreover, the CRG's efforts have catalyzed discussions on academic progress among teachers and parents, fostering a culture of collaboration and ownership. As the libraries become embedded in the fabric of the community, the work of the CRG and School Management Councils ensures their sustainability. Together,

they exemplify the transformative power of community-driven initiatives in nurturing children's love for reading and learning.

If you have questions about anything you've read or if you'd just like to talk about what you should do next as a volunteer, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We'd love to talk with you.

Have a great week!

Jay and April

## **May 7, 2024**

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers,

Welcome to the month of May! We hope your month is starting off well. As I was looking through our Room to Read website this morning, I was struck by a post on our blog, [The Latest](#), about a teacher in Laos. As a former teacher myself, I (April) was always concerned that students were gaining the knowledge they needed from my teaching. Ms. Khanouthai, a Grade 1 teacher, had the same concerns until she was introduced to Room to Read's proven literacy instruction methods. I was so proud of Ms. Khanouthai and her students as I read her story. Take a minute to read [this blog post](#) and see for yourself. I think you'll be proud of them too.

And now on to the rest of the newsletter...

## **Welcome, welcome!**

We love welcoming new Room to Read volunteers to our group! You're making it possible for Room to Read to equip teachers like Ms. Khanouthai and her students.

- |                                      |                                       |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ● Tarandeep from Chandigarh, India   | ● Pratima from Kathmandu, Nepal       | ● Stephanie from Edmonton, Canada |
| ● Seongyeon from Brighton, UK        | ● Preethi from Dallas, TX             | ● Hom from London, UK             |
| ● Fiona from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | ● Wazirat from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | ● Mulalo from South Africa        |
| ● Abiah from Edmonton, Canada        | ● Advik from Mississauga, Canada      | ● Deebraj from Kathmandu, Nepal   |
| ● Sarah from Hayward, CA             | ● Joseph from Lagos, Nigeria          | ● Eunice from Kiambu, Kenya       |

- Diksha from Kathmandu, Nepal
- Emily from Flower Mound, TX
- Elior from Tenaflly, NJ
- Emmanuel from Lagos, Nigeria
- Dwayne from Gary, IN
- Nicole from Houston, TX
- Asit from Madhupur, India
- Alexander from Bamenda, Cameroon
- Assumita from Harare, Zimbabwe

If you have not already done so, now is a **perfect time** to set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations. You can [find easy instructions here](#) on the [Community Resource Hub](#). Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations to your fundraiser and how much they've donated. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.

We're often asked how much a volunteer should plan to do on behalf of Room to Read. Here's a good rule of thumb. **As a volunteer, we recommend that you:**

- reach out to one community group or organization each month to invite them to partner with Room to Read,
- post about Room to Read on their social media once a month, and
- host one in-person or online event per calendar year.

Of course, you may choose to do more than this, we just offer this as a baseline.

If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

## Educator Shortage Campaign

Globally, 44 million teachers need to be recruited to meet universal primary and secondary education needs in 2030. In the rush to fill this gap, many countries are lowering standards, often leaving new teachers with little or no training. Without concerted efforts, these chronic shortages of qualified teachers will continue to deny the fundamental right to education for millions of children for decades to come. You and your networks can help Room to Read address this urgent challenge at its source by training and supporting educators to teach children to read and write effectively.

Here's a bit about the campaign and how you can share it with your networks.

### Campaign: Thank an Educator

- The call to action is to encourage your network to donate to Room to Read in honor of a teacher or other educator they appreciate.
- Here is a link to the custom landing page and donation page, and tailored e-card selection. You can copy and share this link with your networks <https://bit.ly/3QiPzaX>

## Campaign Goals & Dates:

- Primary Goal: USD \$50,000
- The campaign runs from May 20-June 7.
- There will be a 1:1 match throughout the campaign (while funds remain).

We'll share social media posts and captions with you closer to May 20.

## She Creates Change

You've likely heard us talk about She Creates Change and you may wonder what we're talking about. She Creates Change is a multi-media storytelling initiative spanning six award-winning animated and live-action films. These stories of six girls in our Girls' Education Program explore subjects like financial literacy, discrimination, climate justice, menstruation, and harassment. She Creates Change amplifies the true stories of relatable young women to show girls that they too can create positive change in their own lives and communities.

We encourage all volunteers to consider hosting a screening of one, a few, or all of the She Creates Change videos. This screening could be in your living room with some friends, at a local community room, or at a small theatre in your town. To equip you for any of these, we've gathered great tools and resources together in this [Event Kit](#).

In order to help you learn more about She Creates Change, we're going to host our own screening with you! We'd love for you to join us in August to watch several of the She Creates Change films. You bring the snacks, and we'll bring the videos!

We're planning to host two screening times in August so volunteers in different time zones can join in. **Please let us know via [this Doodle poll](#) by the end of this week when you prefer to join.** That will help us pick a time that's convenient for the most people.

## Country Spotlight

Each month we like to shine the spotlight on one of our program countries. This month, we're taking a look at Sri Lanka. In response to the tsunami of 2004, Room to Read decided to begin learning initiatives in Sri Lanka one year earlier than originally planned. We immediately went to work rebuilding schools in tsunami-affected areas and helping to create long-term infrastructure improvements, beginning in the Ampara District on the island's eastern coast. Thanks to Room to Read's partnership with the Sri Lankan government, we have witnessed systems-level change.

We invite you to learn more about our programs in Sri Lanka [here](#).

If you have questions about anything you've read or if you'd just like to talk about what you should do next as a volunteer, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We'd love to talk with you.

Have a great week!

Best,

Jay and April

### [April 23, 2024](#)

Hello there, Room to Read volunteers!

How are you?! We hope this week is going well for you so far. Really quick note...if you're available (and awake) in a couple hours after we send this Newsletter, we would LOVE to see you at our very first Office Hour. This will be a very informal time to get to know other volunteers, ask questions, discuss ideas, or just listen in. You can join for the whole hour or just a portion. That's today (in the US and Europe), **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** at **10:00amPDT/1:00pmEDT/5:00pmGMT**. ([Here's the Zoom link](#).) We'll have more Office Hours at different times of day in the coming months, so if you aren't able to join this one, we hope you're able to join another time.

And now on to the rest of the newsletter...

### **Add This to Your Playlist!**


On April 19, music from the She Creates Change films was released on major streaming platforms (like Spotify and Apple Music). What a great soundtrack to use when you're hosting your own You Create Change event or just working around the house. I just added [this playlist](#) to my own Spotify library to listen while I'm working on this newsletter. Be warned that the first song will be stuck in your head for the rest of the day.



### **Earth Day**

You may have known that April 22 was Earth Day, but did you know that Room to Read supports sustainability and climate justice? [This post from The Latest](#), the Room to Read blog, shares about three ways that Room to Read is doing its part to take care of our planet.

### **Another Award for “Dancing Hands”!**

 Room to Read is thrilled to share that our original children's book “Dancing Hands,” written by Joanna Que and Charina Marquez and illustrated by Fran Alvarez, has been honored with an Ezra Jack Keats award, given annually to an outstanding writer and illustrator by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation in partnership with the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi. First co-published with Adarna House in the Philippines, “Dancing Hands” was published for a global audience by our partner Chronicle Books last year.

## Events and Activities

We know you're hard at work with events, activities, and outreach as you serve with Room to Read. Did you know we have many resources to support you in your efforts?

- We'd love to hear all about what you're doing. You can email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and share a bit about it.
- Take a look at the [Event Logistics tab](#) on the Community Resource Hub! There you'll find event ideas, FAQs, tools for collection donations and more.
- If you have not already done so, set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations! You can find [easy instructions here](#) on the Community Resource Hub.
  - Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations and how much. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.
- Tag @roomtoread when you post about your event on social media!
- After your event concludes, be sure to complete the [Event Wrap-Up Form](#) to let us know about your event and its results. We love celebrating with you!

## Update from Geetha (our CEO) on Cambodia

Last week, Room to Read held our Country Management Conference (CMC) in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This conference is an opportunity to bring together country and global leadership from around the world annually to get aligned on our business, share learnings and challenges, as well as discuss opportunities and growth strategies. This year's conference was particularly important as we prepare for Room to Read's next strategy and ensure we are all committed to our next set of goals. Our time together helped reinforce our ambitions to integrate Room to Read programs into educational systems around the world to benefit more children more quickly.

I was particularly inspired to be in a country where Room to Read has been operating for 22 years to see the evolution of our work and to receive recognition from the country's leadership. As background, over the last 22 years in Cambodia, Room to Read has benefited 2.2 million primary school children and 21,000 adolescents, trained 9,000 teachers and librarians, published 266 Khmer children's books, and distributed a staggering 8 million books to children throughout the country. The key to this success has been the quality of our programs and our strong 20-year partnership with the Ministry of Education in Cambodia.

I left Siem Reap with a huge sense of pride for what we have achieved in our 22 years in Cambodia. In 1979, following the Khmer Rouge genocide, there were few surviving teachers, writers, and just a small literate adult population. As the country has rebuilt and is now on track to become an upper-middle income country by 2030, we are humbled to have played a role in the implementation and expansion of quality education programs for Cambodian children, giving them and their families room for a brighter future.

## The Latest

If you haven't already bookmarked "The Latest", Room to Read's blog, now is your time! Here are some recent posts you definitely want to read more about.

- In 2022, during her first financial literacy class, 14-year-old Vibeetha struggled to understand the importance of saving. Read [this post](#) to learn how a financial crisis required Vibeetha rely on lessons learned in the Girls' Education Program.
- In Tanzania, Room to Read's teacher training is helping to end early-grade illiteracy. (And you're a part of that!) Take a look at how in [this recent blog post](#).
- [This blog post](#) is an oldie, but a goodie. If you would like to understand what Room to Read does and how (or share that knowledge with someone else), "Decoding Room to Read" is a great place to start.

As always, please reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions, challenges, or just want to talk about volunteering. We are so happy to serve with you!

Have a great day!

Warmly,

Jay and April

**[April 9, 2024](#)**

Hi there!

Were you able to see the solar eclipse yesterday where you are? We were supposed to have about 85% coverage here, but it was so cloudy there was nothing to see. Oh well...there's always the next one in 2045. 😊

## **Welcome, welcome!**

We love welcoming new Room to Read volunteers to our group! This marks your first biweekly Room to Read Volunteer Newsletter. We're glad you're all here!

- |                                 |                                   |                          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Andrew from Rwanda            | • Amit from New Delhi, India      | • Bella from Boulder, CO |
| • Maonezi from Dodoma, Tanzania | • Marjuice from Cebu, Philippines | • Nicole from Singapore  |
| • Anna from Dallas, TX          | • Ami from Seattle, Washington    | • Swati from Singapore   |



If you haven't already done so, please join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and welcome new volunteers there. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

## Office Hours are Coming Your Way!

How is your volunteer experience with Room to Read going? We'd love to hear from you about the activities you're working on or where you are finding successes or challenges. Join us for our first Office Hour on **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** at **10:00amPDT/1:00pmEDT/5:00pmGMT**. This very informal time is your opportunity to talk about ideas, get to know Jay and April, and ask questions. The Outlook calendar invitation is attached to this email, and it contains the Zoom link. Join us for a portion of the hour or for the whole thing!

## Events and Activities

We know you're hard at work with events, activities, and outreach as you serve with Room to Read. Did you know we have many resources to support you in your efforts?

- We'd love to hear all about what you're doing. You can email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) and share a bit about it.
- Take a look at the [Event Logistics tab](#) on the Community Resource Hub! There you'll find event ideas, FAQs, tools for collection donations and more.
- If you have not already done so, set up your Engaging Networks page to collect donations! You can find [easy instructions here](#) on the Community Resource Hub.
  - Having an Engaging Networks page enables you to see who has made donations and how much. This will allow you to thank your donors and encourage them in their generosity.
- Tag @roomtoread when you post about your event on social media!
- After your event concludes, be sure to complete the [Event Wrap-Up Form](#) to let us know about your event and its results. We love celebrating with you!

## Chapter and Volunteer Events

Speaking of celebrating, we want to give a shout-out to Chapters and volunteers for their hard work on recent and upcoming events!

- The Paris Chapter hosted a well-received concert on March 24 with flutist Ethan Nylander. Way to go, Paris Chapter!
- On March 8, volunteer Kayla hosted a screening of three She Creates Change videos in her San Francisco neighborhood. The screening had a great turnout and also prompted some guests to become new Room to Read volunteers.

- On April 26, new volunteers (Kayla and Linda) will host a screening of three of the *She Creates Change* videos on campus at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (Go Heels!).
- The American School in Japan and the North Sydney Girls' High School will soon host screenings of *She Creates Change* videos.

## Encouraging Updates from Geetha!

Recently our CEO, Geetha Murali, shared some encouraging updates and reports with our staff and we'd like to share them with you. Some of them you have heard before, but they're such big news that we want to share them again!

