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Update from the Board of Directors

We're half-way through the year and SowingRoots is having another great one. We continue to invest in adoptive families and are in the process of establishing some long-term partnerships where SowingRoots will make a difference in the lives of orphans in the Philippines as well as in our local foster care communities. We have also committed to a service trip to Honduras in Summer 2015 - look for more information on this exciting opportunity to serve Honduran orphans soon.

As the momentum builds we want to give you, your family, and friends an opportunity to help make it an even better year by joining us in our inaugural SowingRoots Golf Tournament. The tournament is set for Monday, October 6, at Fircrest Golf Club in Fircrest, WA. This is a great opportunity for you or your company to continue supporting SowingRoots by inviting family and friends to join in the fun! This is also a way for SowingRoots to share our mission with others who may not have attended one of our annual events and/or simply love to play golf. We're seeking sponsors for those of you that may not live in the area but want to participate by supporting the event financially. Details for the tournament, including registration and sponsorship opportunities, can be found at <http://www.sowingroots.org/events/index.html>.

Thank you for your continued support of SowingRoots. Your gifts continue to impact families and orphans around the world. We are excited about what God is doing and hope to see you at Fircrest Golf Club in October! We are forever grateful to each and every one of you as we know this mission does not exist without your generosity.

Let's continue to change our world one child, one family and one orphanage at a time!

Blessings,

Nate Angelo
on behalf of the SowingRoots Board of Directors

At SowingRoots, our mission is to love and care for orphans worldwide. To learn more about our approach or to get involved, visit www.sowingroots.org.



Adoption story highlights

The Hudson Family

"Truly we do not know what we would have done or the calamity that would be upon us if we had not received the grants that we did. Beginning the adoption process for a second time in our lives was a surprise for us as we surrendered to God's calling. Financially, we were totally unprepared. Moving forward to adopt TWO children at once, both with special needs, would not only mean we were providing for five children now, but increasing medical expenditures as well. During our adoption process, we experienced the rockiest employment road we have ever been on. A medical condition caused a change in jobs for Jon and a major change in our income. Shortly after, his new company lost its biggest client, and as the newest hire, Jon lost his job. Day-to-day expenses, along with the \$48,000 plus in adoption costs, seemed insurmountable. God worked through and destroyed the obstacles, making it appear effortless!

And as for the new bundles of kiddo? They are doing fabulous! We thank God for blessing us with them, and the responsibility of caring for them. We often reflect on how very much we would be missing had we let either of their special needs (or any of our selfish objections) stand in the way of adopting them. Thirteen months, twelve fundraisers, over 150 pages of documents completed, signing our names individually more than 60 times each, twenty-one total grant applications, seven plane rides and over 14,000 miles - and they were worth EVERY BIT OF IT! It has been a journey of faith and an awesome display of God's power. Thank you, SowingRoots, for caring enough when God stirred your hearts to start this organization. Thank you for the countless hours you spend pouring over applications and making tough decisions. Thank you for advocating for the fatherless. You are forever part of our family's story, names written on our hearts as those who fight for the fatherless. We are forever grateful." -- Hudson Family, Jon and Christella | Oliver and Kalli joined from China May 27 and 29, 2014



[When things] seemed insurmountable...God worked through and destroyed the obstacles...Thank you [SowingRoots] for advocating for the fatherless. You are forever a part of our family's story.

The Hudson family - with newest family members Oliver and Kalli from China.

The Foerch Family

"The SowingRoots grant is an incredible gift to our family. At the time we received the grant we owed \$3,640 to our adoption agency. The \$1,000 helped to close the gap of that expense. Besides the financial help, we were so encouraged to receive the grant. To us, it means that we have people who want, not only to help us financially, but who believe strongly in supporting our adoptions. Your support and encouragement is felt deeply by our family and we greatly appreciate each and every gift that was given to make this grant possible. Thank you so very much." -- With love, the Foerch Family (waiting on 2 daughters from China).



Testimonial from a SowingRoots donor

Stories of orphans and the fatherless took on an entirely new meaning for me one conversation-filled evening in August 2008. I was getting to know the man who would one day become my husband and his story hit a chord in my heart - one so hard for me to fathom as a self-proclaimed daddy's girl. My husband has never met his father and I can tell you first hand the impact that's had on him his entire life. Soon after I met Casey, God put something else on my heart - the call to become a missionary in Guatemala. The summer of 2009 changed my life.

