



In this issue:

Update from the board
Honduras service trip stories
2015 - "By the numbers"
End of year donation reminders

Adoption Story Highlights
Recap: Annual Golf Tournament
Upcoming event
Next application deadline

Update from the board

Dear SowingRoots supporters,

There's never a dull moment for SowingRoots. These past few months have been filled with accomplishments and the reminder of how great the need is to help reduce the financial burden for adoptive families.

We hosted our 2nd Annual SowingRoots golf tournament in September where we were able to raise funds to support adoptive families as well as provide a specific need to an orphanage in Honduras (more details in this newsletter). In August we also embarked on our first service trip in which the SowingRoots team loved and cared for children in Honduras. Please read on for some amazing stories and results of this trip!

While raising additional funds and spending time with kids, we were reminded of the massive need we have in this world. We have received over 40 applications for grants just in the past couple of months. In addition, we have more requests for support and needs coming from the foster care system. We are so thankful that these organizations across the globe and families here in the U.S. continue to allow SowingRoots the opportunity to be a part of the solution. There is no greater feeling than being able to say "yes" to the needs we are faced with. Unfortunately, we cannot say "yes" to all of them, but we continue to do everything we can to change the world one child, one family, and one orphanage at a time.

As we near the year's end - we ask that you would consider SowingRoots as part of your end of year giving plan. We are preparing a major undertaking in January as we send a team of therapists from the U.S. to train staff and therapists at the Children of Cebu Orphanage in the Philippines. We are also prepping for our first ever Lynnwood/Edmonds Fostering Together Christmas Party.

Whether your heart is called to support the needs of children locally or those in need around the world, we encourage you to consider joining us as we seek to love and care for kids!

May this Holiday season be full of cheer in your lives and in our homes. We are forever grateful for the support you show to SowingRoots, to adoptive families, to foster families, and to all of the children we seek to serve.

Sincerely,

Nate Angelo on behalf of the SowingRoots Board of Directors



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Honduras Service Trip: Stories from the field August 17th - 23rd, 2015



The impact of the Honduras Service Trip - as told by participant Erin Greene:

Traveling to Honduras with SowingRoots was my first Mission Trip, but I have a feeling it will not be my last. It is difficult to put into words what kind of impact this trip has had on my life, but my life has been changed forever.



The children at the Jubilee School and at the Orphanage in La Paz are each living with a heartbreaking story. Whether it's having a parent living on the streets due to alcoholism or extreme poverty, being abandoned by both parents, or perhaps living with a grandparent because both parents have died due to gang violence or alcoholism. These kids have endured many hardships. However, every day I spent with the kids, I saw strength, resiliency, and happiness. They yearn to be loved on and hugged and I feel blessed I was able to give that to them for at least a few days. They are able to find happiness in the middle of devastating circumstances.

Prior to leaving Honduras, I thought I would return home feeling sad and hopeless at the brokenness I witnessed. But, in the end, I returned home feeling hopeful. Hopeful because of the strength and determination of the children. Hopeful because there are people all over this world trying to improve the lives of children just like the ones I met.

There are Orphan Outreach teams on the ground, living in Honduras, that dedicate their lives to ensure these kids receive love and are constantly working to provide resources for both Jubilee and the Orphanage so that the kids don't have to suffer more than they already have. I feel an energy within me to stay connected with the children I met there through letters and sponsorships. I also take comfort in the fact that I will return to be with them someday, and until I am able to do so, I know Orphan Outreach will be on the front lines, loving them, hugging them, and constantly working to improve their lives.

SowingRoots provided me an opportunity to serve and brought together a group of women, who left for Honduras as individuals but came back united in friendship. Our lives will always be connected by the emotional, spiritual, and amazing journey we took together to Honduras - and for that bond - I am forever grateful.

One little girl, Marjorie, especially touched my heart during our visit to the Jubilee School in La Era. When a group of girls were playing at recess, there were a couple of kids who were not including her in a game of jump rope and were actually calling her names, which brought her to tears. I went over to talk to her and she was crying and her teacher encouraged her to come play again, but this time I'd play with her. From that moment on, she did not want to let go of my hand. We played together at recess the next day, too, and when it came time to leave, I did not want to let her go. I wanted to stay and protect her from the sadness of mean girls at recess and more so, from the extreme poverty her family lives in. In the end, she kept running back to give me hugs, but eventually I had to say goodbye.

After coming home, I discovered that Orphan Outreach was still trying to find a sponsorship for Marjorie. I signed up immediately! Now I know that I'm contributing a bit to help her education at Jubilee and we correspond with letters to keep in touch. I hope to get back to see her sometime soon!



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Honduras Service Trip: Stories from the field August 17th - 23rd, 2015



The impact of the Honduras Service Trip - as told by participant Tina Dunn:

My time in Honduras has enriched my life immeasurably.

