


**LexMundi**  
Pro Bono Foundation

# Impact Report

A Powerful Global Network of Law Firms  
Supporting Social Entrepreneurs







**“ Root Capital’s success is dependent upon our ability to serve small businesses in the world’s poorest rural communities. The guidance we received from Lex Mundi member firms has been critical. It has ensured access to quality legal counsel across borders and buttressed our loan documentation. ”**

**William Foote**  
**Founder and CEO of Root Capital**

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Root Capital is pioneering finance for grassroots businesses in rural areas of developing countries. It provides capital, financial management training, and market connections to small businesses that transform rural communities in poor, environmentally vulnerable places. Since 1999, Root Capital has provided more than \$869 million in credit to 586 businesses (963,000 smallholder producers) in 30 countries.





The work of the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation can be summed up in four words: “Help others do more.” Inspired social entrepreneurs are working around the world to improve education, fight disease, combat global warming, protect civil rights and lift individuals out of poverty. For every grand challenge facing society there are dedicated individuals and organizations working on creative solutions.

The premise of our work at the Foundations is simple: social entrepreneurs will be more successful at tackling global challenges when they have access to high caliber legal advice. They will scale faster, serve more people, raise more money, and have greater success.

Utilizing the talents and resources of Lex Mundi’s powerful network of 160 top-tier commercial law firms in 100 countries, the Foundation is committed to leveraging the impact of hundreds of social entrepreneurs by giving them access to pro bono legal services. Whether our member firms are helping an organization with a simple employment contract or advising on how to expand services to countries and continents, we work to ensure the organization advances its mission. When a social entrepreneur succeeds, we succeed.

Chloe Holderness  
Managing Director, Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation



Since 2006: **95** Lex Mundi member law firms have provided pro bono services to more than **450** social entrepreneurs around the world.

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The Mission Continues helps veterans adjust to life at home by serving their country in new ways. Service platoons are working to improve communities in 25 cities.





# Lawyers Helping Social Entrepreneurs Change the World.



## Matchmaking to Change the World

We have established relationships with outstanding foundations and incubators that provide sponsorship and support to the growing community of social entrepreneurs throughout the world. These relationships with “collaborators” are designed to inform social entrepreneurs about the availability of pro bono legal services through the Lex Mundi network as well as ensuring that Lex Mundi’s pro bono services go to vetted ventures that are well positioned to deliver significant social impact.

