



Please note - our correspondence address has recently changed to:
SowingRoots | P.O. Box 64770
Tacoma, WA 98464

In this issue:

Fundraising Dinner Debrief
Adoption Story Highlights
National Foster Care Month
Golf Tournament Info
Grant Updates

Annual Fundraising Dinner Debrief

We hosted the 3rd annual SowingRoots Dinner and Fundraising event on May 9th in Tacoma. With a room full of friends, partners and supporters we honored the children of this world. We shared great food and drink while we had a fantastic band entertain us with music for much of the evening.

The program included special guest Holly Luna from DSHS who shared with us the real life challenges that children in the foster care system face. We celebrated the successful adoptions of local children in the foster care system for which SowingRoots has had the blessing to be a part of helping with. We then heard about all the great work our supporters are doing through SowingRoots. Highlights included the 42 grants that were awarded over the past 12 months, the 11 countries we have touched and the total number of families impacted.

We also spent a few moments talking about making dreams a reality. Part of the vision for SowingRoots when it was launched just three years ago was to create more sustainable living conditions for children in orphanages. We were thrilled to announce that a strategic partnership has been formed and planning is underway for a trip to the Philippines in January 2016! We'll be sending a team of therapists to train staff and work with kids at Children of Cebu. This is the start of shaping healthy minds and investing in the hearts of many children in this orphanage.

The evening commenced with a group rally around the upcoming service trip to Honduras. Jenny Angelo will be leading a team of 9 to Honduras to serve kids of a local orphanage and school. Honduras is a country that does not allow children to be adopted internationally - so as a part of our mission we are going to bring love and hope to these children through the hands and feet of our volunteer team. We are so grateful for this team who will spend August 17-24 in Honduras loving on deserving kids.

In short the event was a tremendous evening of fellowship, fun and celebration of the work so many have done. The obstacles for families and children are real and the work of SowingRoots continues to break down these obstacles. We continue to seek to change the world one child, one family and one orphanage at a time.

If you haven't been to our annual event we hope you'll join us next year - we promise it will be an evening to remember and you won't regret investing the time to celebrate with us.





Adoption story highlights

The Vaughn Family

"We're Ryan and Annette Vaughn of Kansas City, MO. We've been married 14 years now and became parents for the first time in 2011 when we adopted our first son - a six month old boy from Taiwan. We recently became parents for the second time to a 2 year old boy from China (came home in December 2014) thanks to a grant from SowingRoots.

A couple of years after we adopted our first son, we felt our hearts being tugged to adopt again. We were not sure how we would pay for the adoption, but really believed it was the proper time to pursue another child. After much searching, we felt called to adopt from the China special needs program. We would have been open to a girl or a boy - but after realizing the overwhelming need for families to adopt toddler boys with special needs, the choice was easy. We submitted our paperwork for a little boy somewhere in China. How our hearts longed to meet him as we filled out endless paperwork - waiting to be matched.



We were not sure how we would come up with the funds necessary to bring this child into our family, but we were sure that God would provide everything we needed. Imagine our excitement when we learned that we had received a \$1,000 grant from SowingRoots! Those funds (and the timing of the funds) very much aligned with a gap we needed to fill. We cried when we saw the letter from you!



In July 2014, we were matched with our son. At that time, we had a name and a face and a little information on this little boy we had prayed over before we ever knew who he was. The two of us along with our then 3 year old son, Myles, made the journey to China in November 2014 to embrace Maddox Henry for the first time. It was an amazing experience - particularly since we spent Thanksgiving Day in China with our amazing travel group of other families from our agency. Our travel group stood in the hotel lobby that Thanksgiving evening, singing songs of praise to God around a piano played by one of the adoptive dads. Wow - that was a moment for sure!

There's so much more to our story, and so many more details we could share.

We could not, however, let another day pass without thanking everyone at SowingRoots - and all of the generous donors - for being part of Maddox's story." -- The Vaughn Family

The Axtetter Family

"We are the Axtetter Family and we received a SowingRoots grant in October 2014. We just want to say thank you again! We just returned from China 3 weeks ago with our beautiful and amazing 3 year old daughter. We are over the moon in love with her! We are just so thankful for the help you gave us! Your organization was so great to work with and we have recommended you to several other adoptive families."

-- The Axtetter Family





Adoption story highlights

The Wike Family



"We wanted to let you know that we arrived home last week with Evie Joy. We were able to complete our adoption in four months due to Evie's need for heart surgery. It was a crazy journey, but it has been such a blessing to see God work and to hold our girl in our arms.

The speed of our adoption made the financial piece more challenging. When we committed to expediting, we really had no idea how we were going to come up with almost \$30,000 in less than four months. We received your grant and one other just before travel, and those two grants completely covered our travel invoice. (In fact, they were within \$130 of the exact amount we needed!)

Evie has already had some initial testing done, and her open heart surgery is scheduled for June 30. There are some unknowns in regards to her surgery, but her cardiologist is optimistic and feels she will do very well. We can't wait to see little blue fingers and toes turn pink.

We were able to celebrate Evie's second birthday as a family yesterday. Thank you so much for being part of our journey and for blessing our family." -- Sincerely, Tonya & Jeremy Wike



The Reed Family

"I just wanted to thank you and everyone else with SowingRoots for our adoption grant. The grant we received from you was so helpful as we encountered many fees throughout our adoption process. I am so happy to say that our son is now home from Ethiopia and our family is complete and overflowing with blessings!" -- The Reed Family



The Stevenson Family

"I just wanted to thank you and the board of directors for choosing us for a grant. The money came just in time and was exactly what we needed. We have been home a little over a week and our son is such a glorious blessing. Thank you so much for being a part of bringing him home."

