



August 17, 2011

Contact: Julie Du Brow
310-821-2463 tel
julie@dubrowworks.com

NON-PROFIT 'THE WORLD IS JUST A BOOK AWAY' AWARDED 501(c)(3) STATUS

Los Angeles, CA, USA (August 2011) – Non-profit organization *The World Is Just A Book Away* (WIJABA), with a mission of supplying books and building school libraries for children in developing countries, has just earned its 501(c)(3) status, streamlining the donation process for WIJABA.

Their application sailed through the process due to the invaluable stewardship of BDO USA, LLP, a U.S. professional services firm providing assurance, tax, financial advisory and consulting services to a wide range of publicly traded and privately held companies, as well as non-profits globally.

"I could not be more grateful to our Board Member Chris Bard, a principal at BDO, for taking the initiative to ask his firm to make an investment of time in *The World Is Just A Book Away*," states WIJABA Founder and CEO James Owens. "BDO clearly is a leader in its field and with expertise in this area, which really facilitated the entire process for WIJABA and enabled us to complete the 501(c)(3) process in an efficient and effective manner. We have had an incredible partner in Give2Asia, which managed our donations for the last two-and-a-half years. Give2Asia really made our launch and initial growth possible. But as we enter the next phase of our growth, we need the increased flexibility and scope provided by 501(c)(3) status to expand our initiatives and reach more children with our programs."

The application fell into Category 1 of the IRS' exemption list, "those that can be approved immediately based on the information submitted" and the approval only took 5-6 weeks in total. The IRS' application process is very precise, especially with the government being careful about money going overseas. Laura Kalick, BDO's Director, Nonprofit Tax Consulting, says, "Our experience in regularly doing these applications for organizations that conduct activities overseas enabled us to submit an application that clearly answered the IRS' questions without them coming back to ask for additional information."

Since its inception, over 500 individuals have donated to WIJABA, with individual gifts ranging from \$9 to \$25,000. WIJABA has used the funds strategically to accomplish a great deal for a young organization. Since the end of 2008, WIJABA has built 53 school libraries and launched two Mobile libraries to serve a combined 25,000-plus children with over 45,000 books at over 100 schools.

About *The World Is Just A Book Away* (WIJABA)

The World Is Just A Book Away (WIJABA) is a 501(c)(3) organization founded on the core belief that education breaks the cycle of poverty and promotes peace around the world. We provide children with hope through books and education in our libraries and reading rooms, empowering them to change their own lives and the world at large. We work in developing counties where we can make a major impact and where children can also leverage their knowledge by partnering with local communities to better the lives of their fellow citizens.

WIJABA launched in 2008 with a building program in Sidoarjo, Indonesia, site of the mudflow disaster that displaced more than 60,000 people and destroyed many schools. Strategically, WIJABA is intended to make a deep impact in a specific community, by building sustainable libraries and programs, rather than trying to assist children in many countries simultaneously. To date, expanding into other regions and surpassing all initial expectations, the organization has initiated programs to serve **25,000+ Children with 45,000+ Books, through 53 Libraries and 2 Mobile Libraries at 100+ Schools.**

<http://www.justabookaway.com/> / <http://www.justabookaway.org/blog/> / www.facebook.com/justabookaway/
[@justabookaway](#) (Twitter)

911 Montana Ave Suite C Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.JustABookAway.com