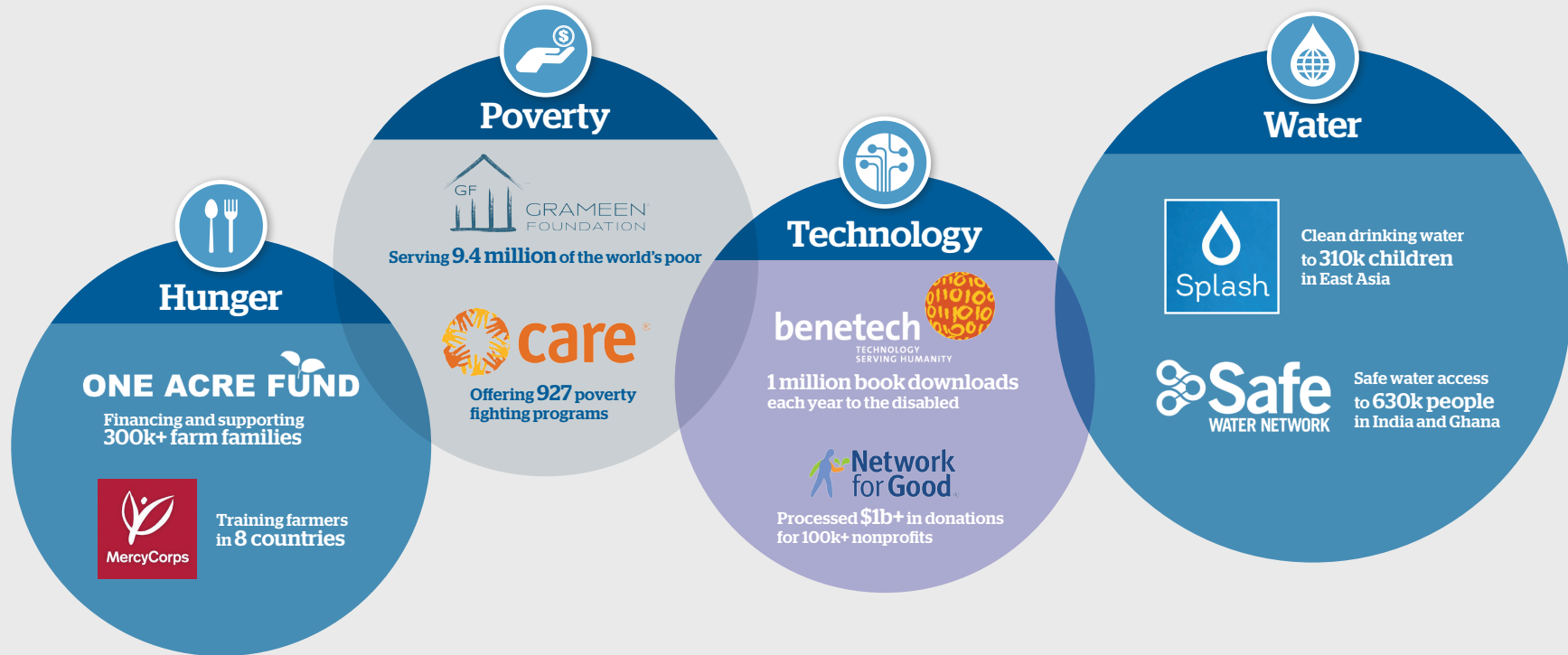
Once a social entrepreneur requests pro bono assistance, the Foundation begins the matchmaking process. We reach out to our network of 21,000 lawyers and 160 member law firms in more than 100 countries to identify a lawyer with dual expertise in both the legal content area and the jurisdiction involved. With such a vast network, we are able to match organizations with lawyers who have indigenous expertise in almost any country. While projects often begin on a limited scope basis, the relationships and pro bono assistance typically endure.



# Serving 450+ Social Entrepreneurs in 57 Countries and 27 Sectors







## Statistics Are Half the Story

We are proud to have served more than 450 entrepreneurs in 57 countries over the last decade. However, the numbers alone do not capture the impact of the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation. Our matchmaking process typically begins as a request from a social entrepreneur for legal assistance on a single matter but often grows into much more. After being paired, lawyers from the Lex Mundi network frequently form relationships with their pro bono clients, offering additional pro bono services as they arise.

Volunteer lawyers regularly become nonprofit board members, sharing their experience and expertise on an ongoing basis. Similarly, Lex Mundi member firms have found ways to strengthen their relationships with pro bono clients, frequently providing employee volunteers to participate in service days and other non-legal volunteer opportunities.



**“ Through our partnership with Lex Mundi we have developed fantastic relationships with the teams from Richards, Layton & Finger in the U.S., and Bowman Gilfillan in South Africa. Overall we cannot say enough about how valuable this help has been to our organization. ”**

**David Torres**  
**Senior Advisor to the President & CEO**  
**mothers2mothers**

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mothers2mothers (m2m) is leading global efforts to end pediatric AIDS and create healthy families and communities by training, employing, and empowering HIV-positive mothers as frontline healthcare workers. Since its founding in 2001 in Cape Town, South Africa, m2m has reached more than 1.3 million HIV-positive mothers in nine countries in sub-Saharan Africa with its scalable, high-impact peer approach.



Photo by Karin Scherbrucker,  
courtesy of mothers2mothers



# Supporting Projects in Africa/Middle East

## Grassroot Soccer

### Mission

Using the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize at-risk youth in developing countries to overcome their greatest health challenges.