--Sarah Stevenson

The Odell Family

"We wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your financial assistance to bring our son home from China. It is because of grant organizations like SowingRoots that we were able to adopt a second time and bring this sweet little boy into our family. We arrived home two months ago and he has settled in well to home life and the routine of daily living in a family. We are so grateful for the blessing he is to us and we will always be thankful to you for helping our family to afford adoption." -- Blessings, Joey & Carrie Odell





National Foster Care Month The Talmadge Family

When it comes to foster care - so many questions arise to families considering making the sacrifices necessary to integrate a foster child into their family:

- *Why do you want to foster?*
- *How do you describe the feelings - blessings, challenges, etc. - when you know a child may not be in your home for very long?*
- *What should families who are considering fostering know or consider?*

For National Foster Care Month - May 2015 - the Talmadge Family tackled these questions and more by sharing their story.

Hello! We're the Talmadge Family. My husband Tim and I have been married a decade and have four children: Ava (9), Oliver (7), Henry (4) and Mercy (3). We are also fostering infant twin girls. Shortly after our third child was born we started looking at adoption as a way to grow our family. We started seeking international adoption. God said no. Then we looked at domestic adoption. God said no, again. Finally God turned us towards foster care. We never expected to be a part of foster care but God had bigger plans for us. He laid to rest many misconceptions we had and opened our hearts to trust in Him.

There are many realistic reasons to be cautious when considering foster care but none seemed like enough to make us turn the other direction. The more we tried to talk ourselves out of it the more God kept telling us to love with no restrictions, no boundaries and no hesitation. To love people right where they were amidst the pain, fear and loneliness. Foster care is messy. Life is messy. But it's in the mess that we find grace.



Foster care is messy. Life is messy. But it's in the mess that we find grace.

We have had six foster children come into our home. They will come and go but are never forgotten. Each was exciting, rewarding, heartbreaking and frustrating but never without joy. They have stretched our hearts and taught us all to grow in love.

There are so many unknowns with foster care. And that can be scary. But nothing compares to being a child and experiencing the deep loss and uncertainty that comes from being in foster care. All we need to do is join them. Hold their hand as they walk some shaking roads. Listen to their stories as hearts are aching. Love them unconditionally.

Foster care has changed our family. It has changed how we see people. It is the easiest and hardest thing we've done. Parenting someone else's child, even if only for a while, is one of the greatest privileges we've had the honor of living out.



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

2nd Annual Golf Tournament - Check it out!

Access registration information online at www.sowingroots.org/events/index.html.

2015 Sowing Roots

GOLF TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 | FIRCREST GOLF COURSE

[1500 REGENTS BLVD FIRCREST WA 98466]

REGISTRATION & RANGE 11:00AM • SHOTGUN 12:00PM

Golf Packages For Golfers and/or Sponsors

#

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Entry Fee Per Golfer | \$150 | |
| | includes cart, range balls, closest to pin, longest drive, box lunch and 19th hole dinner reception. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Driving Range Sponsor | \$150 | |
| | includes signage at the Driving Range and recognition at the 19th hole dinner reception. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Putting Green Sponsor | \$150 | |
| | Includes signage at the practice green and recognition at the 19th hole dinner reception. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Water Sponsor | \$400 | |
| | Includes signage at hole on front 9 and back 9 along with cooler full of water bottles for players. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foursome Registration | \$600 | |
| | Includes cart, range balls, closest to pin, longest drive, box lunch and 19th hole dinner reception. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hole Sponsor and Foursome | \$700 | |
| | Includes hole signage, sponsor name recognition at dinner reception and foursome with carts, range balls, closest to pin, longest drive, box lunch and 19th hole dinner reception. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hole Sponsor | \$150 | |
| | Includes hole signage and sponsor name recognition at 19th hole dinner reception. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Women's Longest Drive Competition | \$200 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Men's Longest Drive Competition | \$200 | \$ _____ |
| | Includes signage on the longest drive board and the hole as well as at 19th hole dinner reception. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Women's Closest To The Pin | \$200 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Men's Closest To The Pin | \$200 | \$ _____ |
| | Includes signage on the Pin Marker and the hole as well as at 19th hole dinner reception. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box Lunch Sponsor | \$2000 | |
| | Includes signage at the check in and box lunch area, 19th hole dinner reception and golf for two. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dinner Reception Sponsor | \$2000 | |
| | 19th hole dinner reception signage and host signage throughout the day at check in area and golf for two. | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tournament Sponsor | \$3000 | |
| | Recognition Pre, During and Post event. Prominent signage throughout the course, at the check in area as well as 19th hole dinner reception. Foursome included. Co-sponsor available. | | \$ _____ |

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Grant updates

Second quarter 2015

For our July 2015 review we received 38 grant applications. Of these applications, 22 grants were awarded for a total of \$15,000. These grants represent 26 children across 22 adoptive families. Of these 26 children, 21 of the children are considered special needs. And 10 of the children are ages 4 and older.

Children will be brought to their forever homes from Bulgaria, China, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and the United States.

Families who are adopting span quite an area as well! Arkansas, Georgia, New Mexico, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Idaho, Washington, Ohio, California, Utah, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Virginia, and missionaries based in China!

Upcoming applications

Seeking an adoption grant in 2015? There's still time! Our next grant application deadline is October 1, 2015.

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. 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

Tax ID: 46-1302229

www.sowingroots.org

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