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Dear SowingRoots supporters,

2016 is off to a great start for SowingRoots. It's hard to believe that we're approaching our 4th Annual May fundraising event in mere weeks! In these past 3 years we have been able to accomplish much of what we originally set out to do. What started as a dream has resulted in helping adoptive families and children living in orphanage or foster care both domestically and across the globe. Check out some of these milestones:

- During first quarter this year another batch of 58 applications were reviewed for grants.
- In the last year we took a group to "go and see" why we do what we do in the service trip to Honduras. View the "End of 2015" Newsletter for more details on this trip here: <http://www.sowingroots.org/about-us/news.html>
- A group recently returned from bringing 2 occupational therapists to Cebu, Philippines where we partnered with a children's shelter. Go to page 2 of this newsletter to learn more.
- To date, 99 children have joined forever families thanks to your generosity and support.
- Over \$100,000 has been given away in the form of grants, service trip sponsorships, donated supplies, locally hosted events, and more since our start in 2013.

We thank you for all you continue to do to partner with us. We continue to believe that SowingRoots is fulfilling needs and we continue to believe that it should be done on a volunteer basis. Thank you for being an integral partner in all SowingRoots seeks to accomplish - we can't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Jenny Angelo on behalf of the SowingRoots Board of Directors

Did you know?

- SowingRoots is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and as such, your generous donations are most likely tax deductible!
- Many employers provide matching gifts when their employees financially contribute to eligible 501c3 organizations. Does yours? Check today!



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Philippines Service Trip: Stories from the field January 15th - 24th 2016

Working to fulfill the mission to help build up orphans where they live

In January, SowingRoots took 2 occupational therapists to Cebu, Philippines to work with children at the Children's Shelter of Cebu (www.cscshelter.org). Part of SowingRoots' mission is to help children in orphanage settings have a better and more successful life. By partnering with CSC, we were able to fulfill a need for therapy training and practices to help the caregivers and teachers of their school better integrate these beautiful children that have come across hard circumstances and trauma into family settings.



At CSC there are 3 homes that each house about 30 children at any given time. There are "house parents" at each home that care for these children like their own as well as 20 or so "aunties" that work shifts around the clock to give the children care. During the day children go next door to their school; high school age children travel to town to go to schools that best fit their particular needs. Many of the children at CSC are part of a sibling group of 2-5 and almost all of them are considered adoptable by

the Filipino governing agencies. CSC is not an adoption agency, but a shelter that cares for these children prior to placement. Read more about the history of this remarkable organization here:

www.cscshelter.org/history.

Our days at Cebu were filled to the brim! We spent time doing one-on-one observations of the children and assisting the caring staff with some ideas that could help better assist children. Our therapists also conducted training that was teacher specific to provide CSC teachers with ideas so that sensory integration can come into play and be used as a positive technique in class. Each afternoon was spent in one of the homes training house parents and aunties by giving them practical tips to help them better respond to children in their home that have specific needs. All of the training sessions were well received and follow up has continued at CSC since our departure.

Of course, we were also able to spend time with the children. While school was in session we helped with reading, setting up for their big finale of the week, "Sports Day", and playing with them outside. CSC has truly created an oasis for these children - allowing a place for them to thrive and recover from the hardships that brought them there in the first place. Our hope is that with a partnership that focuses on broadening therapy at the shelter, these children will be better equipped to join their forever families.



Interested in supporting the Children's Shelter of Cebu?

Learn more about how to support the children, house parents, teachers, and aunties by visiting:

www.cscshelter.org/foster-friends.



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

You're Invited: May 20th - Annual Fundraising Dinner

We invite you to gather your friends and family and join us for the 4th Annual SowingRoots Fundraising Dinner - where we'll celebrate as we come together to focus on a single goal: to help bring together forever families and impact orphans globally.

The evening will feature great music by Dove Award winning artist Scott Krippayne. With 16 #1 hits, 22 other Top 10 singles, and over 500 songs recorded, Scott has enjoyed a productive career with success in multiple genres. His songs have appeared on releases by Demi Lovato, Jordin Sparks, Smash Mouth, Kool & The Gang, Kutless (BMI Christian Song of The Year), Joy Williams (of The Civil Wars), and Disney's Bridgit Mendler, among others. In addition to having various songs used in films, Scott also penned the theme song for the Nick Jr. hit series "Paw Patrol" and has song placements on ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, MTV, VH1, Disney and more. Visit <http://scottkrippayne.com> for more on Scott.