**Member Firms:** Eight Lex Mundi Member Firms cooperated to assist Grassroot Soccer:

Bowman Gilfillan Africa Group (South Africa);  
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP (USA, Colorado);  
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC (USA, Vermont);  
Foley Hoag LLP (USA, Massachusetts);  
Maclay Murray & Spens LLP (Scotland);  
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP (USA, Wisconsin);  
Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A.  
(USA, New Mexico); Steptoe & Johnson LLP,  
(USA, District of Columbia)

**Impact:** To date more than 1.2 million participants in 40 countries have taken part in GRS programming. GRS impacts approximately 100,000 youth per year.



## Mobius

### Mission

Manufacture and sell durable, affordable vehicles for Africa's mass market. Mobius is reimagining the car; designing vehicles around common road terrain, transport usage and consumer income profiles across the region.

**Member Firms:** Maclay Murray & Spens LLP (Scotland) and Pestalozzi (Switzerland)

**Support:** Pestalozzi reviewed agreements with a global auto maker to protect Mobius and its mission. Maclay Murray & Spens drafted Non Disclosure Agreements for use with suppliers and partners.

**Impact:** The Mobius II is now in mass production and selling for less than \$10,000 USD.

## Teach for All

### Mission

Expanding educational opportunity around the world by accelerating the impact of national organizations that are cultivating leadership.

**Member Firm:** Afridi and Angell (United Arab Emirates)

**Support:** Provided guidance on establishing a nonprofit NGO in the UAE, allowing TFA to expand its model to the region.

**Impact:** Thousands of teachers around the world working with Teach For All partner organizations are inspiring their students to own their educations and grow their academic abilities, character strength, and self-advocacy skills. Starting with Teach for America 25 years ago, the model has now spread to more than 35 countries.





**“ Since 2007, Lex Mundi has been supporting Kiva’s mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty and create opportunity. Its global network of law firms has been extremely valuable in our efforts to expand and deepen our international operations. Lex Mundi member firms have provided local expertise in over 15 countries – supporting our success to date in providing over \$790 million in crowdsourced microloans to over 1.8 million borrowers across the world. ”**

**Austin Choi  
General Counsel, Kiva**

Photo by John Briggs





# Supporting Projects in Asia

## Mercy Corps

### Mission

Alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities.

**Country:** Indonesia

**Member Firm:** Ali Budiardjo, Nugroho, Reksodiputro (ABNR) (Indonesia)

**Support:** ABNR helped Mercy Corps establish Bank Andara, Indonesia's first wholesale microfinance bank.

**Impact:** Bank Andara creates stability among Indonesian microfinance institutions, allowing them to expand their services to savings accounts, insurance, mortgage financing, remittance services and mobile banking. They aim to move tens of millions of people out of poverty over the next decade.



## Vision Spring

### Mission

Ninety percent of people with uncorrected vision live in the developing world. Vision Spring seeks to increase socioeconomic conditions through better vision.

**Country:** India and 39 other developing countries

**Member Firm:** Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. (India)

**Support:** Obtain an FCRA to operate retail in India as a foreign company. In El Salvador, change the subsidiary from for-profit to non-profit. In Indonesia, business registration and initial operations. Firms provided an assessment of local regulations and business licenses as Vision Spring expanded into Latin America (Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil).

**Impact:** Glasses increase productivity by 35% and income by 20% for those needing vision correction.

## Landesa

### Mission

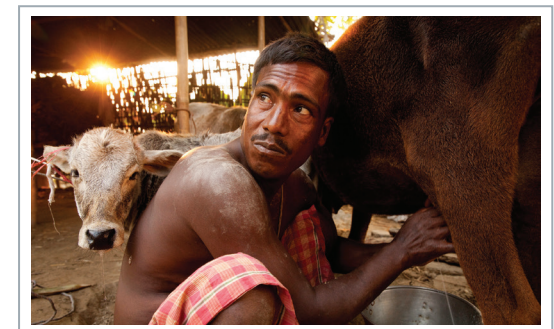
To secure land rights for millions of the world's poorest women and men, to provide opportunity and promote social justice. Landesa has worked in more than 50 countries and helped secure land rights for more than 110 million families.

