

I Care

BOOK FAIR

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CONTACT: Cindy Ballaro, 704.763.8846, cballaro@motheringacrosscontinents.org

'I CARE BOOK FAIR' LAUNCHED

Top 10 List Profiles Adults and Children on Personal Journeys to Make a Difference

CHARLOTTE, NC – The 501c3 non-profit organization Mothering Across Continents (MAC) has announced creation of the “I Care Book Fair,” a marketplace of books about adults and children making courageous commitments to serve communities around the world. An initial “Top 10” list of titles was released Sunday, May 8, coinciding with Mother’s Day. Synopses with purchase links are featured at www.motheringacrosscontinents.org.

The initial *I Care Book Fair* features non-fiction in three categories: “Women Making Change,” “Men Making Change,” and “Children & Families Making Change.” The books profile otherwise ordinary people who became extraordinary by addressing community challenges and the needs of others, including orphans and vulnerable children.

“The I Care Book Fair shares our idea that ‘maternal instincts’ are not restricted by gender and can be recognized beyond Mother’s Day,” said Patricia Shafer, founder and chief catalyst, MAC. “It’s apparent from just this initial list of books that a wide range of people are practicing the spirit of ‘mothering’ beyond their own families and geographic borders 365 days a year.”

The books will remain available through the MAC website at least through Mother’s Day 2012 and be expanded with additional reader and book club recommendations. Sample titles:

- *On that Day, Everybody Ate: One Woman’s Story of Hope and Possibility in Haiti* (Koa Books), by Margaret Trost, a slim but engaging story of the author’s transition from mourning the loss of her husband to starting a project to serve impoverished children.
- *It Happened on the Way to War: A Marine’s Path to Peace* (Bloomsbury USA), by Rye Barcott, a personal account of Barcott’s transition from college student entering the U.S. Marine Corps to founder of a project in one of Africa’s largest slums.
- *Free the Children: A Young Man Fights Against Child Labor and Proves that Children Can Change the World* (HarperCollins), by Craig Kielburger, who, at age 12, became an international activist against sweatshops and slave labor.

- More -



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Tel.: 704.607.0098 Email: info@motheringacrosscontinents.org | 15105-D John J. Delaney Dr., #146, Charlotte, NC 28277
www.motheringacrosscontinents.org

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“No doubt, readers will be moved by what’s possible when one person gets an idea and begins to sow seeds of change,” added Shafer. “The books may also raise some provocative questions such as, “Do women, men, children and families manifest ‘mothering’ in different ways?”

Not all of the featured books are about Americans giving a hand up to people internationally. Everyday heroes and heroines profiled in several books were born and grew up in extremely challenging circumstances in Africa and Southeast Asia. Each took it upon himself or herself to come up with inventive ways to overcome potentially crippling adversity.

Consistent with the spirit of the I Care Book Fair, a portion of book sales will fund MAC support of projects in places such as Haiti, South Africa, Rwanda and southern Sudan.

MAC is also inviting book clubs to read at least one book from the list in the next year and make a tax-deductible donation of any size. On Mother’s Day 2012, MAC will announce how much money was raised and how it was used. By some estimates, there may be more than 4,700 book clubs in the U.S. (<http://dockbooks.com/how-many-book-clubs-are-there-in-the-united-states>).

ABOUT the I CARE BOOK FAIR: Titles on the “Top 10” list were chosen through a survey of MAC volunteers and supporters preceding Mother’s Day. To view the list and for more information about I Care Book Fair, visit www.motheringacrosscontinents.org. Featured books are available in either hardback or paperback, as well e-book formats in most cases. Readers are encouraged to visit www.facebook.com/MotheringAcrossContinents and join book discussions.

MOTHERING ACROSS CONTINENTS is a 501c3 non-profit headquartered in Charlotte, NC, conceived as a coalition of women catalysts and social entrepreneurs compelled by the idea that *mothering* is the act of developing responsible citizen leaders around the world. Volunteer "catalysts" receive consulting, coaching and mentoring to develop projects that achieve the mission of “Adopting Dreams. Raising Tomorrow’s Leaders.”

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