



## News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Menlo School Students and Bring Me A Book Bring Books to Children in Yucatan Villages**

*Menlo School Interact Club will deliver self funded libraries to two villages along the  
Yucatan Peninsula March 14 – 20*

(March 12) Members of the Menlo School Interact Community Service Club will travel to the Yucatan to deliver 500 books to needy children through Bring Me A Book and Menlo School's Adopt A Village project. Through student led fundraising efforts, Menlo students and Bring Me A Book will donate two libraries of new, hardcover, high quality English and Spanish books to the villages of Chicxulub and Cholul March 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>.

The collaborative effort between Bring Me A Book and the Menlo School will benefit children participating in *Proyecto Itzaes*, a community service based educational program providing literacy resources to children and families along the Yucatan Peninsula. *Proyecto Itzaes* strives to assist children acquire learning skills and build strong academic foundations in after school programs that emphasize early childhood education, family literacy, special education and cultural preservation.

The funding for the Adopt A Village project was provided by a student led auction on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Coordinated by 40 Menlo School students and faculty advisors the auction was attended by parents and members of the Menlo School community. Auctioning off services such as guitar lessons, babysitting, sports instruction, tutoring and party planning, the Menlo Interact Club exceeded their initial goal of raising \$8,000 to raise over \$12,000, enough to fund the project for two separate villages. During Spring Break, Menlo Interact Club members will travel to the villages to deliver the books and experience firsthand the impact it will have on the children.

“Our club theme this year was Education,” says Interact Club member and Menlo Senior Blair Nelson, “and we had done several projects to promote early literacy, but this project took it to a global level. We hope that other high school students will see that so many children do not have the opportunity to receive the amazing education that we are so fortunate to have, but there are things we can all do to help. Providing basic literacy skills and access to books from a young age is a huge step in the right direction.”

Through interacting with the recipient villages of the Adopt A Village project, students and faculty members hope to create an ongoing relationship that will continue in the coming years. "This project is student driven and service learning at its best," says Menlo School Director of Service Learning Jessie Thomas. "The students have been so dedicated and passionate that I hope this trip serves as the first of many to continue to grow our relationship with Bring Me A Book and *Proyecto Itzaes*."

The Bring Me A Book Foundation® is a 501 (c) (3) award winning literacy non profit headquartered in Mountain View, CA. Founded by Judy Koch in 1997, Bring Me A Book Foundation® provides libraries and training programs for children who do not have access to high quality books and reading assistance. Serving needy children and families in 14 states and 8 countries throughout the world, The Bring Me A Book Foundation® serves preschools, childcare centers, health clinics, homeless shelters and the work place. For additional information or media inquiries please contact Erin Smith via telephone (650) 625-5000 ext 224 or through email [esmith@bringmeabook.org](mailto:esmith@bringmeabook.org).

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Artwork and Interviews Available on Request