**Country:** China, Ghana, India, Myanmar, Tanzania, and more

**Member Firm:** Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. (India)

**Support:** General employment law in India, including regulations related to: recruitment, wages, hours, leave policies, insurance/welfare/disability, performance and termination of employment.

**Impact:** Secured land rights for more than 105 million families—representing well over 400 million people—in 45 developing countries throughout the world.





**“ Every time we have had a legal need, whether it is expanding to a new country, an employment issue, or lobbying the U.S. State Department, Lex Mundi has been able to match us with a pro bono attorney willing to support our work. ”**

**Bart Weetjens**  
**Founder, APOPO**

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Based in Brussels, APOPO is training HeroRATs to remove landmines and other explosives around the world, as well as detect more than 7,000 cases of Tuberculosis that were missed by conventional Microscopy.





# Supporting Projects in Europe

## Career Moves

### Mission

To provide an effective online platform for people with disabilities to assimilate into conventional labor markets. In Austria, roughly 8% of the total population is deemed to have a severe disability. Of that number, 13% live in poverty, a figure more than double the national percentage.

**Member Firm:** Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati (CHSH) (Austria)

**Support:** CHSH assists Career Moves and its sister company DisAbility Performance. The firm helped establish the company's strong legal framework and allowed for valuable partnerships with banks, large international private companies, and other employers.

**Impact:** Career Moves offers more than 5,000 jobs for people with disabilities and has established employment partnerships with major companies such as McDonald's, REWE, and Starbucks.



## Child and Youth Finance International

### Mission

Expand the "Economic Citizenship" of children ages 8-18 by equipping them with the necessary information to make knowledgeable financial decisions, the aptitude to be employable and earn a living, and the ability to accrue savings.

**Member Firm:** Houthoff Buruma (Netherlands)

**Support:** Houthoff Buruma helped found CYFI and has provided assistance on a multitude of legal issues over the years. With the help of Lex Mundi firms across the globe, the firm has provided surveys and regulatory advice for numerous jurisdictions.

**Impact:** The program was launched in April 2012, and has already spread to more than 100 countries, reaching more than 36 million children.

## Ashoka

### Mission

Ashoka supports social entrepreneurs around the world

**Member Firms:** Uría Menéndez (Spain); S. Horowitz & Co. (Israel); Pekin & Pekin (Turkey); Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, (Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Canada); Ali Budiardjo, Nugroho, Reksodiputro (Indonesia); Zepos & Yannopoulos, (Greece); Coulson Harney, (Kenya); Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah, (Ghana); Kromann Reumert (Denmark); Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS (Norway); RIAA Barker Gillette (Pakistan)

**Support:** These and many other Lex Mundi member firms have supported the establishment and success of Ashoka offices as they work to strengthen the social sector.

**Impact:** Ashoka is the largest network of social entrepreneurs worldwide, with nearly 3,000 Ashoka Fellows in 70 countries.





**“ When it came time to expand within Nicaragua and Mexico, the Lex Mundi ProBono Foundation introduced us to lawyers in each country that were familiar with local laws and policies. Access to local expertise helped us make the right strategic decisions for our organization.”**

**Alberto Solano**  
**Executive Director, Agros International**

Agros International works to fight poverty in Latin America by providing parcels of land to families living in extreme poverty. On average, the families they partner with live on less than \$1 per person per day. Over the course of 7-10 years, while setting up agricultural businesses and receiving training, families repay their land loan and become full and titled land owners. In 30 years of work, Agros International has assisted 10,000+ families move out of poverty.





# Supporting Projects in Latin America/Caribbean

## TechnoServe

### Mission

Fight poverty by working with enterprising people in the developing world to build competitive farms, businesses and industries.

