

## THE WHIFFENPOOFS SING FOR CHILDREN'S LITERACY

The Whiffenpoofs of 2006 plan to make a contribution to children's literacy by donating a portion of our World Tour proceeds to the cause. Our hope is to act as junior "ambassadors," traveling the world and bringing international attention to the importance of reading and writing. As young men and students at Yale University, we hope that our support will be particularly influential. The role that men play in teaching children to read is often overlooked, and for this reason, we believe that we are the perfect ambassadors for this cause. We would like to think that the Whiffenpoof name and our top-notch performance style will bring added attention to any project we support.

In addition to a financial contribution, the Whiffenpoofs of 2006 hope to be involved in multiple service projects beyond charitable singing. We plan to visit schools, orphanages, and homeless shelters to perform for children, spend time reading with children, and help establish local literacy centers through gifts of books, pens, pencils, and notebooks. In total, we hope to establish fifteen literacy centers in twelve countries (including in the United States). Yale University was founded on Elihu Yale's gift of 417 books, so we think that it is particularly fitting for us to carry on this tradition of giving books as gifts.

We are also in the process of writing a song about the importance of reading which we hope to distribute in the United States and possibly in other countries as well. Our goal is to have a CD of the song included in reading packets that are distributed to new mothers and children through literacy programs such as Read to Grow and Reach Out and Read. We believe that music can help teach the message of how important reading is.

Finally, we are currently exploring ways to support existing literacy programs such as Reading is Fundamental, the United Nations Literacy Decade, the Global Education Fund, and Page Ahead. As our plans develop, the Whiffenpoofs are open to any opportunities, events, or related causes which may bring further attention to children's literacy.