



WORLD CHANGE STARTS WITH EDUCATED CHILDREN

ROOM TO READ

Room to Read is an innovative global non-profit which seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in 10 developing countries in Asia and Africa by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. Since it was founded in 2000, Room to Read has built more than 1,600 schools, established over 15,000 libraries, published nearly 900 new children's books in 22 local languages, and supported over 20,000 girls in its Girls' Education Program.

Nearly eight million children have benefited from increased access to educational opportunities.

Writers have helped to extend the organisation's reach into schools and build connections to publishers, booksellers, book clubs and literary festivals. They make perfect ambassadors for Room to Read. There is no-one better able than a writer to understand the importance of reading.

The Hughenden, as the home of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI), supports Room to Read. SCBWI's writer ambassadors for Room to Read include acclaimed children's authors and illustrators Deborah Abela, Belinda Murrell, Kate Forsyth, Oliver Phommavanh, Sarah Davis, Susanne Gervay and more.

Room to Read's founder John Wood's inspirational address to SCBWI members at The Hughenden challenged everyone to follow the dream of educating the children of the developing world. "Right now what I need to think about is what would be possible, not all the reasons I can't make a change."

Room to Read endorses Susanne Gervay's book *I Am Jack*. John Wood writes: "*I Am Jack* is a wonderful book recognising the importance of kids, reading and literacy". Says Susanne Gervay OAM: "Through education and books, Room to Read gives disenfranchised children a precious gift, so they can move out of poverty to be all they can be. It changes their lives and the world."

Room to Read, through its award-winning local language publishing program, aims to open the world of books to millions of children throughout Asia and Africa – to teach them to develop the habit of reading, to become lifelong readers.

Room to Read has chapters in six Australian cities as well as in New Zealand. If you would like to become involved, please contact Jennie Orchard for more information – jennie.orchard@bigpond.com.

www.roomtoread.org

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SUSANNE GERVAY
AMBASSADOR FOR ROOM TO READ

Creator of anti-school bullying series *I Am Jack*, YA novels including *Butterflies*, and picture books including *Gracie and Josh*.

Awarded an Order of Australia Medal for Services to Children's Literature

www.sgervay.com

