

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Laurier student raising thousands of books for library in Zambia

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – A student at Wilfrid Laurier University is hoping to send at least 15,000 – and as many as 30,000 – books to needy school children in Africa. Shivani Ruparell is enlisting support from all across the Laurier campus and beyond in an effort to help stock a new school’s resource library in Ndola, Zambia.

Ruparell, a fourth-year biology student at Laurier, is collecting used books of all kinds until the end of February. She hopes to ship one or two containers on March 1 to Ndola, where volunteer teachers are building a library and resource building. The books will serve the new library and under-funded schools in the surrounding area.

“This is something that anyone can do – easily and at little cost to themselves – to help people with a very real and basic need,” says Ruparell. “By donating their used books, they are helping members of the global community get a better shot at a decent education.”

Ruparell has already secured support from various areas of Laurier, including president Bob Rosehart, vice-president: academic Rowland Smith, the dean of students’ office, the bookstore and the Letterman’s Club. Along with the books, she is accepting cash donations and corporate sponsorship to cover the cost of shipping the books by sea parcel.

Though she believes this project is the first of its kind in the area – and possibly the first of its kind by an individual – Ruparell was involved in a similar effort in Calgary in 1999. The group was able to ship 16,000 books to four schools in Ndola.

Anyone interested in donating books or helping with transport costs can contact Ruparell at (519) 741-7448 or sillygoose@sympatico.ca.