First, let me start with the fact that I got to experience this mission with one of my dearest, best friends, someone I have known for over 30 years. I got to see her experience things and get pushed out of her comfort zone as well as myself. I saw another girlfriend possibly find her way back to God. I had the pleasure of traveling with some truly wonderful souls that have taught me a few things in those 7 days that will stay with me for the remainder of my life.

I absolutely loved seeing (and could actually feel at times) the smiles of the children's faces! One child in particular tugged on my heart - Oscar. The first day we did a craft together and after that he played this little game with me where he would tap my arm and run off. I would give a short chase and we would giggle. This continued for 2 days.

As we were saying our good-byes, Oscar gave me a necklace he made out of shells and yarn. He gave me a hug and before I knew it I was sitting in a chair with him on my lap and I was rocking him back and forth and he just laid his head on my shoulder. As we were both tearing up he gave me one last tight hug and off he went. Knowing that I could touch this little boy, if even for a moment, meant the whole trip to me.



The 2015 SowingRoots Honduras Service team:

- Dorian Aleman (Translator)
- Tina Dunn
- Bob Beams
- Tiffany Cote
- Jenica Mesner
- Jenny Angelo
- Kelly Poth
- Erin Greene
- Cathy Fenimore
- Mireya (Translator)
- Sarah Herbek (Orphan Outreach)

Interesting in supporting the kids from these stories?

- Consider donating \$25 through SowingRoots for a Christmas party at the San Jose Orphanage in La Paz. Or, your family can also send a letter to the children. More details available here: <http://www.sowingroots.org/event-details/449699/1447912800>
- If you're interested in sponsoring a child at the Orphanage in La Paz or Jubilee school, check out opportunities available through our partner, Orphan Outreach here: <http://www.orphanoutreach.co/sponsor-a-child/search.asp>



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

2015 “By the numbers”

Time and time again we attempt to express our gratitude for the sacrifices that those who support SowingRoots make. While we know that “thanks” doesn’t begin to touch the surface of how we feel about all of you - we thought we’d share this brief recap that summarizes the impact you’ve all had in 2015:

- Gifted **51** grants to adopting parents
- Distributed **\$54,950** in grant funds to aid in the adoption process
- Helped join **50** children with their new families
- Children were brought home from **9** countries: Bulgaria, China, Columbia, Ethiopia, Haiti, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Korea, and the United States
- In partnership with Orphan Outreach, sent **7** individuals to Honduras for a service trip aimed at blessing children at a local orphanage and school
- Provided a donation of **\$4,000** to the San Jose Orphanage in Honduras to purchase a van

Still to take place in 2015:

- In conjunction with Orphan Outreach, we will be providing children at the San Jose Orphanage with Christmas dinner and gifts - including new soccer cleats - a huge surprise for the kids!
 - There’s still time to donate and help provide this Christmas gift - go to <http://www.sowingroots.org/events/index.html> for more details.
- In partnership with Fostering Together of Lynnwood/Edmonds, we will be hosting a Christmas party on December 16th, including dinner and Christmas cookie decorating.

Speaking of numbers...there’s still time to make an impact in 2015. Read on for more details.

A few end of year reminders:

- **Did you know?** SowingRoots is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and as such, your generous donations are most likely tax deductible!
- **Do you know?** Many employers provide matching gifts when their employees financially contribute to eligible 501c3 organizations. Does yours? Check today!
- **But is there still time?** Yes! There’s still time to make end of year contributions to SowingRoots and continue the impact your donations have on helping join orphans with loving families.
- **How do I?** Donations can be made online at www.sowingroots.org/about-us/donate.html or mailed to the address in the details below.
- **What’re the details I need?** Necessary information about SowingRoot’s non-profit registration can be found below.

SowingRoots
501c3 Tax ID: 46-1302229
P.O. Box 64770
Tacoma, WA 98464



Adoption story highlights The Swift Family

"SowingRoots, we are so grateful for your generosity of the grant. We have been home almost 5 months and wanted to provide you with the following update:

When we first married over 17 years ago, we talked about adopting 'someday.' In the last several years, we knew it was something God was calling us to do. In the fall of 2013, God stirred our hearts to begin the process, even though we had no financial means to do so. Our family sacrificed Christmas presents that year to pay our application fee. In January 2014, we submitted our application and officially began the process of international adoption.

That spring and summer, our family poured our hearts into fundraising. It brought us closer as we had a mission and goal to bring a child home. We sold t-shirts, coffee, and donuts; held rummage sales and brat fries; our boys made and sold bracelets; we sold puzzle pieces; and graciously accepted donations from family and friends who heard our story. Our adoption became a bigger effort than just our family - it quickly involved so many who wanted to see a child gain a forever family.