**Member Firms:** Estudio Olaechea (Peru), Demarest Advogados (Brazil), Basham, Ringe y Correa (Mexico), Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (India)

**Support:** Registration, establishing a trust and employment (Mexico). Employment and compensation (Guatemala). Registering a nonprofit, labor and employment (Brazil). Registration (Ecuador). Binding arbitration, corporate re-structuring, tax and labor law (Peru). Entry solutions, legal structure and regulatory requirements (India).

**Impact:** In 2014, the organization transformed the lives of 1.7 million people in 29 countries by improving farms, businesses and industries.



## Recycla Chile

### Mission

Contribute to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), principally through the recycling of electronic, electrical and non-ferrous metal wastes by applying green production technology and generating worker re-training programs.

**Member Firms:** Claro & Cia., Abogados (Chile), Day Pitney LLP (USA, New Jersey), Hwang Mok Park, P.C. (Korea)

**Support:** Claro & Cia., Abogados assisted the company with its corporate records and books; registering the company's brand and logo; guidance with environmental and sanitary regulations; advising the company in connection with proceedings initiated by the Chilean health authorities; and client agreements. Day Pitney assisted with a 501(c)(3) formation for fundraising purposes. Hwang Mok Park, P.C. was instrumental in resolving a contract dispute in Korea.

## Girls for a Change

### Mission

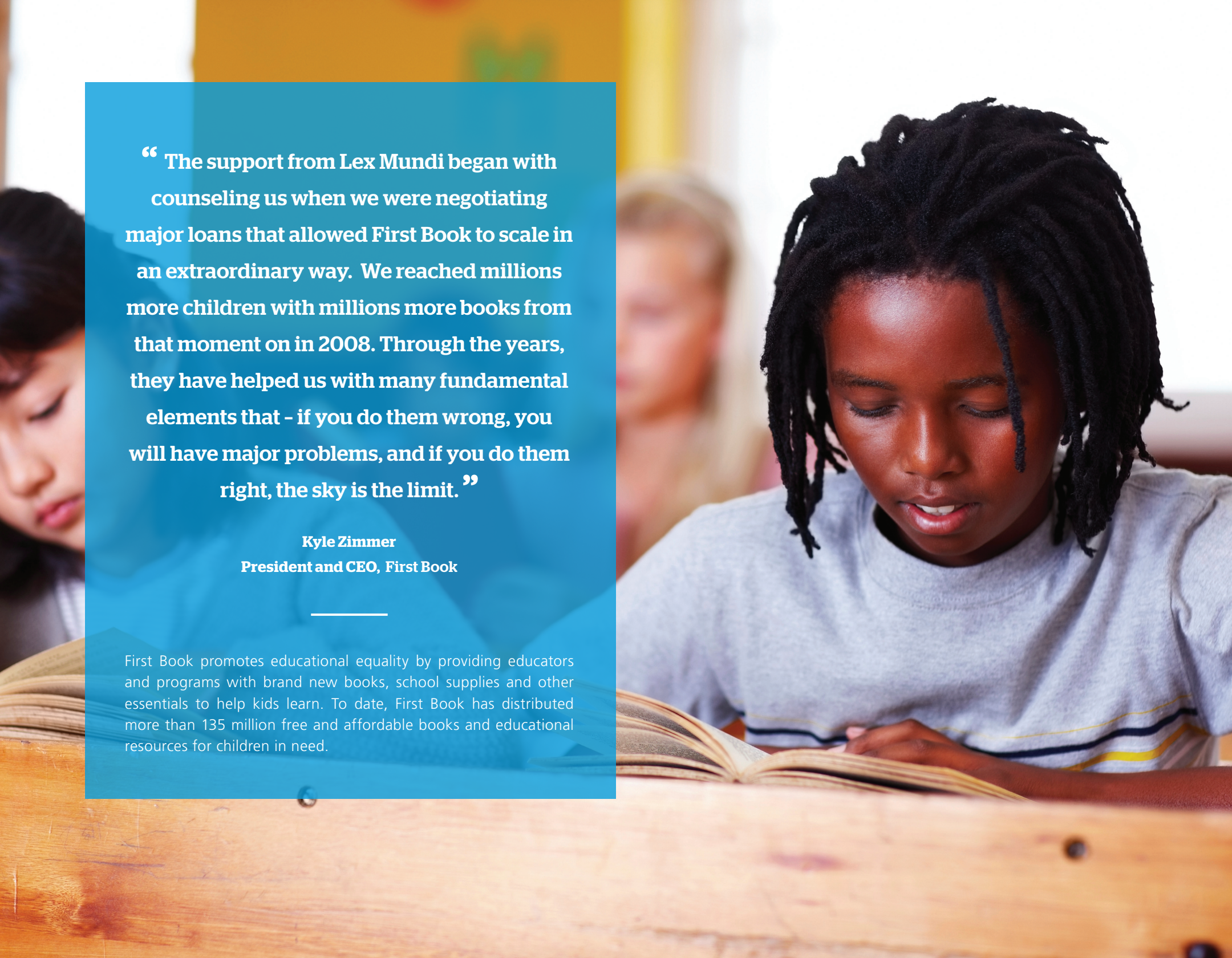
To inspire girls to have the voice, ability and problem solving capacity to speak up, be decision makers, create visionary change and realize their full potential.