### ***She Creates Change* launches with Warner Bros. Discovery**

In honor of International Women's Day last month, Warner Bros. Discovery broadcast the premiere of *She Creates Change* to audiences in Central and South Asia. The stories of Dewmini, Trang, Keya, Yashika, Diksha, and Naifat have aired over three 30-minute episodes throughout March on the Discovery ASIA channel in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, and on the TLC and Discovery+ India channels in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. With five of these young girls hailing from Asia, we are thrilled to have had the opportunity to amplify their stories across the region and inspire other young girls as they consider their own futures.

*She Creates Change* has also been announced as an official selection of the San Francisco International Film Festival and will screen at their *Schools at the Festival* program, a student-focused outreach program that reaches adolescents and over 6,000 Bay Area public, private and homeschool teachers. As part of the program, *She Creates Change* will be made available online to educators in the Bay Area to show in the classrooms, alongside educational materials including life skills worksheets.

### ***You Create Change* campaign**

Alongside the release of *She Creates Change*, we are excited to share *You Create Change*, which aims to mobilize support for our girls' education program. It launched last month for International Women's Day with a digital fundraising campaign and additional initiatives will continue throughout the year. We have been testing different approaches with supporters and sharing our new *She Creates Change* assets with volunteers to host activities and events within their communities.

We will share materials with you that you can use to champion the campaign amongst your networks.

### **Cambodia's Minister of Education approves Room to Read college course**

In my last newsletter, you read that officials from the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS) in Cambodia attended a Room to Read workshop to finalize the content of a new course toward a Bachelor of Arts degree at teacher education colleges. The course, entitled *Developing Lifelong Readers: The Power of School Libraries and Classroom Reading Corners*, has now been officially approved by the Minister of Education and **integrated into the national pre-service curriculum**. Participants will research how school libraries directly contribute to children's literacy development and habit of reading, receive an introduction to library organization principles, and explore the important role of read-alouds and other library activities in fostering children's motivation to read. The course is being rolled out to eight public teacher education colleges in early 2024, while the team is coordinating with the MoEYS to expand the course to all remaining colleges. The entire global leadership team will be in Cambodia next week for our annual Country Management Conference and will have the opportunity to spend time with a government delegation including the Minister of Education.

### **Hong Kong book distribution begins**

Our storybooks have begun distribution in Hong Kong! Working with local authors and illustrators, Room to Read has created 12 bilingual storybooks in Chinese and mother-tongue languages Hindi, Urdu and Filipino, for children from immigrant backgrounds now living in Hong Kong. The books went to print in March and the first distribution took place over March 23-24<sup>th</sup>, to many excited families.

### **Dancing Hands wins awards**

We're proud to share that Room to Read's original children's book *Dancing Hands*, written by Joanna Que and Charina Marquez and illustrated by Fran Alvarez, has received a 2024 Youth Media Award from the American Library Association. The book was also one of two honored this year with the Schneider Family Book Award, which celebrates books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences. These awards highlight the impact of our collaborative efforts in creating meaningful and inclusive literature for children worldwide.

### **Room to Read once again awarded top rating by Charity Navigator**

We have once again received Charity Navigator's 4-Star rating, with a score of 100%! A 4-star ranking, termed "great," describes a highly effective organization that exceeds industry standards, signaling to donors that they can give with confidence. Only 33% of all organizations rated by Charity Navigator hold a 4-Star rating. We are immensely proud to have earned 17 4-star ratings (our first being awarded in 2005) and grateful for the fantastic colleagues we have organization-wide who work diligently to ensure operational excellence.

## Country Spotlight

This month's country spotlight is shining on our programs in Cambodia! Our programs in Cambodia began in 2002. We have found one of the greatest needs to be affordable Khmer-language books for young readers. With that in mind, publishing local language children's books has been a priority since the early days of our work. We establish child-friendly libraries where primary school children can explore books, read for pleasure, and borrow books to read at home. We have also had great success with our Girls' Education Program in Cambodia, which has received international attention. In March 2015, the First Lady of the United States and the First Lady of Cambodia visited one of our Girls' Education Program sites in Siem Reap where they met with our program participants.

You can learn more about our programs in Cambodia [here on our website](#) or here on the Community Resource Hub.

We hope you have a great week and we hope to see your face on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Best,

Jay and April

### MARCH 26, 2024

Hello, Room to Read Volunteers!

How is your week going? We're right in the middle of false spring here in North Carolina. It's just chilly enough to not be spring, but just warm enough to kick your allergies into high gear.

😊 What about you? How is the weather where you are?

As the seasons are changing around the world, we hope this is a great time for your Room to Read activities to be ramping up. If you don't know where to start or what to do next, please respond to this email...we would love to email with you about this or set up a brief call with you.

Here's the latest information we have to share!

## Welcome, welcome!

We are so excited to welcome new Room to Read volunteers to our ranks! This marks your first biweekly Room to Read Volunteer Newsletter. We're glad you're all here!

- |                              |                             |                                  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ● CC from New York, NY       | ● Na from Richmond, CA      | ● Matthew from Albury, Australia |
| ● Katie from Ft. Collins, CO | ● Jaclyn from San Pedro, CA | ● Sai from Minneapolis, MN       |

- Avery from Aspen, CO
- Sandhya from Bronx, NY
- Kara from Seattle, WA

If you haven't already, please join the "[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)" group on Facebook and welcome new volunteers there. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, send them to our [new Volunteer page](#)!

## Inside Scoop

We always enjoy pointing you to the latest information about our programs on our website, but sometimes we love sharing some inside scoops with you. These updates about two of our partner organizations will be shared on our website, but you get a peek at them first.

- **Pakistan:** Building on the impactful efforts of the Pakistan Literacy Project, our implementing partner, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), has joined forces with the Programme Monitoring and Implementation Unit (PMIU) of the School Education Department (SED), Government of Punjab, to further advance educational initiatives in the country. Together, they spearheaded the printing and distribution of 21 storybooks in Urdu across 23,110 government SED schools. This groundbreaking endeavor, part of the Punjab Human Capital Investment Project (PHCIP), aims to bolster education and learning opportunities, particularly for marginalized communities across 11 districts comprising 43 tehsils/sub-districts of Punjab.  
The primary focus was on providing children's books to government schools across Punjab at no cost. Under the PHCIP, ITA's collaboration with PMIU has facilitated the distribution of 115,550 non-commercial books, ensuring equitable access to valuable educational resources for children from diverse backgrounds. By reaching such a wide audience, ITA's objective to nurture a reading culture and promote literacy gains significant traction, contributing to the overall educational advancement of the region.  
This collaborative initiative marks a significant stride in educational efforts and literacy promotion on a national scale in Pakistan.
- **Lebanon:** As our 15 libraries in Lebanon continue to operate at a high level, there are many lessons learned already emerging, as well as situations to plan for in the future. The benefit of developing libraries in groups (or cohorts), for example, allows Room to Read to learn and adapt and become more cost-effective with time. The unique context of

Lebanon where there is close to no government involvement in the Non-Formal Education (NFE) centers has also created an extremely active community, ready to volunteer and make the most of their centers, books, and libraries. This has inspired our team to achieve more.

Given the project focus in 2024 on support and monitoring, here are some of the activities that the project is planning this year:

- Library Extension Activities – As we introduced library extension activities after a teacher reads a story in December 2023, support and improvisation of these activities will extend into 2024. This will include understanding teacher's and children's choices for extension activities and required support. Based on the experience and insight gained during the first half of the year, we may introduce some new activities where children are given even more space to connect with stories.
- Enhanced Coaching and Monitoring Systems - We initiated processes for coaching, monitoring, data collection, analysis, taking collective measures, and this will continue. Our local team will continue to gather data and learn from both quantitative and qualitative analyses to support teachers.
- Focused Community Engagement - Community engagement is a significant focus for 2024. Parent Committees have been formed, and the emphasis this year will be on helping the committees to function by working with them to identify specific tasks to implement.
- Book Distribution and Reading Spaces - Resources have been developed to guide more partner organizations in creating reading spaces with curated titles. The guidelines will be introduced, and we will assess emerging opportunities to work with other organizations in this area.
- Introducing SEL through Children's Literature (Second Quarter) - Given the current stress and fear in Lebanon, we are considering the introduction of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) through children's literature in the second quarter. This initiative aims to integrate SEL into reading activities to help individuals, especially children, cope with their emotions.

## **Girls' Education Program in Cambodia**

Recently, our blog, [The Latest](#), featured a story about our [Girls' Education Program in Cambodia](#). The article begins with this following statistic, "In a report published in September 2023, UNESCO reported that an estimated 122 million girls are currently out of school around the globe, and women continue to account for almost two-thirds of all adults unable to read." Don't those statistics seem baffling to you? As a Room to Read volunteer, you are part of the solution to this issue. Be sure to read this article to learn more about how our Girls' Education Program empowers and supports young women and how Room to Read is working hard to ensure that this program continues to meet the intended needs.

## **Get to Know the Room to Read Website**

As you may have noticed in recent newsletters once a month we like to shine a spotlight on our country programs. One of the places where we find information for those spotlights is our [Impact and Reach](#) pages. The Impact and Reach landing page shows a world map where you can select a country program to learn more about. There you'll find a country summary, educational landscape, program highlights, and local information for each of our program countries.

If there's a country you'd like to learn more about, stop by the [Impact and Reach](#) page for more details! You can also find recent blog posts about specific countries by visiting [The Latest](#) and typing the country name into the search bar at the top of the page. Easy peasy!

If you're wondering what to do next in your volunteer service with Room to Read (or what to do first), please reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). No question is too basic and we would love the chance to talk with you.

We hope you have a great week!

Warmly,

Jay and April

## [MARCH 13, 2024](#)

Hello there, Room to Read Volunteers!

Welcome to March! For those of us in countries with daylight savings, how are we all adjusting? It can be brutal, but I do love the extra sunlight in the evening.

Before we jump into this week's newsletter, I wanted to share a line from a recent post on *The Latest* (Room to Read's blog). [The blog post](#) was written about our Girls' Education Program in anticipation of International Women's Day (which was March 8<sup>th</sup>). The quote reads, **"You can create change for more real-life heroes."** I think that is so on the nose. These girls in our Girls' Education Program are the heroes, and we have the privilege to provide opportunities for change in their lives. As a volunteer with Room to Read, that's what you're part of AND it's what you're inviting others to be a part of. In that same blog post, it reminds readers that, **"One dollar a day, or \$30 a month, is all it takes to support a girl through secondary school."** I cannot think of a better investment of one dollar a day.

And now, on to our newsletter...

**Welcome, welcome!**

We are so excited to welcome new Room to Read volunteers to our ranks! We're glad you're all here!

- Ridowan from Chittagong, Bangladesh
- Jennifer from Paris, France
- Isabelle from Cambridge, UK
- Kirsty from London, UK
- Rebekah from Chicago, IL
- Claire from Sydney, Australia
- Alice from Hong Kong
- Ahmad from Dubai, UAE
- Kayla from Raleigh, NC
- Lainey from Dubai, UAE
- Shelly from Dubai, UAE
- Linda from Raleigh, NC
- Maria from Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Edna from Songea, Tanzania

Be sure to join the “[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)” group on Facebook and welcome new volunteers there.

## She Creates Change

We have many new volunteers and realize that they may wonder what we're talking about when we discuss [She Creates Change](#). She Creates Change is a multi-media storytelling initiative spanning six award-winning animated and live-action films. These stories of six girls in our Girls' Education Program explore subjects like financial literacy, discrimination, climate justice, menstruation, and harassment. She Creates Change amplifies the true stories of relatable young women to show girls that they too can create positive change in their own lives and communities.

We encourage all volunteers to consider hosting a screening of one, a few, or all of the She Creates Change videos. This screening could be in your living room with some friends, at a local community room, or at a small theatre in your town. To equip you for any of these, we've gathered great tools and resources together in this [Event Kit](#). If you have any questions or would like to talk through your idea for hosting a viewing, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We'd love to talk with you about it!

## Room to Read in the News

Following our *She Creates Change* premiere announcement, we are pleased to share some recent mentions of Room to Read and She Creates Change in the news!



- Tatler Asia  
<https://www.tatlerasia.com/power-purpose/front-female/director-siqi-song-she-creates-change>
- Animation Magazine  
<https://www.animationmagazine.net/2024/03/room-to-read-film-series-she-creates-change-airs-with-warner-bros-discovery-for-womens-day/>
- Animation World Network  
<https://www.awn.com/news/room-read-announces-she-creates-change-animated-shorts-premiere-dates>

## Planning Ahead

Just a reminder that now is the time to look ahead to 2024 and share your [Annual Plan](#) for the year! ([Six-Month Plan](#), if you're a new volunteer.) When you complete your plan and share it with us, it enables us to know what volunteers are doing and to advocate with our leadership on your behalf. If you submit your Annual/Six-Month Plan to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) by the end of March 22, you'll be entered into a drawing for a beautiful Room to Read-branded prize...believe me...you want this prize.