Each time money was due along the way, God had provided exactly what we needed right when we needed it. I started applying for grants and saw it as another part time job. On December 17th, 2014, the day we found out we were fully funded and three months after submitting our dossier to China, we got the phone call that introduced us to our little girl. I will never forget that moment as my heart fluttered staring for the first time at the picture of our daughter. She was perfect.



We initially had a name picked out. As we prayed and talked about finalizing her name, however, we felt that given our journey to her and how many times God had showed His faithfulness, her name had to be "Faith." We pray that her life will always be a testament to God's faithfulness.

The months that followed were the hardest as we waited for each step in the paperwork process. We posted a timeline on our fridge so that everyone could see the miraculous ways God continued to overcome the odds by breaking "normal" time tables from one document to the next. Our travel dates were set and 'Gotcha' day was scheduled for May 4th, 2015. As we went to meet our daughter for the first time, we had butterflies in our stomachs and giddy smiles on our faces. We sat there waiting in the Civil Affairs office. I will never forget the moment 3 little girls walked in the building and I saw Faith for the first time. We sat there waiting in anticipation, smiling and waving into the little playroom with tears in our eyes. She was real, she was here, we were here, and she was ours. All I could do as I held her that first day was continually thank the Lord for the miracle in my arms. He truly provided, in every way, a forever family for His precious child, a child I get to call mine. I am still overwhelmed by this incredible blessing. Faith was 26 months old when she came home and had lived in a foster care home since the day she was found. She's missing 4 fingers on her right hand, but that has not stopped her from doing anything she sets out to do.



We are overwhelmed at how God financially provided a way to bring our little girl home. He has shown us through this journey that He cares so much for His children that He will make what seems impossible to us, possible for Him. We started this journey with a calling from God to adopt, but no money to proceed. Yet, we felt strongly this was the direction He wanted us to go. So we took a step in faith and He has done the rest. We are continually amazed at what He can do if we are just obedient to Him. So thank you donors who have made it possible to bring our little girl to us, her forever family. We are so grateful for your obedience to the Holy Spirit's urgings in your heart to give. -- Harold (Hal) & Martha Swift



Adoption story highlights

The Nollette Family

"We wanted to send you a photo of our daughter who is now home. We received a grant from your organization a few months ago and have since traveled to bring our daughter home.

We are so grateful for your support and thank you for all the hard work you do to support families in the process!"

-- Warm regards, Isaac and Marnie Nollette

(Photo is of our daughter, Brooke Lynn)

The Callaway Family

"We wanted to thank everyone at SowingRoots again for helping us bring our twins home. We have picked them up August 13th in Bulgaria and arrived home August 22nd. We are thrilled to finally be able to share pictures with you, so that you can see the faces of the little lives you have helped forever change.

They adjusted as well as could be expected considering all of the changes! New house, people and pets! They love hugs and kisses!

We are forever grateful for what you do!"

God bless,

-- Trevor, Abbey, Cristiana, and Martin



The Allen Family

"Thank you for your generous support. My world has changed! On Sunday, August 23rd, 2015, I became the proud mother of a beautiful baby girl!"

-- Marshay Allen



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Event Recap: 2nd Annual Golf Tournament September 14th, 2015 - Fircrest Golf Club | Fircrest, WA



Our 2nd Annual golf tournament did not disappoint as many eager participants took to the greens in support of SowingRoots.



In addition to the funds raised from sponsors and participants, an additional \$2,000 match was collected to purchase a van for the kids at the San Jose Orphanage in Honduras! This van will provide a layer of safety for the kids as they make their way to and from school.



Thanks to all who came out for this successful event - watch for more info for next year's event soon!



A huge thanks to our Golf Tournament Sponsors:

- Game Changers
- Financial Advocates
- Portfolio Strategies Inc
- Roblee's Total Security
- TravelChair
- Innovative Fitness
- First Western Properties
- Stacks Burgers
- Chick-fil-a
- Life Christian Academy
- Gilchrist Chevrolet Buick GMC
- Fircrest Children's Dentistry
- RPM Mortgage - the Rohrbaugh Team
- Bargreen Ellingson
- Atlas Family Chiropractic



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

Upcoming event

Lynnwood/Edmonds Fostering Together Christmas Party

On December 16th from 5 - 7:15pm, SowingRoots is partnering with Fostering Together so that parents of foster children can bring their children (ages 3+) to enjoy a Christmas party!

Bonus: parents will be given a much needed break from the love and support they provide to these foster children on an ongoing basis during this time.

Do you know a foster family who may be interested?

Encourage them to check out the event details here:

<http://www.sowingroots.org/event-details/452070/1450306800>

Upcoming applications

Seeking an adoption grant?

Our next grant application deadline is March 30th, 2016.

Download an application today by visiting:

<http://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

Tax ID: 46-1302229

www.sowingroots.org

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