**Member Firm:** Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C., (Mexico)

**Support:** Assistance with the legal structure to expand to Mexico; appearances before the Public Registry and Ministry of Finance; all filings to ensure that the organization is tax exempt; incorporation as a Civil Association (A.C.), comparable to the application for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in the United States; registration of trademarks including GJC's logo; review of the organization's labor agreements and simpler everyday legal advice.







**“ The support from Lex Mundi began with counseling us when we were negotiating major loans that allowed First Book to scale in an extraordinary way. We reached millions more children with millions more books from that moment on in 2008. Through the years, they have helped us with many fundamental elements that - if you do them wrong, you will have major problems, and if you do them right, the sky is the limit. ”**

**Kyle Zimmer**  
**President and CEO, First Book**

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First Book promotes educational equality by providing educators and programs with brand new books, school supplies and other essentials to help kids learn. To date, First Book has distributed more than 135 million free and affordable books and educational resources for children in need.



# Supporting Projects in North America

## Welcoming America

### Mission

Welcoming America inspires people to build a different kind of community — one that embraces immigrants and fosters opportunity for all.

**Member Firm:** Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice (USA, North Carolina)

**Support:** Womble Carlyle lawyers have provided pro bono legal counsel to Welcoming America in a range of fields, including helping the organization trademark its name, drafting contracts between the national office and affiliates around the country, and amending Welcoming America's organizational bylaws.

**Impact:** Welcoming America connects a broad network of nonprofits and local governments, supporting them in developing plans, programs, and policies that transform communities into vibrant places where people respect each other and everyone's talents are valued and cultivated.



## Mass Design Group

### Mission

Using design to maximize the effectiveness of the economic, educational, and environmental services being provided within buildings.

**Member Firm:** Foley Hoag (USA, Massachusetts)

**Support:** Corporate governance, intellectual property, employment issues, structuring matters and more.

**Impact:** MASS has built hospitals in Rwanda, a primary school in Tanzania, and health infrastructure standards in Liberia. More recently, MASS is bringing its services back to the U.S., working on a civil rights memorial in Alabama and a social service center in New York.

## Convergence

### Mission

Convergence is the first and only platform that helps public and private investors find and connect with each other to co-invest in blended finance deals in emerging and frontier markets.