In June 2009 that tender, fatherless man, asked me to be his wife. Just a week later I left on my first short-term mission trip to Guatemala. (I'm thinking his proposal timing was less than coincidental.) I had prayed and day-dreamed in the months leading up to and preparing for the trip but nothing could have prepared me for the incredible things I would become forever aware of in those 11 days. Let me tell you - Guatemalan children are some of the most beautiful things in all of God's creation. Those eyes! Oh those deep brown eyes that stare right into your soul! I learned about the 55% + unemployment rates of rural Guatemala, of the realities of poverty at a level I had never seen before, of the vast number of widows raising children whose fathers were absent for reasons of premature death and in some cases complete abandonment.

I was reminded of the Psalmist's words: "Father of the fatherless, defender of widows - this is God, whose dwelling is holy." (Psalm 68:5 NLT) These children and widows had not been abandoned, for God so loved them that He sent them help - and even allowed me to be His hands and feet to serve these families. The lens for which I viewed the widow and orphan epidemic in the world crystallized, and my role, as defined by God, in helping them became much more clear.



Maria, Luis, Marta & Barbara; Jack & Ashley Mowreader, Jenn and Casey Matthews; Pedro and Luis (construction) - Cerro de Oro, Guatemala | July 2014

It's now 5 years later and God's prompting in me to love orphans and widows only grows stronger. I returned from my 5th trip to Guatemala a few weeks ago. I'm officially addicted to missionary work. Best yet - that fatherless man who slyly asked me to be his bride right before my first trip - came with me this year. He even got to share his story of how God became his Father when his earthly father had abandoned him with a group of 78 teenagers at a middle school in the village of Cerro de Oro. The teenage boys especially hung on his every word.

The mission of SowingRoots to bring together forever families and fight the orphan epidemic in the world is aspirational, inspiring, overwhelming, and altogether completely captivating. I'm incredibly grateful to be just a small part of their efforts through monthly donations. After all - we're really just stewards of the resources that belong to God anyhow. For in the words of Jesus, "Come, who are blessed by my Father...For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."(Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV)

Thank you, SowingRoots, for answering God's call to help those in desperate need. --Jenn Matthews



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Event Highlights - 2nd annual SowingRoots Fundraising Dinner

May 10th, 2014 - Broadway Center for the Performing Arts | Tacoma, WA

What an honor it was to celebrate both 2013 success stories but also the vision of what's to come for SowingRoots! We were humbled as we reflected on the generous support of those who have helped make the mission of SowingRoots a reality - allowing us to serve families adopting children as well as the needs of families abroad and here in the United States.

Throughout 2013, our donors made it possible to serve 8 families representing 11 children from 9 different countries:

**China | Democratic Republic of Congo | Ethiopia | Haiti | Niger
The Philippines | South Korea | Uganda | United States**



In addition to the 11 children who will or have joined their forever families, donor contributions helped SowingRoots to support sustainability efforts through the provision of mosquito nets, hygiene items, new mattresses, clothing, bulk food items and shoes to children and orphanages around the globe.

The "roots" of this organization are clearly spreading, as the evening festivities brought both familiar faces and new ones. Thank you to the 80 individuals who joined the memorable evening of celebration and philanthropy. We're incredibly grateful for your generous donations and are blown away by the commitments of many who have elected to come alongside SowingRoots as monthly donors.



What's next?

Our 2014 goals include awarding 25 family grants and creating a strong partnership with the local foster care community. Additionally we're planning our first service trip for Summer 2015 where we hope for a team of approximately 10 to travel to Honduras.

Thank you for your continued and relentless support of SowingRoots!





FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Upcoming events

October 6 | *1st Annual SowingRoots Golf Tournament*

Grab your friends, family, clubs and form your team for a "hole" afternoon of fun at the Fircrest Golf Club. Registration and sponsorship information can be found at <http://www.sowingroots.org/event-details/327936/1412614800>. Questions? Contact jenny@sowingroots.org.

Summer 2015 | *Service Trip to Honduras*

We're in the planning stages for our first service trip! We'll be gathering a group of about 10 ready and willing individuals to serve orphans in Honduras. Please begin praying for the hearts and minds of those who will eventually become members of this service team - perhaps one of them will be you! For questions or to learn more, contact jenny@sowingroots.org.

A special thanks to Lynnae's Pickles for partnering with us again and donating online purchase proceeds from April 29 & 30 to SowingRoots!

Grant updates

Second quarter 2014

We received 25 grant applications for our July 1st review. SowingRoots awarded 8 families with grants for a total of \$8,000. These 8 families represent 9 children ranging in age from newborn to 4 years. 5 of these children have special needs and will soon hopefully be in the U.S. to receive help from specialists. Children will be coming home to their forever families from China, Uganda, Ethiopia, as well as the U.S.

Note: our next grant application deadline is October 1st. Download an application today by visiting www.sowingroots.org.

Thank you to our generous sponsors - without your support our vision to connect orphans with forever families would not be possible. Our grant applications have grown by over 200% this year alone! 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

www.sowingroots.org

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