## Country Spotlight

Each month we like to shine the spotlight on one of our program countries. This month, we're taking a look at Vietnam. Room to Read started our Literacy and Girls' Education programs in Vietnam in 2001 as our second country of operation. We initially ran programming in areas along the Mekong Delta and have since began working in northern Vietnam and across the central coast. The Vietnamese government's educational policies closely align with our program areas, allowing us to collaborate with the government and amplify our impact to support system-level change.

We invite you to learn more about our programs in Vietnam [here](#).

## Volunteer and Chapter Events

We always love hearing about your volunteer events and activities. We want to cheer you on! We posed this question on our Facebook [Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#) group. We'd love to see your answers there or let us know at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

- The Paris Chapter is hosting flute concert on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The concert will feature Ethan Nylander, a rising professional flutist who enjoys playing both classical and contemporary music. Ethan, the recipient of a Fulbright Grant to France, currently studies at the École Normale Supérieure de Musique de Paris with renowned flutist Mihi Kim. He will introduce us to a variety of styles in the flute repertoire from the Baroque era to

the present day. If you happen to be in Paris, please join them!

<https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/flute-concertconcert-de-flute-withavec-ethan-nylander-tickets-838454478917>

## The Latest

Want to read the latest about what Room to Read is up to? Take a look at our blog, [The Latest](#), to see what's new with Room to Read.

- We love to see a headline like this! “[Increasing girls' employability worldwide: The Room to Read difference](#)” is one of our most recent blog posts.
- Here's the latest on She Creates Change's release on Warner Brothers.

We hope you are challenged by and enjoying your volunteering with Room to Read. If you have questions, challenges or thoughts, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We want to talk with you!

Warmly,

Jay and April

## FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Happy almost end of February, Room to Read volunteers!

We hope your week is going well. It was so fun to see so many of you on our Quarterly Call yesterday! If you missed it, Jay was giving away cats (not really) and April couldn't get away from the Spice Girls (who would want to?). We'd love to see everyone on our next Quarterly Call this summer! Keep an eye out for the save the date.

## What a Changemaker!

We're thrilled to share the news that our very own CEO, [Dr. Geetha Murali](#), has been selected to be part of CNBC's Inaugural Changemakers list! This new annual list honors 50 women who are innovating and transforming business at the largest companies, startups, and philanthropic organizations. In her CNBC Changemakers profile, Geetha is recognized for her leadership and contributions to gender equality in launching She Creates Change. CNBC highlights the mission of the project and highlights select stories featured in the series. Geetha is an incredible model for our students that they have the opportunity to be changemakers in their communities too!

You can read more about the 2024 CNBC Changemakers list [here](#).

## Quarterly Call Information

During yesterday's call, we shared updates on You Create Change (the upcoming campaign surrounding She Creates Change) we celebrated milestones from 2023, and we spent some time walking through ways to connect with those in your community and networks who share the same values with Room to Read. Take some time to read through these resources. They're really helpful as you're planning for 2024.

- Here is the [PowerPoint presentation](#) with notes included.
  - The PowerPoint also includes links to tools we discussed and a quick, anonymous survey that helps us better resource you as a volunteer.
- Here are the [JamBoards](#) where we worked together to answer questions.
- And here's a pic of that great group who joined the call!

## You Create Change

Speaking of You Create Change, International Women's Day (IWD) is coming up on March 8<sup>th</sup> and this year IWD will kick off a year-long campaign for our Girls' Education Program called You Create Change. This is a fantastic opportunity for volunteers and staff to work together reach our goal of raising a USD 10M investment for our Girls' Education Program by the end of the year! That's right, we're aiming high! But don't let the number intimidate you because every dollar counts and we're here to support you.

On March 1, Room to Read will announce our You Create Change campaign which invites Room to Read supporters to "Create the change you want to see in the world by supporting girls' education". Here's how we're asking you to support this campaign:

- Tell your community and networks! Encourage everyone you know to sign up for insider updates, subscribe to Room to Read's YouTube channel, and check out our She Creates Change webpage. In early March, we'll share social posts for you to help spread the word about the campaign and encourage people to donate.
- Make organizing a She Creates Change film screening a part of your volunteer plan this year. This could be a small screening in your home or a larger community screening.
- Update your Engaging Networks fundraising page with You Create Change messaging. We'll prepare the language and share it with you in March.

## Annual Plans

During our Quarterly Call we also touched on Annual Plans. We'd love to hear what you have planned for 2024 on behalf of Room to Read. Annual Plans also provide us with information that enables us to advocate with Room to Read leadership on your behalf. You can find Volunteer and Chapter Leader Annual Plans in [this folder](#), as well as on the [Community Resource Hub](#).

Send us your completed Annual Plan by March 22<sup>nd</sup> and you'll be entered into a drawing for a Room to Read giveaway! Trust me...you want this giveaway prize.

## Volunteer and Chapter Events

Hey, hey...what events or activities do you have coming up? We posed this question on our Facebook [Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#) group. We'd love to see your answers there or let us know at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

- Hong Kong has an exciting event coming up on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Gentle Books' Thursday Book Club will host a fireside chat with Dr. Nguyen Que Mai at 6:30pm. You can learn more the event [here](#). Proceeds from this event will support Room to Read.
- Sydney is hosting a She Creates Change viewing on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Chatswood Library!

## The Latest

We were so happy to share a blog post from [The Latest](#) on the Quarterly Call about a young woman from Bangladesh named Joba. We left the group with a cliffhanger about Joba, so here is [the link](#) to learn the rest of Joba's story.

And there you go! We hope your March starts well and we look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

Jay and April

## FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Hello there, Room to Read Volunteers,

Hope your February is going well. Since February is the month of love in many locations, we want to start our newsletter with something we all love...getting books into the hands of students! ❤️ In Pakistan recently, we've been able to put 90,000 copies of 15 new Urdu-language titles in 34 Room to Read school and classroom libraries. These books came about through collaboration with 30 local authors, artists, and book creators. It's important to Room to Read that children have access to exciting reading material in their own language, which we hope will build a habit and love of reading. As a volunteer with Room to Read, the funds you raise and the awareness you bring to the importance of literacy and gender equality enable partnerships like this one...and who doesn't ❤️ LOVE ❤️ that? If you'd like to learn more about this initiative and see some of the books, take a look at [this article](#) on our blog, [The Latest](#).

## Welcome, welcome!

We are so excited to welcome new Room to Read volunteers to our ranks!

- Neil from Melbourne, Australia
- Purbi from Oita, Japan
- Tari from Brisbane, Australia
- Pranav from Karad, India
- Suryansh from New Delhi, India
- Zoe from Zurich, Switzerland
- Athmajan from Finland/USA
- Olivia from New York City, NY
- Emilio from Weston, FL
- Maddy from King City, ON
- Mia from Wettingen, Switzerland

Be sure to join the “[Room to Read Chapters and Volunteers](#)” group on Facebook and welcome new volunteers there!

## We want to see your face!

Our Quarterly Call is only two weeks away on **Tuesday, February 27** at 9amPST/12pmEST/5pmGMT/6pmCEST. We’re excited to see you there to share updates on Room to Read campaigns and programs and there may or may not be some prizes. (There will be.) Here’s [your Zoom link](#) to join in the fun! We hope to see you there!

## Keeping You Informed

Because we have some new volunteers, we thought this would be a great time to remind everyone of the emails you should receive from Room to Read and why. All of these emails are important sources of organization information, campaigns, and news for you to share with your networks. This information also keeps you up to date as a volunteer!

From our Marketing and Communications Team, you should receive:

- The Room to Read newsletter at the end of each month
- Room to Read news and updates
- Room to Read marketing emails

From us (the Volunteer Relations Team), you should receive:

- This biweekly newsletter
- Periodic requests for information or support with a project

Also, be sure you're following Room to Read on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#). It's super easy to share updates directly from our accounts.

## Charity Navigator

Room to Read is now proud to have received 17 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator! Charity Navigator is the largest independent evaluator of charities in the United States. Only 33% of all organizations rated by Charity Navigator hold a 4-Star rating. You can have confidence that you are part of an organization that is working effectively and with integrity to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality.

## What are your plans?

It's time to look ahead to 2024 and share your [Annual Plan](#) for the year! ([Six-Month Plan](#), if you're a new volunteer.) When you complete your plan and share it with us, it enables us to know what volunteers are doing and advocate with our leadership on your behalf.

## Dancing Hands-Call to Action

We're so excited to share that Room to Read's original children's book "Dancing Hands," written by Joanna Que and Charina Marquez and illustrated by Fran Alvarez, has received a 2024 Youth Media Award from the American Library Association! The book was one of two honored recently with the Schneider Family Book Award, which celebrates books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences. First co-published with Adarna House in the Philippines, "Dancing Hands" was artfully revised and published for a global audience by our partner Chronicle Books in 2023.

Is "Dancing Hands" in your local public library? Please consider checking the online catalog and if "Dancing Hands" is not listed, suggest that they prioritize it for purchase. Thanks to this award, it should now be on their radar, but a nudge from a local patron helps ensure that it is not overlooked. Proceeds from the sale of "Dancing Hands" benefit Room to Read.

## Country Profile

Each month we like to shine the spotlight on one of our program countries. This month, we're taking a look at Tanzania! Tanzania is home to nearly 62 million people and Africa's tallest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro. In 2015, the literacy rate in Tanzania was 77.9% for people aged 15 and over (83.2% males, 73.1% females). In 2020, 97% completed primary (98.4% females and 95.5% males), 28.3% completed secondary (30% females and 27% males), and 8% completed tertiary education (7% females and 8.5% males). [Wikipedia](#)

Learn more about Room to Read's work in Tanzania by visiting our [Impact and Reach-Tanzania page](#).

## Dates on the Horizon

March 8 is [International Women's Day](#). In honor of this day, we will launch a campaign in March centered around [Girls' Education Program](#) and [She Creates Change](#). Keep your eyes on your inbox for more information!

Have we mentioned that we're so glad you're here? We are! We are so glad to partner with you as you use your gifts and talents for a cause you're passionate about. As always, if you have any questions, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

Warmly,

Jay and April

## JANUARY 30, 2024

Hello, Room to Read Volunteers!

How has your January gone? I'm looking at a tiny bit of leftover snow here as I write this newsletter. Just let me know if you'd like me to send any of the snow your way!

## It's Time to Celebrate!

Our newsletter is quite short and focused this week to give you time to really read and digest. We are SO excited to finally have rolled out our [new volunteer recruitment page](#) and program expansion! Cue the confetti and horns! 🎉🎊🎈 In celebration of this big milestone, we'd like to share with you some of the new content we've created to support all volunteers. We hope it will be helpful to you.

Here's how we're excited to welcome new volunteers and engage with all volunteers!

1. All new volunteer prospects will complete the Volunteer Interest Form on the [new volunteer recruitment page](#). Even if you recruit a new volunteer in person, please direct them to this page. (Please note: current volunteers like you do **NOT** need to complete this form.)
2. New volunteers will be welcomed with an email that introduces them to the 🎉NEW AND IMPROVED 🎉 [Community Resource Hub](#) and [Volunteer Guidebook](#). Please go spend some time with both of these resources...we think you'll be encouraged and you may even learn something new!
  1. Don't forget to bookmark the [Community Resource Hub](#) as this page cannot be accessed via the Room to Read public website.
3. Going forward, we're encouraging all volunteers to focus on asking your network/community members to take one (or more!) of these three action steps:
  1. **GIVE** to Room to Read,

2. **SHARE** about Room to Read with their personal and professional networks, or
3. **VOLUNTEER** with Room to Read themselves. (Take a look at [this folder](#) for recruitment posts you can use on social media.)
4. How you choose to make those “give, share, volunteer” asks is completely up to you! Maybe it’s through a Read-A-Thon, a She Creates Change viewing, a booth at a local festival, a presentation to a group of teachers, a conversation with your neighbor, or your social media accounts. **GIVE, SHARE, VOLUNTEER**...that’s how you’re inviting others to be a part of fighting on behalf of literacy and gender equality!

### Save the Date! It’s our next Volunteer Quarterly Call.

Mark your calendar now for our next Volunteer Quarterly Call on **Tuesday, February 27** at 9amPST/12pmEST/5pmGMT/6pmCEST. We’ll share an agenda and a Zoom link closer to time. We hope you’ll make plans to join us for encouragement, updates, and fun! This year, we’ll rotate the timing of the calls to include different time zones. If this time does not work for your time zone, we’ll share a recording of the call with you.

Friends. We are so glad you choose to use your time and skills to serve with Room to Read. What you are doing is making a difference in the lives of students around the world. How exciting to think about the ripple effect of your volunteer investment!