**Member Firms:** Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Canada, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec), Morrison & Foerster LLP (USA, California), Houthoff (Netherlands), AF Mpanga (Uganda), Bowman Gilfillan (South Africa), Demarest Advogados (Brazil), and Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (India), Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie (Nigeria)

**Support:** Blake, Cassels & Graydon is helping to establish this innovative new organization in Canada. A network of firms is providing local counsel on the applicable securities regulations in key markets.

**Impact:** Convergence will enable credible investors to get better deals done faster in emerging frontier markets, by leveraging public and philanthropic resources to unlock billions of private sector dollars for global development.







## Thank You

On behalf of the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation and all of our clients, we would like to express our gratitude to the supporters that make our work possible. More than 100 Lex Mundi member firms and 60 individuals funded the Foundation's startup costs and set the organization on a successful path.

Since 2014, every Lex Mundi member firm has made a commitment to support the work of the Foundation through annual dues. The stability provided by their commitment has allowed us to work with additional collaborators and extend our reach to serve an increasing number of clients.

**LexMundi**  
Pro Bono Foundation



## **The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation is grateful for the generous grants and donations provided by:**

Clement Family Trust  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Kellogg Action Lab  
The Lemelson Foundation  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

The Shell Foundation  
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

## **We extend a special thanks to the 58 Lex Mundi member firms that recently made a 3-year commitment to provide additional funds, above and beyond their dues contributions:**

Abdullah Kh. Al-Ayoub & Associates (Kuwait)  
Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS (Norway)  
Afridi & Angell (United Arab Emirates)  
Akerman (Florida, USA)  
Ali Budiardjo, Nugroho, Reksodiputro (Indonesia)  
Alston & Bird LLP (USA, Georgia)  
Amir & Amir Law Associates (Bangladesh)  
Armstrong Teasdale LLP (USA, Missouri)  
Arthur Cox (Ireland)  
Baird Holm LLP (USA, Nebraska)  
Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C. (Mexico)  
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Canada, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec)  
Butler Snow LLC (USA, Mississippi)  
Butzel Long (USA, Michigan)  
Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP (USA, Ohio)  
Dr. K. Chrysostomides & Co LLC (Cyprus)  
Davis Brown Law Firm (USA, Iowa)  
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP (USA, Colorado)  
Day Pitney LLP (USA, New Jersey)  
Demarest Advogados  
Estudio Olaechea (Peru)

Facio & Cañas (Costa Rica)  
Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP (Canada, British Columbia)  
Foley Hoag LLP (USA, Massachusetts)  
GANADO Advocates (Malta)  
Hawley Troxell (USA, Idaho)  
Hassan Radhi & Associates (Bahrain)  
Houthoff Buruma (Netherlands)  
Jenner & Block LLP (USA, Illinois)  
Jones Walker LLP (USA, Louisiana)  
Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick (Belgium)  
Maclay Murray & Spens LLP (Scotland)  
McInnes Cooper (Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia)  
McConnell Valdès LLC (Puerto Rico)  
McGuireWoods LLP (USA, Virginia)  
Misick & Stanbrook (Turks & Caicos Islands)  
Morais Leitão, Galvão Teles, Soares da Silva & Associados (Portugal)  
Murtha Cullina LLP (USA, Connecticut)  
Pellerano & Herrera (Dominican Republic)  
Pestalozzi (Switzerland)  
Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP (Singapore)

Roschier, Attorneys Ltd. (Finland)  
Rose Law Firm, a Professional Association (USA, Arkansas)  
S. Horowitz & Co. (Israel)  
Shalakany Law Office (Egypt)  
Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green, P.A. (USA, New Hampshire)  
Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. (USA, Arizona)  
Steptoe & Johnson (USA, District of Columbia)  
Tilleke & Gibbins (Thailand)  
Tsar & Tsai Law Firm (Taiwan)  
Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie (Nigeria)  
Uriá Menéndez (Spain)  
Walkers (Cayman Islands)  
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP (USA, North Carolina)  
Wyche, P.A. (USA, South Carolina)



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[www.lexmundiprobono.org](http://www.lexmundiprobono.org)