Event details:

- Friday, May 20th at 6:30pm
- The Roosevelt Room at the Tacoma Armory | 715 South 11th St. | Tacoma, WA
Street parking available
- Ticket cost is \$30/person and cash bar
- Purchase tickets here: www.sowingroots.org/events/index.html
- Questions? Contact info@sowingroots.org

Update: Nathaniel Healy AKA "Boy of courage"

In 2012, at the age of 11, Nathaniel and his brother joined the Healy family through adoption from Ethiopia. After just a month of being home, Nathaniel was diagnosed with a very rare and high risk type of Leukemia. His cancer was brought into remission through aggressive treatment but reappeared in Summer 2014.

In the fall of 2014, many of you joined SowingRoots and the University Place community in supporting Nathaniel and his family - raising enough funds for 140 days of inpatient treatment with his family by his side after he was given a bone marrow transplant.

It is with very sad hearts that we share with you that Nathaniel lost his heroic 3 1/2 year battle with Leukemia on February 9th, 2016. You can read his obituary here:

www.legacy.com/obituaries/tribnet/obituary.aspx?pid=177708981.

Thank you for supporting and keeping the Healy family in your prayers.





FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Adoption story highlight The Harmon Family

At SowingRoots, we have the distinct honor of reviewing the heartfelt requests of each adoptive family seeking grant funds to help assist in bringing a child into their forever family. The review process can be intense, is emotional, and each grant awarded is carefully considered and the board of directors prays over these decisions. On rare occasion, families seeking grants find themselves fully funded - so rare due to the high cost of adopting, both domestically and internationally. That's what makes this particular adoption highlight so neat. The family knew their need so well that by the time they were granted funds from SowingRoots, they declined the funds so we could pass them along to another family seeking to adopt. Here's a bit of their story:

"Dear Jenny and the SowingRoots Grant Fund,

Thank you again for awarding our family a grant last year in helping us bring home our second daughter from China. Though we were fully funded and ended up not needing the funds you provided, it was a tremendous blessing you all provided and now that we're home, Heidi is adjusting quite well with all the changes. We wanted to send you an update, though.



We went to China in November and brought Heidi Grace home just in time for the holidays. I have attached a couple of pictures of Heidi since our travels. Also, recently she had her first appointment with our local International Adoption Clinic and her evaluation showed that she's in good health. What a blessing she's going to be for Sarah and I and her older sister Olivia.

*Our travel blog has pictures from our trip, too:
<http://faithhopeandladybuglove.blogspot.com>*

Many blessings,

Brian, Sarah, Olivia and Heidi Harmon

P.S. - Her first birthday is in just a couple of weeks!





FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

SowingRoots in the Local Community

Partnership with Fostering Together



In December 2015, Erin Greene, a SowingRoots Ambassador, partnered with Fostering Together to host a Christmas party for children in foster care in the Edmonds, WA area. An awesome group of volunteers joined forces with Pump it Up. The result was a fun-filled environment where kids could enjoy the drop-in play-date and parents were able to finish last minute Christmas shopping. Santa even showed up for a surprise visit!

SowingRoots in the Global Community | Honduras

Soccer for Christmas!

A huge thank you to those who partnered with SowingRoots to bless the children at the San Jose Orphanage in Honduras this past Christmas. Because of your sponsorships, the children enjoyed new soccer uniforms, cleats, some fun toys, and a Christmas Dinner! The gratitude they felt is evident by the joy on their faces in the pictures they sent us after distribution of the gifts.



New wheels in San Jose

The generous hearts of golf tournament participants in September 2015, along with a donation from Financial Advocates made it possible to make a dream a reality.

The funds provided allowed for purchase of a new van - a much needed item to help transport the children safely to and from school.

Sister Edith and the children are pictured here next to their new van.





FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Upcoming events

May 20, 2015 | *Annual Fundraising Dinner*

More details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

September 12, 2015 | *3rd Annual SowingRoots Golf Tournament*

Grab your friends, family and clubs and sign up to compete for the kids! More details can be found here: www.sowingroots.org/events/index.html.

If you're interested in sponsoring a hole to benefit SowingRoots, send an email to jenny@sowingroots.org.

Grant update

First quarter 2016

We received 58 grant applications for our March 30th review. SowingRoots awarded 19 families with grants for a total of \$20,000. These 19 families represent 22 children from China, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Ukraine, and the U.S.

Note: our next grant application deadline is July 1, 2016. Download an application today by visiting www.sowingroots.org/adoption-assistance/application.html.

Thank you to our generous sponsors - without your support our vision to connect orphans with forever families would not be possible. With an estimated 153 million orphans worldwide, the opportunity to meaningfully impact orphans seems daunting. As we come together collectively to serve orphans and by the grace of God, we can make a difference, one child at a time.



Questions?

Contact info@sowingroots.com

SowingRoots is a registered 501c3 organization

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<http://facebook.com/pages/SowingRoots/462887033783377>