If you have any questions or celebration messages or suggestions, especially ones about the volunteer program expansion, (or you just want to say hello!) please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We love hearing from you!

Have a great week!

Jay and April

### JANUARY 16, 2024

Hello and happy January, Room to Read volunteers!

We are so glad you are here and welcome you to a new year with Room to Read. It’s important to us that we remember who the heroes are in our organization, so we’d love to start 2024 off with a story.

In our Girls’ Education Program in Laos, Room to Read is engaging parents in the girls’ education. We know that social norms, expectations, and challenges can significantly affect a girl’s ability to stay in school. That’s why Room to Read Laos recently conducted a parent and caregiver workshop with the parents of nearly 370 Girls’ Education Program participants. Held during the school break between June and September, the workshop aimed to deepen parents’ understanding of the importance of girls’ education and nurture a community of education champions for girls. Teachers and school



administrators led discussions on issues of gender equality and offered families team-based activities that demonstrated how parents can effectively support girls in their ongoing learning.

After the workshop, many parents expressed that they had a deeper understanding of what their daughters may be experiencing in their day-to-day lives. Some reflected that they were able to approach challenging conversations with their children with more gender awareness, enhanced emotional regulation and greater sensitivity to their children's feelings and experiences.

Think for a moment about the power of a parent recognizing the challenges that their daughter faces in school and in the community. Can you imagine the impact that has on her self-esteem and belief in her worth? The girls in our Girls' Education Program are the heroes of their own stories and having parents who support their dreams is a powerful resource for a hero.

This is what you're part of, friends! We are thrilled to be the means that carries your passion for supporting literacy and gender equality. **This** is why you serve with Room to Read.

We have much to celebrate and much to do in 2024. Here comes your newsletter to get us all started!

### It's the Community Resource Hub! (Insert kazoo noise here 😊)

As you serve in your local community, we want to ensure we provide you with information and resources that equip you well. The new and improved [Community Resource Hub](#) is your one-stop spot for exactly that. Here's how it's set up and where you can find things.

- New Volunteers-Start Here!
  - This tab has this Guidebook, planning templates, and the Volunteer Position Description.
- Communications & Outreach
  - This tab houses branding and communications guidelines, organizational overview resources, messaging training and resources, presentation materials, and shareable resources like program and country overviews and Investment Sheets.
- Fundraising & Donations
  - On this tab, you'll find peer-to-peer fundraising information, partnerships support, and financial resources.
- Event Logistics
  - This tab has information for planning and promoting your event and resources for wrapping up your event.
- Annual Campaigns

- On this tab, you can see the resources for each of our annual campaigns and a calendar to remind you of which ones are coming up.
- Chapter Leaders
  - This tab is specifically for our Chapter Leaders and houses resources that they need to lead their teams well.

There is still some work to be done on the Hub, but we want to give you a sneak peek at all the information goodness. Please bookmark this page because you cannot access it through our Room to Read website. (If you have an old bookmark, that will still work.) If you have any questions about the Community Resource Hub or how to bookmark it, please respond to this email and we'll be happy to help you.

### Time to Start Planning for 2024

There are so many exciting activities you do in support of Room to Read and we know your Chapter is already looking at the year ahead. As you're making your plans, the tentative fundraising and cultivation campaign schedule is in the table below. We'll provide updates as campaign details are confirmed, but we hope this snapshot is helpful as you think about your Chapter plans for the year. Remember to share your Chapter's [Annual Plan](#) with us when you're done! We'd love to have your Chapter's Annual Plan by February 16<sup>th</sup>. Let us know if that is not possible.

<b><i>March</i></b>	International Women's Day	Fundraising campaign
<b><i>May</i></b>	Teacher Shortage	Fundraising campaign
<b><i>June</i></b>	World Refugee Day	Fundraising campaign
<b><i>September</i></b>	International Literacy Day (Fill Every Shelf)	Fundraising campaign
<b><i>October</i></b>	International Day of the Girl	Fundraising campaign
<b><i>November</i></b>	Giving Tuesday	Fundraising matching campaign

**December**

EOY Campaign

Fundraising campaign (multiple matches)

## Thank you, Book List Reviewers!

We always appreciate volunteers who are able to step in on short notice and review book lists. Our book lists enable us to send quality, student-friendly books to our libraries. In December, we were able to order 77,769 books that will be sent to help stock our libraries in Cambodia that are estimated to arrive around March this year. The team is very appreciative as you supported our first order in 2024!

If you're interested in being a Book List Reviewer, be on the lookout for our next email asking for volunteers!

## Country Profile: Laos

After reading about the parents' workshops, we just couldn't help ourselves and wanted to share more with you about Laos and our programs there.

Laos, a country of almost 8 million people, is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. The adult literacy rate for women in 2017 was 62.9%. [This page](#) on our website is an excellent place to learn more about our work in Laos.

## The Latest

[The Latest](#) is our blog and is a great resource for what's going on in Room to Read. Here are a few of the featured stories we're excited to share.

- The story of our very own CEO, Geetha Murali, has been featured in "Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls" series. [Geetha's story](#) is encouraging and fuels her passion for literacy and girls' education.
- Room to Read is thrilled to share that we recently [published three new graphic novels in Southern Italy](#), part of our larger graphic and photo book collection created to support life skills education for adolescent girls in Naples and Palermo.
- Room to Read Nepal initiated [Climate Justice Clubs](#) at 26 schools in Banke District earlier this year, supporting more than 500 girls in Grade 6 as they gain the knowledge and tools required to tackle pressing climate challenges.

We are looking forward to serving with you in 2024. As always, if we can support you in any way, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

Have a great week!

Jay and April

## DECEMBER 26, 2023

Welcome to almost 2024, Room to Read Volunteers,

Hope your holidays are going well! As we end 2023, we want to be sure to let you know how much we appreciate all the time and effort each of you give as Room to Read volunteers. You are equipping students around the world to experience the difference education can make in their lives. It is a privilege to get to work with you in this way!

We have just a few pieces of information for you today...so here we go!

### Match Reminder

Just a reminder about **the 3:1 match** starting on **Thursday, December 28** and running through December 31. There's also a **1:1 match** going on **now until Thursday**. You'll find a library of social media assets that you can use to promote and motivate your social and email networks in [this folder](#).

Please note: if you have donors giving to a match and you'd like to receive credit towards your chapter, please email [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) with the donor's name. The original donation amount will be credited to your chapter but not the match amount.

All donations during our match periods will be matched by Humanitix while funds last. Donations will be used where and when it is needed most, allowing Room to Read to deliver a comprehensive and holistic approach to education.

### Reminders about Great Gift Ideas

Don't let the holiday season pass without telling your networks about some of our wonderful cause marketing partners. Each partner is supporting Room to Read in their own way. Check out the links below to learn more and then spread the word!

[Wonderbly](#)

[Doen](#)

[Sherpa Adventure Gear](#)

[Mohala Eyewear](#)

[Conscious Step](#)

[Tatcha](#)

[Elemis](#)

[Alp-N-Rock](#)

### New Videos

We're excited to have a few new recent videos! Take a look, be encouraged by what you're doing on behalf of Room to Read, and share them with your social networks.

- Our "[Make Room" video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt7DNH6gHfY) features soundbites from our Country Directors alongside retail price points and is available on our YouTube channel, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt7DNH6gHfY>
- We also used additional content from the "Make Room" video project to produce a series of YouTube "shorts" (also serving as Instagram Reels), featuring Country Directors alongside retail price points. That playlist of shorts is available on our YouTube channel, here: <https://www.youtube.com/@Roomtoread/shorts>
- Finally, a new video on Room to Read's work in Lebanon is now available on our YouTube channel. This updated version on YouTube includes official branding and has been modified slightly to ensure a longer shelf life. That video is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWuanT8FF\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWuanT8FF_I)

## How Cool is That?

Recently, we've had some fun and unique opportunities to highlight Room to Read's efforts.

### **Room to Read's artwork to the Moon**

Our artwork is going to the Moon! LunARC is a unique initiative to create the first community art gallery on the Moon. The LunARC team is comprised of volunteers committed to bringing diverse perspectives and the global public good to this next frontier. LunARC's mission to establish a digital art gallery on the moon is an attempt to inspire communities from around the world to engage in dialogue on space exploration and put equity at its center. All of the artwork Room to Read submitted – from Honduras, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Nepal – has been accepted and digital copies will be included in a time capsule on a Firefly lunar lander. **It will launch on a SpaceX rocket in 2024.** You can see the selected artwork below. What a unique opportunity to promote Room to Read and to showcase the work of our immensely talented illustrators!

### **Chocolate for Fuel: Lebanon library gets creative**

Last week, in our library at the Helwa Ya Baladi center in Lebanon, one of the non-formal education centers, the manager, Fatima, showed her own innovation and commitment to the center by running a very fun and creative fundraiser! The center now has a beautiful library which is a hub of activities for children and teachers alike but needed diesel fuel to keep the heating going during the cold winter. To raise the funds for the diesel, Fatima hosted a chocolate workshop for the children! Children of all ages participated, making chocolates and cookies which they then sold to the local

community. The funds raised will help to ensure the library stays open during the winter months. This initiative not only brought joy to the children but also showcased the community's resilience and commitment to education, and the importance of our collaborative partnership approach.

We hope you have time to rest and reflect on your incredible efforts this past year. We're so excited to see what 2024 holds! As always, if you have any questions at all, please email us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

Have a great week!

Jay and April

## DECEMBER 12, 2023

Hello and Happy December, Room to Read Volunteers,

We hope the end of the year is coming together well for you! This newsletter contains reminders about end of the year campaigns and other organization updates for you to share with your networks. As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to us at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org). We love to hear from you!

And now on to the updates...

## Holiday Cards

[Room to Read's 2023 digital holiday cards](#) are now available for you to use with your networks. Send to a supportive friend, a teacher, or a business that supported one of your events this year. Let others know that digital versions of these holiday cards will be available if they give online and would like to dedicate their gift to a loved one and send an e-card. Holiday cards from previous years are still in this folder as well, so if you missed one before, it's still available to you.

## Match and EOY Campaign Reminders

Thanks to our generous donor, Humanitix, we have several matches coming up for the remainder of 2023. You'll find the match details outlined below and a library of social media assets that you can use to promote and motivate your social and email networks can be found in [this folder](#). We'll continue to add more graphics as each of the match dates come around. Thank you for your generosity of time and energy as you promote these campaigns with us!

### **Key dates are:**

- December 1:1 Match (Dec 1-27)
  - Use and promote this donation page link from **December 1-31**: <https://bit.ly/3Rb6HQC>.
- **5x Flash Match (Dec 14-15) (THIS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY!)**
  - Your gift can go five times as far!

· December 3:1 Match (Dec 28-31)

Please note: if you have donors giving to a match and you'd like to receive credit towards your chapter, please email [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) with the donor's name. The original donation amount will be credited to your chapter but not the match amount.

Below are some captions you can use to spread the word. Remember, photos or graphics to go along with these captions can be found in [this folder](#).

**Caption Option 1:**

*This season, let's come together and create room for a brighter future. Let's make room for the dreams and aspirations of every child. Let's make room for young women to break barriers and lead the way. And most importantly, let's make room for change, change that will shape the world for the better.*

*By supporting @roomtoread, an award-winning non-profit creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality, you can make a world of difference by ensuring that every child has the chance to receive a quality education. Together, let's make room for a better tomorrow. Donate now to have you gift matched: <https://bit.ly/3Rb6HQC>*

**Caption Option 2:**

*This season, let's make room.*

*Make room for a child's future.*

*Make room for more young women to lead.*

*Make room for world change.*

*The world's children face mounting challenges and millions do not have room in their lives for learning. By supporting @roomtoread, an award-winning non-profit creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality, you can help every child access their inherent right to a quality education. Donate today: <https://bit.ly/3Rb6HQC>*

All donations during our match periods will be matched by Humanitix while funds last. Donations will be used where and when it is needed most, allowing Room to Read to deliver a comprehensive and holistic approach to education.

## **Reminders about Great Gift Ideas**

Don't let the holiday season pass without telling your networks about some of our wonderful cause marketing partners. Each partner is supporting Room to Read in their own way. Check out the links below to learn more and then spread the word!

[Wonderbly](#)  
[Doen](#)

[Sherpa Adventure Gear](#)  
[Mohala Eyewear](#)  
[Conscious Step](#)  
[Tatcha](#)  
[Elemis](#)  
[Alp-N-Rock](#)

## **Social Media Posts**

Take a look at these recent posts on our social media. Have you shared any of these? If not, here's your chance!

- Last week, Room to Read was listed as a top 50 charity to donate to in 2023!

