



Books OverSeas

Mayor Vince Lago, City of Coral Gables, Florida

cc: Mrs. Gabriela Valladares

VIA EMAIL

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Miami, July 5th, 2024.

Dear Mayor Lago,

Thank you so much for our meeting on June 21st when we talked about Books OverSeas and the potential support from the community of Coral Gables.

Books OverSeas (“BOS”), a not-for-profit organization founded in 2023 by high school juniors from School for Advanced Studies (SAS, Wolfson Campus). Marcos Gomes, Alex Martin and Federico Sammataro – childhood friends – incorporated Books OverSeas with the purpose of building new libraries and replenishing school/community libraries across the Caribbean that have been effected by natural disasters such as hurricanes. In the first 10 months of operations, the Organization has collected over 5,000 books.

BOS donated over a three thousand books to the Sir Charles Hayward Library in Freeport, Bahamas and over one thousand books to two significant Public Libraries across Western Jamaica – the St. James Library and the Hanover Library.

Our next mission is to build a new library in Maimon, a small community near Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. The purpose of this new library, in partnership with Fundacion Maimon Avanza and Fundacion Maimon Biligue, is to provide support to English classes being taught to children and young adults in the community. These foundations will also distribute books to public schools and community centers in Los Tejados, Don Gregorio, and Los Canos, DR.

We would appreciate the support of the Coral Gables community in our book drive. We are looking for books in English or Spanish, with a priority on kindergarten to high school level books, but we will accept and find a place for any type of book donated.

In terms of placing collecting bins, we believe that we could leverage the following locations:

- City Hall (405 Biltmore Way)
- War Memorial Youth Center (405 University Drive)
- Adult Activity Center (2 Andalusia Ave)

Thank you again for your consideration. We have added some pictures from our recent work and more information can be found at www.booksoverseas.org and Instagram *BooksOverSeas*.

Best regards,

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Sir Charles Hayward Library (Grand Bahama)



From left to right: Mrs. Geneva Rutherford, Executive Director Sir Charles Hayward Library; Mr. Rupert Hayward, Principal and Director of the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA); Marcos Gomes, Books Overseas; Mrs. Sarah St. George, Vice Chairman of the Grand Bahama Port Authority; Mrs. Shanreikah Faustin, Librarian Administrator; Alex Martin; Federico Sammataro, Books Overseas; Mrs. Fatima Zahra-Kaboub, Director of the Board Grand Bahama Children's Home; Mrs. Cheryl Black, General Manager Sunbelt Rentals

Grand Bahama Children's Home



Books OverSeas with Mrs. June Hutchenson, Executive Director of the Grand Bahama Children's Home with Mrs. Fatima Zahra-Kaboub, Director of the Board.

St. James Parish Library (Montego Bay, Jamaica)



Books Over Seas with Mrs. Marilee Moodie, Sr. Librarian of the St. James Parish Library in Montego Bay, Jamaica, Mrs. Mellisa Terry and Mrs. Hannah Wright from the Chukka Foundation.



Books OverSeas with Mrs. Mellisa Terry from the Chukka Foundation at the St. James Parish Library.

At home organizing some of the books for travel...



From Left to Right: Marcos Gomes, Alex Martin and Federico Sammataro (center)