With giving season in full swing, we're grateful for your choice to support quality education for the world's children by making an investment in Room to Read. Check out the full list on @Philanthropy News Digest and join us in helping to make a difference together: <https://bit.ly/48cEvCF>



- On #InternationalLiteracyDay in September, with the aim of fostering a strong culture of reading, Room to Read Nepal organized an assortment of literacy activities across program schools — children's story writing, read-aloud sessions, reading races, reading bingo and more! Several schools led reading events for families as well, extending the reach of Room to Read reading resources to entire communities.

With your support, we are making room for learning in the communities where we work. Discover more: <https://bit.ly/3uMOgJi>

- With so many important causes in the world, we know that choosing where to put your dollars, rupees, pounds or euros is a significant decision. Allow us to make the case for education:

Education is a human right that millions of children are denied.



Illiteracy costs the global economy over US\$1 trillion each year.

Through education, young people gain skills to help solve the world's toughest problems — poverty, disease and environmental degradation.

Girls who stay in school are more likely to marry later, be healthier, ensure their children gain an education, and earn more income.

Societies with fewer gender gaps in education are more prosperous, healthier and democratic.

If you agree, give today and your donation will be doubled for 2x the impact:

<https://bit.ly/3Rc0v9Q>

- Another great item to share is [this video](#) about how you can make room for a brighter world with Room to Read! These [investment sheets](#) are a great supplement and a way to show donors what their investment can do.

## Country Spotlight

This month, our Country Spotlight is on Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country in the world and 27% of its population is under the age of 15. Room to Read has been working in Bangladesh since 2008 and has expanded our programs beyond our beginning in the rural areas.

In addition to the Country Fact Sheet, we have many recent articles about our work in Bangladesh.

- [Making Room for Connection and Community](#): This blog post shares about our Girls' Education Program in Bangladesh.
- [Making Room to Bring More Books to More Children](#): This blog post shares the latest about school libraries in Bangladesh.



## The Latest

The Latest, Room to Read's blog, has some great articles if you have a minute or two and want to know the latest (pun intended) about what Room to Read is up to.

- I love this post, "[Decoding Room to Read](#)". What a great post to share with friends or community members who aren't familiar with Room to Read. It's a bite-sized look at what we do and how we do it.
- If you'd like to know a bit more about the company that is making our campaign matches possible this year, take a look at [this post about Humanitix](#).

When you share Room to Read with those in your community or networks, you are an important part of the success of Room to Read. Together, we get to support students as they are changing their communities, families, and their own lives! Can you even believe we get to be a part of that?

Hope you have a great week!

Jay and April

## **NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

Hello there, Room to Read Volunteers,

Wow...do we have some end of the year updates for you! In this update, we have the latest details on how you and your network can support Room to Read now through the end of the year. Let's go!

## **Here a Match, There a Match...**

Thanks to our generous donor, Humanitix, we have several matches coming up for the remainder of 2023. You'll find the match details outlined below and a library of social media assets that you can use to promote and motivate your social and email networks can be found in [this folder](#). We'll continue to add more graphics as each of the match dates come around.

Thank you for your generosity of time and energy as you promote these campaigns with us!

### **Key dates are:**

- Giving Tuesday 2:1 Match (Nov 27-29) (**HEY...THAT'S NOW!**)
  - Use and promote this donation page link **now through November 29:** <https://bit.ly/46lmWyU>
- December 1:1 Match (Dec 1-27)
  - Use and promote this donation page link from **December 1-31:** <https://bit.ly/3Rb6HQC>. Please do not begin promoting with this link until December 1.
- 5x Flash Match (Dec 14-15)
  - Your gift can go five times as far!
- December 3:1 Match (Dec 28-31)

Please note: if you have donors giving to a match and you'd like to receive credit towards your chapter, please email [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) with the donor's name. The original donation amount will be credited to your chapter but not the match amount.

**Please get the word out about these matches to as many people as possible!**

Below are some captions you can use to spread the word. Remember, photos or graphics to go along with these captions can be found in [this folder](#).

#### **Caption Option 1:**

*This season, let's come together and create room for a brighter future. Let's make room for the dreams and aspirations of every child. Let's make room for young women to break barriers and lead the way. And most importantly, let's make room for change, change that will shape the world for the better.*

*By supporting @roomtoread, an award-winning non-profit creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality, you can make a world of difference by ensuring that every child has the chance to receive a quality education. Together, let's make room for a better tomorrow. Donate now to have your gift matched: **INSERT LINK FROM ABOVE***

#### **Caption Option 2:**

*This season, let's make room.*

*Make room for a child's future.*

*Make room for more young women to lead.*

*Make room for world change.*

*The world's children face mounting challenges and millions do not have room in their lives for learning. By supporting @roomtoread, an award-winning non-profit creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality, you can help every child access their inherent right to a quality education. Donate today: **INSERT LINK FROM ABOVE***

All donations during our match periods will be matched by Humanitix while funds last. Donations will be used where and when it is needed most, allowing Room to Read to deliver a comprehensive and holistic approach to education.

### **Every Child Deserves Room to...**

Our campaign theme of "Make Room" spotlights the fact that education is a human right, yet millions of children around the world do not have room in their lives for learning. Every child deserves room to read, room to learn and room to grow. Together, we can make room for every child to exercise their right to a quality education and unlock their full potential.

Another opportunity to engage with your network during this season is to encourage supporters to engage with the theme of "Make Room". In one of your posts or emails, ask your community to visit [this link](#) and complete the sentence, "Every child deserves room to \_\_\_\_\_."

### **Gifting for World Change!**

Don't let the holiday season pass without telling your networks about some of our wonderful cause marketing partners. Each partner is supporting Room to Read in their own way. Check out the links below to learn more and then spread the word!

[Wonderbly](#)

[Doen](#)

[Sherpa Adventure Gear](#)

[Mohala Eyewear](#)

[Conscious Step](#)

[Tatcha](#)

[Elemis](#)

[Alp-N-Rock](#)

We'd love to hear from you about how many of these opportunities you share with your networks. Just reply to this email with a sentence or two and let us know. 😊

We wish you all the best as we head into a busy December!

Warmly,

Jay and April

## **NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

A very happy November to you, Room to Read Volunteers!

Hope your week is going well! Here are your latest updates...

### **Giving Tuesday and End of Year Campaign Reminders**

If you receive Room to Read emails, you've already seen posts leading up to our End of Year campaign for "Make Room." The campaign asks donors to consider what every child deserves room to do.

World Children's Day on Monday, November 20 is a great time to share this campaign with your social media networks. You can easily find posts on Room to Read's Facebook and Instagram pages. What do you believe every child deserves room to do? Grow? Learn? Be encouraged? Personalize your post with what yours!



Here are some important upcoming match dates to share with your networks.

- November 27-29: Giving Tuesday 2:1 Match (We'll get resources for communicating about these matches into your hands before Giving Tuesday.)
- December 1-31: December Match

### Geetha speaks at the UNESCO Headquarters

Room to Read CEO Dr. Geetha Murali was invited by UNESCO, the Varkey Foundation, and Dubai Cares to speak at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris last week. Geetha spoke during the annual Global Teacher Prize ceremony about the importance of mentorship for children's education, "Teachers around the world are not just educators; they are changemakers and are very often the unsung heroes of our lives and communities."

As part of her remarks, Geetha was able to highlight the excellent work that Room to Read does with teachers and educators all over the world as well as showcase a chapter from *She Creates Change*. What a great honor and opportunity!

### Chapter and Volunteer Photos and Testimonials

We'd love to see your smiling faces as you're volunteering for Room to Read! Right now, we're on the lookout for photos of Chapters or volunteers serving in their local communities...especially ones that include our updated branding. If you have any recent photos, please send them our way...you can send them by email to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) or by sharing a Google Drive link.

While we're looking at your smiling faces, we'd also love to hear a sentence or two about why you serve with Room to Read. If you haven't shared that with us recently, please reply to this email with how you would complete this sentence, "I volunteer with Room to Read because..."

## Country Spotlight: India

We should come up with theme song to introduce the Country Spotlight each month! 😊 In honor of Diwali this past Sunday, this month's featured country is **India**. India is not the only country that celebrates Diwali (or Deepavali), but it did originate on the Indian subcontinent. Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights...which symbolizes the "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." [Wikipedia](#)

Our country Fact Sheets share a country overview, the educational landscape, and history and results of our work in the country. Enjoy our latest India Fact Sheet which is attached. You can also learn more about our programs in India [here](#).

## Chapter Updates

- On November 4, Zurich Chapter volunteers served at the A Celebration of Changemakers event. This event raised over USD\$1 million, which translates to 20,285 students benefitted! Many thanks to the 14 volunteers who generously gave their time and contributed to the success of the event. Way to go, Zurich team!

## On "The Latest"

Our blog, "[The Latest](#)", is a great resource for finding the latest highlights about Room to Read programs. We have several new posts since our last Update.

- [Climate Justice in Vietnam](#): "When more girls are equipped with knowledge around the gendered consequences of climate change and gain the skills to take action in their lives and communities, entire countries can benefit from improved life outcomes..."
- [New Libraries in Tanzania](#): "Our Literacy Program team in Tanzania established 35 new classroom libraries across Mkuranga District Council in recent months..."
- [Changed Life through Girls' Education Program](#): "Meet Lounny, a Room to Read Girls' Education Program graduate from Laos. Lounny participated in Room to Read's program from Grade 5 until her high school graduation..."

-----  
We are thankful we get to work with you! As always, please reach out to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions or Chapter news!

All the best,

Jay and April

**OCTOBER 31, 2023**

Hello there, Room to Read Volunteers,

Hope your week is going well! Here are your latest updates...

### Quarterly Call Recording

We had a great Quarterly Call on October 24. It was encouraging to share updates on Room to Read and our volunteer program and to discuss ideas with these incredible volunteers. We encourage you to [watch the recording](#) to get the latest information and some deeper discussion. We'd love to see you on the next Quarterly Call!

If you reside in Europe and would like to have a chat or ask questions after you've watched the Call recording, please let us know. We'd love to set up a time with you.

### End of Year Campaign

As we shared during the Quarterly Call, the end of the year is an important fundraising time for Room to Read. This year, our end of the year campaign will center on the theme, "Make Room." Consider what Room to Read might help Make Room for in a student's life or what we might ask a donor to Make Room for this season. Participants on the Quarterly Call came up with some great ideas you can see [here](#).

Here are some important upcoming match dates to share with your networks.

- November 27-29: Giving Tuesday 2:1 Match
- December 1-31: December Match

We'll get resources for communicating about these matches into your hands before Giving Tuesday.

### International Day of the Girl Results

We hope you were able to join the She Creates Change trailer release on October 10 or on October 11, International Day of the Girl (IDG). We have been so encouraged by the response to the trailer.

Here are a few of the key results we've seen:

- 11 million+ views of the trailer on YouTube!
- 4,000+ new YouTube subscribers
- 281,000 likes of the trailer
- 3X the number of website sessions during the week of IDG year over year (37,900 in 2023 vs. 11,500 in 2022)

Can you believe that?! We hope this trailer has been a helpful tool as you are reaching out to your networks and community.

### Updated Investment Sheets

As we shared in our October 3 Newsletter, we've updated our average pricing model for delivering our programs around the world. The numbers are just examples to illustrate the impact of a financial gift and are not tied to a specific library, student, or school.

We now have these numbers in [updated Investment Sheets](#) in several currencies for your use and reference. Yay for great resources!

### Cambodia Educators Recognized by UNESCO

Two educators from Room to Read Cambodia were selected to be photographed and included in a UNESCO exhibit in Paris on teachers. The exhibit, which features 45 portraits of teachers from around the world, pays tribute to educators and their role in facilitating learning. Representing Cambodia are Punleu Be and Sreytouch Leng. Thanks to adaptation of Room to Read materials throughout Cambodia, both educators teach life skills within the framework of our Girls' Education Program, as well as their core teaching subject (Khmer literature). The display features an image of both teachers, as well as their background information and a quote on what they find fulfilling from their profession. Room to Read's Girls' Education Program is mentioned on the display.

### Chapter Updates

- On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Paris Chapter hosted a house concert with pianist Chris Culpo. About half of their guests were new to Room to Read! Way to go, Paris Chapter!
- On November 28<sup>th</sup> (Giving Tuesday) the Chicago Chapter will host a private screening of *She Creates Change* at Facets Cinema. Please share this news with anyone in your network who is in the Chicago area!

### Specific Requests

During the recent Quarterly Call, we shared a need for someone who is well-versed in working with Facebook Groups and Pages. If you know someone or you yourself fit that bill, please let us know at [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

We also would love to receive photos you have of the updated Room to Read logo at events. Please send any pics you have to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org).

(You may have noticed a new email address in those last two sentences. We talk more about it in the Quarterly Call recording...take a listen! 😊)

-----



It is a joy to get to work with you! As always, please reach out to [volunteer@roomtoread.org](mailto:volunteer@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions or Chapter news!

All the best,

Jay and April

## OCTOBER 17, 2023

Hello, Room to Read Volunteers,

Before we share updates this week, we want to acknowledge the heaviness of current world events. Room to Read will continue to listen to the experiences of those at the forefront of these movements and reflect on how our values and programming can best serve the communities affected. We hope that our programs' messages of hope and perseverance serve as a light during this dark season.

Here are your latest updates...

### She Creates Change Trailer and "Who I Am" Releases

We hope you had a chance to view the newly released *She Creates Change* trailer last week. If you haven't yet, please take a few minutes to [watch](#). What a powerful look at the stories of these incredible girls.

Last week we were also happy to have *She Creates Change* featured in articles by [Teen Vogue](#) and [South China Morning Press](#). These articles shined a spotlight on the importance of girls' education.

"Who I Am" is an original pop song inspired by the life of Naifat, a courageous adolescent girl from Tanzania who is featured in *She Creates Change*. Naifat relies on the life skills she learned in Room to Read's Girls' Education Program to help overcome immense hardship and pursue her dreams of becoming a singer. The title of the song pays tribute to Naifat's favorite life skills curriculum lesson titled "Who Am I?", during which she is asked to reflect on who she wants to be in this world. The song is a celebratory anthem for *She Creates Change*. The song has been released via digital music service providers (Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music, etc.) and a portion of royalties will be donated to Room to Read.

### Updated UNESCO Numbers

As Charithra Chandran shared in her Teen Vogue article above, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) recently released [updated data](#) that show that the number of out-of-school children and youth has risen by 6 million since 2021, which now brings the total to 250 million. Our CEO Geetha Murali commented about these numbers, "Our

generation and future generations cannot afford for this number to rise any further and it does not need to do so, when organizations like ours have proven and highly scalable solutions to the issue. We enter the final months of this year with even greater purpose and determination in the light of this added context. Together we will bring millions more children under the Room to Read roof.”

These numbers show the urgency of our mission. Your work as a Room to Read volunteer is vitally important!

### Chapter Events Celebration

Let’s celebrate a couple of our Chapters for events last week!

- The Vancouver Chapter was encouraged by their She Creates Change viewing on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Chapter Leader Sharon Davis shared, “As with all events we meet new people and that can lead to new participation. Three young women (University Med Students) found the event through posters that put up by one of our members throughout Olympic Village where the event was held. They had never heard of Room to Read but are now very excited to meet and learn more. They have been involved with a group called Creating Possibilities Nepal, a local NGO that focuses on Adolescent Health Education Programs covering sexual and reproductive health topics for girls living in rural Nepal. They loved all the films but especially the one about menstruation as it is close to their chosen topic. They have already reached out to meet and discuss a possible event with a private screening of just that one video and a panel of medical students and other experts to round out the discussion.” What a great connection, Vancouver Chapter!
- The team in Singapore hosted a very successful She Creates Change Screening and Auction on October 10<sup>th</sup>. They had great volunteer turnout to support the night. The event format was new, but all the volunteers took it in stride and represented Room to Read well! Well done, Singapore volunteers!

If you or your Chapter have upcoming events, be sure to let us know at [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org). We’d also love to hear about your events afterward. Please remember to complete a [Event Wrap-Up Form](#) so we can celebrate with you!

### Chapters Quarterly Call on Tuesday, October 24

Hopefully you’ve marked your calendar for our next Chapters Quarterly Call on **Tuesday, October 24 at 4:00 PM PST**. If you did not receive the Zoom invitation, please respond to this email to let us know. Here’s [the Zoom link](#) just in case you need it.

Here’s our agenda for the call...

- **Welcome and Heartwarmer**
- **Update on Program Transition**

- Facebook Chapters and Volunteers Group
- End of Year Fundraising Update
- Reminders and Open Forum

We look forward to seeing you next week!

### Volunteer Meet-Up

We love seeing when volunteers get to meet up in person. Recently, Linda Van Le (Chapel Hill, NC) was in Paris and was able to meet up with Sarah Bentley (Paris). Thank you for sharing a photo with us!

### Country Spotlight-Nepal

In honor of Tihar coming up in November, this month's featured country is **Nepal**. "Tihar is a five-day Hindu festival celebrated in Nepal...it's analogous to Diwali, but with some significant differences." [Wikipedia](#)

Our country Fact Sheets share a country overview, the educational landscape, and history and results of our work in the country. Enjoy our latest Nepal Fact Sheet which is attached. You can also learn more about our programs in Nepal [here](#).

### Highlight from "The Latest"

["The Latest" section](#) of our website is a great resource for finding stories from our programs and keeping up on Room to Read news.

- This week, you'll find all the latest articles about She Creates Change on the blog.

-----

It is a joy to get to work with you! As always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions or Chapter news!

All the best,

Jay and April

### OCTOBER 3, 2023

Hello, hello, Room to Read Volunteers,

Happy October! Here are your latest updates...

## International Day of the Girl and She Creates Change Updates

As we approach International Day of the Girl (IDG) on October 11, we wanted to share plans and resources to help you engage donors and other supporters.

In honor of IDG, we will be releasing a dynamic and engaging three-minute trailer that showcases all six *She Creates Change* films and features an associated song, “Who I Am,” by the Kenyan singer and songwriter, Karun. We are asking everyone to promote the trailer to their networks to draw attention to the change created when girls can choose their own futures. You’ll find great information for sharing the word in the She Creates Change Partner Toolkit attached to this email. On October 10 at 9 a.m. ET, we will begin promoting the trailer and a related blog post on social media. **We are asking all our volunteers, supporters, and partners to watch and share the trailer starting at that time.**

We also have an update on the She Creates Change film release. We are currently negotiating an agreement to release the films with a broadcast partner for International Women’s Day 2024. Originally, we were hoping that a broadcast release would happen sooner, but the Hollywood writers’ and actors’ strikes have caused delays. Because of that, we are holding off on releasing the full films publicly. However, we will continue to make the content available to Chapters on a request-basis for in-person viewing parties. In the meantime, the content has been translated into Spanish and Hindi, and is being tested in classrooms in India, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

As a reminder, resources to help you host a *She Creates Change* even can be found [here](#). Upcoming resources include the film trailer and posters.

## Updated Program Pricing

Like most companies, Room to Read has been affected by inflation and the realities of operating in a post-pandemic world. After a rigorous assessment of every aspect of our program expenditures, our finance team has determined an updated average pricing model for delivering our programs at the level of quality that makes our work so impactful. These updated prices reflect what it takes to support children’s education in a post-pandemic world.

When communicating with donors about giving levels, the following price points may be referenced for an illustration of what their giving makes possible:

- **\$50 (\$5/month)** can unlock the science and magic of reading for a child for a year.
- **\$120 (\$10/month)** can stock a shelf with new children's books for eager young readers.
- **\$365 (\$30/month; \$1/day)** can support a girl through an entire year of secondary school with one-on-one mentoring and life skills classes.

- **\$1,000** can provide a whole year of training and coaching for a teacher or librarian.
- **\$1,500** can fill a school library with thousands of quality children's books.

Remember, these numbers are just examples to illustrate the impact of a financial gift. As we're going into end-of-year giving, we strongly encourage Chapters to support unrestricted giving as this will help children in historically under-resourced communities develop literacy skills and a habit of reading, and support girls as they build skills to succeed in school and negotiate key life decisions.

Room to Read is consistently recognized for our exceptional fiscal responsibility and we remain deeply committed to maintaining and strengthening our financial efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

### Chapter Events

Several Chapters have events coming up soon to celebrate International Day of the Girl and beyond.

- On Wednesday, October 11, the New Jersey Chapter will host their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Changemaker Breakthrough Breakfast. The event will include breakfast, a local author panel and a call to action for all attendees. We're cheering for you, New Jersey Chapter!
- Also on Wednesday, October 11, the Vancouver Chapter will host a She Creates Change film screening in partnership with Raven Supply. Way to go, Vancouver Chapter!
- On October 15, the Paris Chapter will host a benefit concert featuring internationally known composer and pianist Chris Culpo. Have a great event, Paris Chapter!

If you or your Chapter have upcoming events, be sure to let us know at [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).

### Reminder about our next Chapters Quarterly Call on Tuesday, October 24!

Our next Chapters Quarterly Call will be held on **Tuesday, October 24 at 4:00 PM PST**. Soon you'll receive a calendar invitation with a Zoom link. As always, we'll record the call for anyone not able to join live. This call is open to all Room to Read volunteers.

The 4:00 PM PST call time for our meetings this year enables our APAC chapters a chance to join. However, we will arrange a separate call for UK and Europe chapters to take place after the quarterly call so they can watch the recording and then come together to ask questions and share local updates.

### Brand Refresh Reminders

If you haven't already done so, please update your email signature and any other Room to Read-branded materials. Also, please share only the latest social media posts as they have the correct branding.

- Here are options for updating your [email signatures](#).
- Visit the [Media Page](#) on our website for the new logo files as well as brand guidelines.

### Highlight from “The Latest”

[“The Latest” section](#) of our website is a great resource for finding stories from our programs and keeping up on Room to Read news.

- 18-year-old Nikini lives in a historically low-income district of Sri Lanka. She comes from a big family; growing up, she lived with her mother, stepfather, three brothers and sister. Read [this post](#) from The Latest to learn how Nikini changed her life with the support of the Girls' Education Program.

-----  
It is a joy to get to work with you! As always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions or Chapter news!

All the best,

Jay and April

### SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Hello there, Room to Read Volunteers,

We hope your week is starting well. Here are your latest updates...

### Room to Read Brand Refresh is Live!

As you may have seen on our social media channels last week, we rolled out our new brand refresh! We are excited to share this updated branding that we believe better reflects both of our core programs. Here's how you can get the latest on the refresh.

- [This blog post](#) on The Latest shares great information about the why and what of the brand refresh.
- Here are options for updating your [email signatures](#).
- Visit the [Media Page](#) on our website for the new logo files as well as brand guidelines.

As our CEO, Geetha Murali, shared, “I am thrilled to celebrate a significant milestone in our journey to empower children through education: a re-envisioned brand for Room to Read. I am personally enthusiastic about and excited to share this news with our community, and I invite you to spread the word.”

### She Creates Change Live Trailer Release Watch Party

Coming your way in early October, Room to Read will host a Watch Party with a live, interactive chat for the release of the She Creates Change Trailer. Keep an eye out for more information coming your way.

Full-length She Creates Change videos will be released upon request, so please let us know if you have an upcoming event and need access to these videos.

### Save the Date for our next Chapters Quarterly Call on Tuesday, October 24!

Our next Chapters Quarterly Call will be held on **Tuesday, October 24 at 4:00 PM PST**. Soon you'll receive a calendar invitation and Zoom link. As always, we'll record the call for anyone not able to join live. This call is open to all Chapter members.

The 4:00 PM PST call time for our meetings this year enables our APAC chapters a chance to join. However, we will arrange a separate call for UK and Europe chapters to take place after the quarterly call so they can watch the recording and then come together to ask questions and share local updates.

### Country Spotlight

Have you ever wondered how you can learn more about the work of Room to Read in a specific country? Our country Fact Sheets share a country overview, the educational landscape, and history and results of our work in the country. In our upcoming volunteer newsletters, we look forward to highlighting specific countries. In honor of Heritage Day, this month, we're shining a spotlight on **South Africa**. “Heritage Day is a South African public holiday celebrated on 24 September. On this day, South Africans are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people ([Wikipedia](#)).” Enjoy our latest South Africa Fact Sheet which is attached.

**What country program would you like to learn about next? Respond to this email and let us know!**

### Make a Will Month Wrap-Up

Room to Read's August Make-a-Will month campaign reached more than 80,000 supporters this year, reminding our global community of the importance of including Room to Read in their will and the incredible impact a gift of this kind can have. Over the course of the month, 14 people

made a legacy commitment to Room to Read, totaling an estimated future revenue of nearly \$500,000 for our programs.

Thank you so much for spreading the message by including Make-a-Will month content on your social channels. While this campaign may be over, Room to Read's commitment to strengthening our legacy community continues. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our special group, please email [Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.Nagel@roomtoread.org) for more information.

### Looking for Volunteers in your Area?

One of our long-time volunteers in the San Diego area, Leora Langs, shares about a resource that has been helpful to her.

Check out VolunteerMatch.org to reach volunteers in your area. I've been using [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org) for over 15 years and it's always provided me with interested, quality volunteers who help me manage my Room to Read events. VolunteerMatch.org matches you with people who are passionate about and committed to your cause, and who can help when and where you need them. It's a cost-effective, quick way to reach like-minded individuals who may be available and interested in helping you increase your impact locally. Whether you're looking for one-time volunteers or ongoing volunteers, VolunteerMatch.org will help you easily reach people with similar interests. Try it out!

### Highlight from "The Latest"

["The Latest" section](#) of our website is a great resource for finding stories from our programs and keeping up on Room to Read news.

- Recently, our CEO, Geetha Murali, sat down with Sharon Richmond for [an episode of her podcast](#), "To Lead is Human". Take a listen to Geetha as she discusses how we can lead from every seat in an organization.

-----

Have a great day and, as always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions or Chapter news!

All the best,

Jay and April

### SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Dear Chapter Leaders and Chapter Members,



## Welcome Chapter Members to our Volunteer Newsletter!

We are thrilled to welcome Chapter Members to our communications! This bi-weekly newsletter will inform you of the latest information from Room to Read, equip you as you build awareness and raise funds in your local community, and inspire you as you serve with Room to Read. If you have questions or suggestions for information you'd like to see in the future, please respond to this email and let us know. And now...on to the newsletter!

### Volunteer Program Launch

As we've shared in previous emails, our volunteer program is expanding to include those who would like to serve as an individual or do not live near an existing Chapter. This means anyone with a desire to volunteer with Room to Read will be able to serve wherever they live. This program transition will take place in four phases. We're in the middle of Phase 2 right now and will keep you informed as we move through all four phases.

**We'd love your input on one key piece of the program expansion.** When you introduce yourself to someone on behalf of Room to Read, how do you introduce yourself or describe your relationship to Room to Read? **Please take a second and let us know on [this JamBoard](#).** Double-click a sticky note to edit it and leave your answer.

You'll continue to get updates through this newsletter and through Quarterly Calls. We hope you're already thinking of people who may want to join us as we work to make education a reality for millions of children.

### International Literacy Day

**International Literacy Day (ILD) is coming up on Friday, September 8!** ILD highlights the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies. You're serving with Room to Read so you already know about the importance of literacy! Below are a few ways you can help celebrate the occasion.

- We encourage you to reshare Room to Read's posts on your social media accounts. Here are [two recent posts](#) you can upload to your social media or share from ours. And if you don't already, now is a great time to follow Room to Read on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) (Twitter)!
- This week on *The Latest*, read about [Five Countries where Libraries are Flourishing](#): Vibrant, child-friendly libraries are essential to the work of Room to Read. Take a look at these five countries where libraries are alive and well. We invite you to share this blog with your community in celebration of International Literacy Day!
- Another great way to celebrate International Literacy Day is to share the book ["Dancing Hands"](#) with your network! A portion of proceeds from sales of this beautiful children's picture book are being shared with Room to Read.

### She Creates Change Resources

The multi-media initiative — which in addition to a six-episode film series also includes books and audio stories — aims to reach all 432 million adolescent girls (ages 12–18) around the world with content and educational curriculum that supports them in creating change in their lives and communities. [She Creates Change](#) is the engine through which Room to Read's Girls' Education Program content, including our life skills curriculum, will be provided to young women everywhere, inspiring girls to see themselves as the heroes of their own stories.

If you're planning to host a She Creates Change viewing party or event, we have many resources available to support you. Start with the [resources here](#) and let us know if there is something else that would be helpful. We'd love to hear about your event, so be sure to reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) and let us know what you're planning!

### Chapter Highlight-London

On July 30th, the London Chapter completed the 10 Bridges Walk. This sponsored walk included 10 bridges, 10 kilometres, and 30,000 steps and raised over £2,200! (Just reading that makes me feel like I need to lace up my sneakers and get out there!) They are excited that this will enable Room to Read to provide 57 children with reading instruction or 28 girls with life skills development. Way to go, London Chapter!

We'd love to share highlights from your Chapter as well! These highlights cheer on the Chapter and provide inspiration and ideas to other Chapters. Send photos and information to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) to be featured in a future newsletter.

-----

We did it! Our first newsletter is complete and now you've read it! We hope this resource is helpful as you serve with Room to Read. As always, we are available at [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) to answer your Room to Read questions.

See you back here in a couple weeks!

Jay and April

### AUGUST 22, 2023

Hello Chapter Leaders and Core Committee Members,

Hope you've had a good week! We have a little of this and that in this week's email, including the latest step in our plan to expand our volunteer program...and away we go!

### Volunteer Network Expansion Launch

Yay...the launch is picking up speed! Next week (August 30), we will send a welcome email to all Chapter Members to bring them up to speed with the expanding program. All Chapter Leaders will also be included on that email. (If you have not yet sent us your list of Chapter Members, please send them ASAP.) On September 5, all Chapter Leaders and Chapter Members will be included in our bi-weekly emails going forward. We're so excited about expanding this volunteer group and for the children who will benefit from the funds and awareness raised by all of you! We'll continue to keep you posted on the next steps.

## International Literacy Day is September 8th

International Literacy Day (ILD) is coming up on Friday, September 8! ILD highlights the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies. This will primarily be a brand awareness campaign on social media. We will promote the urgent need for our Literacy Program and highlighting aspects of our Literacy Program and recent Book Publishing initiatives. Have your social media ready for some reposting! We'll have more details in our next email.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, **you are invited** to join Room to Read, Chemonics International, and Reading Partners as we celebrate International Literacy Day with an exciting hybrid event from 2pm-5pm EST. Literacy skills allow learners to seek information, explore the depths of subjects, and understand the world around them. However, foundational literacy is the civil rights issue of our generation. This event will allow for essential discussion about how the learning crisis post-COVID is being addressed internationally and nationally in the US and bridge the perceived gap between US-based literacy and reading programs and national reading programs being implemented across the globe.

The event will include a screening of selected clips from [The Right to Read](#) accompanied by a panel discussion. We look forward to seeing you virtually or in person at Chemonics' Washington D.C. office, as we afford literacy champions a safe space to dialogue and reflect on the critical issues around reading and literacy.

You can register for the event [in person here](#) or [online here](#). We encourage you to also share this invite widely!

## Updating Updated Numbers

In our last Update, we were excited to share the [2022 Annual Report](#) which announced that we benefited **6.5 million children last year** which brings the cumulative number of children benefited to **more than 39 million!** What an incredible step toward our goal of benefiting 40 million children by the end of 2024.

Please take a moment to review your email signature and all other Chapter collateral for mentions of the previous numbers and update those to reflect these updated numbers. We have also updated our [email signature templates](#). You're welcome to use these templates for your own Chapter-related emails.

## Volunteer Needed

Our San Francisco office has an ongoing volunteer opportunity starting September 18. We're looking for a Fundraiser support person to serve 10-20 hours per week on-site in San Francisco, hybrid in San

Francisco, or fully remote in the US. Take a look at [the job description](#) and reach out to [mary.wiese@roomtoread.org](mailto:mary.wiese@roomtoread.org) if you're interested.

## Chapter Spotlight-Vancouver

The Vancouver Chapter was part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic hosted by the TMX (Toronto Stock Exchange) in July. The sold-out event at UBC Golf Course in Vancouver was co-sponsored by [CEM](#) and [Market One Media](#). 144 golfers came together to support Room to Read for a fun day of golf, dinner, and live auction of Room to Read programs. Funds are still pending from this event, and they are shared equally with another local charity. We anticipate about \$45,000 from this event and sounds like we are on again for next year. Way to go, Vancouver Chapter!

## Last Reminder about Make a Will Month

As part of our Make-a Will-Month campaign, longtime volunteer Michael G. is sharing why he has made a point to prioritize taking care of his family while still contributing to the causes he cares about through his will. [Read his story here](#).

**Have you taken the time to create your will?** As crucial members of Room to Read's global community, we are happy to share information to help guide you through this process.

- Click here to create your free will today
- Email [Caitlin.nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.nagel@roomtoread.org) to talk to our Legacy Giving Manager about where to start.
- Visit [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/legacy) for general information.

## The Latest...

- Did you know Room to Read also supports sustainability and climate justice? Take a look at this [recent blog post](#) to learn more.

As always, please be in touch with any questions or needs you have. We hope you are well!

All the best,

April

## AUGUST 8, 2023

Hello Chapter Leaders and Core Committee Members,

We hope your week is going well! Here are our top updates for you this week.

## Our 2022 Annual Report is Here!

From our CEO, Geetha Murali...

Not very long ago we were creating our current strategic plan that set the bold goal of benefiting 40 million children by the end of 2024. At the time, it seemed audacious to double the number of children we had benefited in our first 20 years in a five-year period. However, setting – and achieving – audacious goals is part of our DNA. Toward that end, I'm pleased to report that we benefited **6.5 million children last year**, bringing the cumulative number of children benefited to **more than 39 million**. So, we are certainly on track to reaching our goal, and look forward to celebrating this pivotal milestone with you in due course.

We are excited to share with you the [2022 Annual Report](#) which incorporates our latest results. We hope you will celebrate these great milestones with us...our accomplishments are your accomplishments!

### **Updated Messaging Toolkit**

Our Messaging Toolkit is now updated to reflect the latest number of children we've benefitted. In [this folder](#), you can access our updated Message Map, Messaging Points, Messaging Language, and a document with both the Messaging Points and the Messaging Language. Please reference these when crafting Room to Read messages. We're always here to support with any messaging questions you have as well.

### **Room to Read Highlighted in UNGEI Learning Brief**

Room to Read is honored to be highlighted multiple times in the recent United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) learning brief titled, "Ending Gender Stereotypes in Schools: Good Practices, Experiences, and Lessons Learned". Take a look at [the brief](#) to see how our programs in Cambodia are helping to set the world standard in gender equity.

### **Remember...August is Make a Will Month**

Last week, we shared resources for our Make-a-Will month campaign, which will focus on securing legacy gifts from our most passionate supporters throughout the month. Beyond this goal, Make-a-Will month is about ensuring that those closest to you have the resources they need to take care of the people and causes most important to them.

**Have you taken the time to create your will?** As crucial members of Room to Read's global community, we are happy to share information to help guide you through this process.

- Click [here](#) to create your free will today
- Email [Caitlin.nagel@roomtoread.org](mailto:Caitlin.nagel@roomtoread.org) to talk to our Legacy Giving Manager about where to start.
- Visit [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/legacy) for general information.

### **The Latest...**

- Each month, leading up to its release in October, we're sharing a story from She Creates Change. This month, we're excited to share a blog post about Hannah Lau-Walker, the director of Trang's story. Read more [here](#) about Hannah's experience as a director and the impact she experienced growing up as a child of educators.

- Teachers in Cambodia are gaining new skills as Room to Read trains them how to lead life skills sessions. These sessions are part of our strategy to support the government's efforts to strengthen the education system and create sustainable change. For updates on this Cambodia program and other Room to Read programs around the world, take a look at our [Education for All blog post](#).

As always, please be in touch with any questions or needs you have. We hope you are well!

## JULY 25, 2023

Hello there, Chapter Leaders and Core Committee Members,

Happy last week of July! Here's your latest and greatest from Room to Read.

## Recording of our Chapters Quarterly Call on July 20

Last Thursday, we had a great call with several Chapter Leaders and two Room to Read guest speakers. [Click here](#) to watch the recording of the call. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you have after you've watched the call recording.

- One really important note...please do not share this recording externally. We were able to hear about Room to Read's new visual brand refresh that will be rolled out in September and want to be sure that is not shared outside before then. Here is the slide deck without the visual brand refresh slides.
- During the call we discussed the She Creates Change [Event Kit](#). Please let us know if you have any questions about any of the pieces or if there is another resource that would be helpful.
  - If you are planning a She Creates Change event and have not yet shared it with us, please email us at [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).

## Final Reminders about Action Items

- If you have not already, please complete the Bi-Annual [Check-in form](#). The information you share is so valuable and equips us to make decisions regarding Chapters. **Kindly complete your form (one per chapter) by July 31.**
- Enable us to reach your Chapter members. **As soon as you're able, please send us your Chapter member information.** You can either email us your existing document/spreadsheet or complete and return the attached spreadsheet.
  - Before you give us your Chapter members' information, please check with them to be sure they are okay with being contacted directly by Room to Read.
- Share a testimonial and photos. You love serving with Room to Read and we'd love to hear why! **Share with us why you serve or what serving with Room to Read means to you.** It might be a statement that begins, "I serve with Room to Read because..." or "Serving with Room to Read has enabled me to...". These brief testimonials may be shared on our website or in social posts to encourage others to serve and to inspire your fellow volunteers. Additionally, we are looking for fresh photos of chapters and volunteers from chapter events that we can use for promotional purposes.

- You can send testimonials and photos to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).

## August is Make a Will Month

As we shared in our last Chapter email, our 2023 Make a Will Month campaign will run throughout August. This campaign will share how legacy giving support Room to Read's mission and will encourage the Room to Read community to include a gift to Room to Read in their will.

This week, you can support the campaign by sharing about it on your social media. In [this folder](#) you'll find two social media photos (one that shares Make a Will Month starts soon, the other shares that Make a Will Month starts today) and a suggested caption.

- If you or someone you know might be interested in creating their legacy with Room to Read, please encourage them to reach out to our Legacy Manager, Caitlin Nagel at [legacy@roomtoread.org](mailto:legacy@roomtoread.org) for more information or visit [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/legacy)

## Highlight from "The Latest"

["The Latest" section](#) of our website is a great resource for finding stories from our programs and keeping up on Room to Read news.

- In Laos, many primary schools do not have enough teachers to cover grades 1-5 so they have shifted to multi-grade classrooms where one teacher teaches multiple grades in one classroom. Though our Literacy Program did not initially include multi-grade teachers, Room to Read has started to develop a multi-grade training manual in consultation with the local government. Learn more about this update from Laos and several others in [this recent blog post](#) in The Latest.

---

Have a great day and, as always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions or Chapter news!

All the best,

April

**JULY 11, 2023**

Dear Chapter Leaders and Core Committee Members,

Hope your week is going well! We're here with the latest from Room to Read and some reminders. Here we go!

### IMC Trading Day Results!

On Thursday, June 15, IMC employees worldwide took part in their annual Trading & Gaming Day for Charity. For the eighth year running, they pledged to donate a full day's revenues to charitable causes. This year, \$6 million will be donated to Room to Read, helping to transform the lives of millions of children in Africa and India! Way to go, IMC!

<https://www.roomtoread.org/the-latest/imc-s-trading-gaming-for-charity-day-raises-funds-to-benefit-120-000-children-in-room-to-read-s-literacy-program/>

### August is Make a Will Month

We are excited to launch our upcoming 2023 Make a Will Month Campaign, starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Campaign Goals & Dates:

- August 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: Email campaign will run throughout August sharing how legacy giving supports Room to Read's mission and encouraging the Room to Read community to include a gift for Room to Read in their will. Campaign highlights will be shared in the following Chapter newsletters as well as the global newsletter.
- Goal: To encourage supporters to begin considering their legacy...what do they stand for, what do they care about most, and what do they want their life to mean. If ending illiteracy and gender inequality is part of their plans, we hope they will consider including Room to Read in their will and help guarantee a future full of opportunity for the world's children.

How Chapters Can Support the Campaign:

- We'll have social post templates for you to use in our next communication on July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- If you know anyone who might be interested in creating their legacy with Room to Read, please encourage them to reach out to our Legacy Manager, Caitlin Nagel at [legacy@roomtoread.org](mailto:legacy@roomtoread.org) for more information or visit [www.roomtoread.org/legacy](https://www.roomtoread.org/legacy)
- During this time, we also invite Chapter members to consider their own legacy and we'll have more to come on that in the Comms email on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Reminders about Action Items

- It's time for the Chapter Bi-Annual Check-in! Completing the **Check-in form** should only take 5-7 minutes of your time. The information you share is so valuable and equips us to



make decisions regarding Chapters. **Kindly complete your form (one per chapter) by July 15.**

- Enable us to reach your Chapter members. **As soon as you're able, please send us your Chapter member information.** You can either email us your existing document/spreadsheet or complete and return the attached spreadsheet.
  - Before you give us your Chapter members' information, please check with them to be sure they are okay with being contacted directly by Room to Read.
- Share a testimonial and photos. You love serving with Room to Read and we'd love to hear why! **Share with us why you serve or what serving with Room to Read means to you.** It might be a statement that begins, "I serve with Room to Read because..." or "Serving with Room to Read has enabled me to...". These brief testimonials may be shared on our website or in social posts to encourage others to serve and to inspire your fellow volunteers. Additionally, we are looking for fresh photos of chapters and volunteers from chapter events that we can use for promotional purposes.
  - You can send testimonials and photos to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).

### **Reminder: Chapters Quarterly Call on July 20!**

Just a reminder that our Chapters Quarterly Call will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 4:00 PM PST. The invitation and Zoom link have been sent, so let us know if you did not receive it. You're welcome to pass this invitation along to your Chapter members. As always, we'll record the call for anyone not able to join live. Looking forward to seeing you there!

- During the call we'll have time to discuss the She Creates Change [Event Kit](#), so be sure to take a look at that beforehand!

### **Highlights from "The Latest"**

**"The Latest" section** of our website is a great resource for finding stories from our programs and keeping up on Room to Read news. Here are a couple of the most recent stories you can find there.

- Take a look at [this article](#) in the Millenium Post highlighting the effectiveness of our Girls' Education Program in India!
- Last month, as part of the She Creates Change initiative, we highlighted Naifat's story from Tanzania. This week, you can learn more about Claudia Chinyere Akole, co-director of Naifat's story [here](#).

-----

Have a great day and, as always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any good jokes, questions, or Chapter news to celebrate!

All the best,

April

**JUNE 27, 2023**

Dear Chapter Leaders and Core Committee Members,

Hope your week is going well! Can you believe it's almost July?

### **She Creates Change Event Kit**

We're so excited about the She Creates Change events your Chapters are planning. What a powerful tool these videos are going to be! To support you as you plan and host a "Be the Change" event, some of our very talented team members have put together several resources. You can find the Event Kit and links to all those resources [here](#). Remember that [The Latest](#), the Room to Read blog, is also an excellent source of She Creates Change information and updates! Through to October we are profiling one girl per month from our She Creates Change initiative. This month, we are highlighting Naifat from Tanzania:

<https://www.roomtoread.org/the-latest/unlocking-talent-meet-naifat-from-she-creates-change/>.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'll also have a bit of time to discuss Event Kit questions during our Chapters Quarterly Call on July 20/21.

### **Chapter Bi-Annual Check-in**

It's time for the Chapter Bi-Annual Check-in! Completing the [Check-in form](#) should only take 5-7 minutes of your time. The information you share is so valuable and equips us to make decisions regarding Chapters. **Kindly complete your form (one per chapter) by July 15.**

### **Volunteer Community Expansion Action Steps**

Speaking of information about your Chapter, we're still in need of the information below from several Chapters. If you have not already, we'd be so grateful to hear from you about these two topics...

- Enable us to reach your Chapter members. **As soon as you're able, please send us your Chapter member information.** You can either email us your existing document/spreadsheet or complete and return the attached spreadsheet.
  - Before you give us your Chapter members' information, please check with them to be sure they are okay with being contacted directly by Room to Read.
- Share a testimonial and photos. You love serving with Room to Read and we'd love to hear why! **Share with us why you serve or what serving with Room to Read means to you.** It might be a statement that begins, "I serve with Room to Read because..." or

“Serving with Room to Read has enabled me to...”. These brief testimonials may be shared on our website or in social posts to encourage others to serve and to inspire your fellow volunteers. Additionally, we are looking for fresh photos of chapters and volunteers from chapter events that we can use for promotional purposes.

- You can send testimonials and photos to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).

As you communicate the news of the volunteer community expansion with your Chapter members, here’s a paragraph you may want to share with them, and you’re welcome to edit it as you see fit.

*We’re so glad you are serving with Room to Read as a part of [Name] Chapter! I wanted to let you know that the Room to Read team that supports the global chapter network is looking to expand the volunteer program to allow more people to participate and connect. Currently, as you may be aware, chapter communications and resources from Room to Read are only shared with chapter leaders and core committee members. However, starting in August, the global chapter team will be inviting all chapter members to receive the same access to information and feel directly connected to the organization. To that end, Room to Read has asked for the names and email addresses of our chapter members so they can include you in their communications to receive regular updates and invitations to their global chapter quarterly calls. If for whatever reason, you prefer that we don’t share your information with Room to Read, please let [Name] know by [Date].*

### **Save the Date: Chapters Quarterly Call on July 20!**

Just a reminder that our Chapters Quarterly Call will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 4:00 PM PST. The invitation and Zoom link have been sent, so let us know if you did not receive it. You’re welcome to pass this invitation along to your Chapter members. As always, we’ll record the call for anyone not able to join live. Looking forward to seeing you there!

#### **Call Agenda**

- Welcome
- Update on Strategy and Launch
- GEP Programs Update
- She Creates Change –Video and Events Discussion
- Room to Read Visual Brand Update

### **Chapter Events**

Sydney Chapter: The Sydney Chapter is in the middle of their [World Change Challenge 2023](#). Their team of Australian writer ambassadors and author advocates will raise funds to support Room to Read’s Literacy Program. As a part of this challenge, many teachers and librarians will be participating in DROP EVERYTHING AND READ on International Literacy Day, 8th September 2023. Great work, Sydney Chapter! Let’s cheer them on!

She Creates Change Events: If your chapter is thinking about hosting a She Creates Change event, please let us know your plans via [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) at least one month in advance so we can ensure you have access to the event assets.

If you have an event that you'd like to share with the chapter network, please let us know and we're happy to add it to our next communication.

-----

Have a great day and, as always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any good jokes, questions, or Chapter news to celebrate!

All the best,

April

### June 16, 2023

Dear Chapter Leaders and Core Committee Members,

Happy June, everyone! This is April and I'm so excited to be writing my first update to you all. Without further ado...here are a few updates from our team!

### Volunteer Community Expansion Action Steps

As we shared during the Chapter call at the end of May, we are in the beginning stages of expanding our volunteer community. It's exciting to think about the students who will benefit because these new volunteers serve alongside you and your Chapter to spread the word about Room to Read! We mentioned on the call that there will be a few action steps for each of you and here are three of them.

1. **Help us name our community!** We'd like to hear your suggestions for what this new expanded group of volunteers should be called. To create a more inclusive opportunity, we will be renaming the network as not everyone will be associated with a Chapter in the future. We also know that when most people hear the word 'volunteer' think of traditional hands-on work and not fundraising and advocacy so want to take that into consideration.
  - a. If you have ideas for names, please send them to us at [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).
1. **Help us to reach your chapter members.** As we discussed, we plan to share communications directly with all Chapter members and volunteers soon. We're gearing up to make that happen, so please send us your Chapter Member information. You can either email us your existing document/spreadsheet or complete and return the attached spreadsheet.

- a. Before you give us your Chapter members' information, please ensure that they are okay with being contacted directly by Room to Read.
2. **Share a Testimonial and Photos.** Your efforts are enabling students around the world to change their lives through education! We'd love to hear from you about why you serve or what serving with Room to Read means to you. These brief testimonials may be shared on our website or in social posts to encourage others to serve and to inspire your fellow volunteers. It might be a statement that begins, "I serve with Room to Read because..." or "Serving with Room to Read has enabled me to...". Additionally, we are looking for fresh photos of chapters and volunteers from chapter events that we can use for promotional purposes.
  - a. You can send testimonials and photos to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org).

### World Refugee Day Campaign – 3x Match happening on June 19 - 20

As a reminder, we launched our 2023 World Refugee Day Campaign earlier this week. Be on the lookout for blog posts and social media posts you can reshare from Room to Read's sites.

Here is [a link to social post templates and captions](#) you can personalize and use to get the word out to your community, especially about the 3x Flash Match on June 19 and 20!

### She Creates Change at the Tribeca Festival

We're incredibly thrilled to announce that our landmark film project #SheCreatesChange will be included in #Tribeca2023 as an Official Selection of @Tribeca X Awards.

This award celebrates the best-in-class projects of the year at the Tribeca Festival and we are so humbled that Tribeca X recognizes the power of these films which center girls' voices in the pursuit of gender equality.

To learn more about this honor for Room to Read, visit <https://bit.ly/3WSHb3P>

To learn more about TribecaX nominees, visit <https://tribecafilm.com/festival/tribecax2023/selections>

### Calling all Runners! Tokyo Marathon is March 3, 2024

Just a reminder that Room to Read Japan is once again an official charity partner for Tokyo Marathon! The Marathon will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2024. We are looking forward to having 200 Room to Read runners and supporters worldwide join us this year. We only have a short window of time at the end of June to recruit runners to run for Room to Read in 2024. Chapters, please ask your members to share this opportunity with their personal and professional networks. Interested runners can contact us at [japan@roomtoread.org](mailto:japan@roomtoread.org) for further information.

### Slides from our last Chapters Call

In our last email we shared the recording from our Chapters call in late May. We realized after the fact that the slides we discussed were not visible in the recording. So sorry about that. [This folder](#) contains the call recording and the slides that were referenced in the call.

### Save the Date for our next Chapters Quarterly Call on Thursday, July 20!

Our next Chapters Quarterly Call will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 4:00 PM PST. Soon you'll receive a calendar invitation and Zoom link. As always, we'll record the call for anyone not able to join live. This call is open to all chapter members.

The 4:00 PM PST call time for our meetings this year enables our APAC chapters a chance to join. However, we will arrange a separate call for UK and Europe chapters to take place after the quarterly call so they can watch the recording and then come together to ask questions and share local updates.

-----

Thank you, and, as always, please reach out to [chapters@roomtoread.org](mailto:chapters@roomtoread.org) if you have any questions.

All the best,

April