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## Update from the board

Dear friends and supporters of SowingRoots,

We want to say THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for a great 2016! The year is quickly coming to an end but before it does, we thought it would make sense to pause and reflect on how truly wonderful the year has been. It is your commitment to *loving and caring for orphans* that continues to make a difference in the lives of so many!

This year has been a tale of two stories. As we close out our fourth year of pursuing our mission it has become very clear that the NEED is real. Just four years ago we received a total of 20 adoption grant applications for the entire year. Now, we are receiving 60-70 applications every four months! Applicant families are pursuing grants for children eligible for adoption in the U.S. as well as internationally. As of October 1st, we had received and reviewed over 200 applications and issued over \$60,000 in adoption grants. Which leads me to the second tale - the IMPACT is real. Not only are we helping to connect loving families with children who deserve a loving family, SowingRoots is also providing training to our partner in the Philippines. Children's Shelter of Cebu is committed to educating and raising orphans in a loving community. But these kids have real trauma in their lives and need help to work through it. We are providing ongoing training and education to therapists and onsite staff who are charged with raising these children and preparing them for life outside of the orphanage. We're also continuing our support of Sister Edith and the children in her Honduran Orphanage through our partnership with Orphan Outreach.

Additionally, your support has helped finalize adoptions for children in the foster care system this year for families who otherwise could not afford attorney fees. For Christmas, we'll be once again hosting a party for dozens of foster care children - an evening with Santa, gifts, and best of all - lots of love.

This has been a year of tremendous impact and yet we can do more! The opportunity to serve more is in front of us - to touch more lives and connect loving families with children in need. As you consider year-end giving, please keep SowingRoots in mind. We would love nothing more than to say "yes" to more families submitting grant applications with the goal of adding a child into their forever home. Many of you even work for generous employers who will match your donated dollars, so be sure to check that, too.

SowingRoots is 100% volunteer led. This means that nearly every penny of every dollar you donate is given away in pursuit of our mission. That's why your involvement matters so much! Each of you are an integral part of SowingRoots and without you, we wouldn't be able to report on wonderful stories like we have.

We wish you a joy-filled holiday season. We're grateful for your generous hearts and ongoing support. Together, we'll continue to change the world *one child, one orphanage and one family at a time!*

*SowingRoots Board of Directors*



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

## 2016 “By the numbers”

Quantifying the year’s events is just one way we can provide some transparency into the enormous impact each of you has on orphans, both local and abroad. These counts aren’t even for the full year!

- Gifted **55** grants to adopting parents
- Received **210** grant applications
- Distributed over **\$60,000** in grant funds to aid in the adoption process
- Helped join **59** children with their new families
- Children were brought home from **15** countries: Bulgaria, Burundi, China, Columbia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hungary, India, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Ukraine, Vietnam and the United States
- Average age of children adopted - **7**
- Of the children adopted, **90%** have special needs

### Still to take place in 2016:

- In partnership with Fostering Together of Lynnwood/Edmonds, we will be hosting a Christmas party on December 6th, including dinner and Christmas cookie decorating.
- Coming in December, find more information on our website for the opportunity to sponsor a Honduran child’s Christmas! For just \$45 you’ll provide a child at San Jose Orphanage with a new outfit, school shoes, and a uniform for PE. School starts in January for these students so the timing is a true gift and an enormous blessing. Not to mention a great way to integrate children in your own family in the process of helping other children get a well-deserved education.

Speaking of numbers...there’s still time to make an impact in 2016. 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](http://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 Lemaster Family



*"Just wanted to provide you with an update on our adoption journey since you were instrumental in it with the funds you awarded our family! Our twin boys were born on December 31, 2015 at 4.9 pounds (Ezra Demetri) and 4.2 pounds (Everett Shaun). We were in Florida for about three weeks and got to go home mid-January.*

*Everett was in the hospital a few times for RSV early on, but has been healthy since. We also found out earlier in February that Ezra has severe to profound hearing loss in both ears. We have more tests to do this month and he has already been fitted for hearing aids. One other thing they look at with hearing loss is vision and when we had his vision checked he needed to get glasses, so he has all the gear. So certainly some challenges so far and more with Ezra probably going forward as we learn how to best help him, but no doubt God is good and has placed these babies with us for His glory.*

*Our older two children are smitten with the babies! We feel truly blessed to be their parents and excited to continue to see what He does with our family of six! Again, thank you so much for your part in our journey!"*

*Sincerely, -- Dave, Amy, Ella, Emmett, Ezra and Everett*



## The Gonzalez Family

*"To whom it may concern:*

*We are extremely grateful to you for your donation! It helped us finalize our adoption! Our hearts had felt the call to adopt for awhile now and after our first adoption we felt compelled to adopt again!*

*Needless to say, we are completely in love with our children and if given the opportunity we'd do it again in a heartbeat! We've been home with our son a little over three weeks now. We've been cocooning with him to help him adjust to his new home and family. He's doing great! He's a smart, sweet little boy. His brother is so happy to have him to play with.*

*His medical conditions are heart disease and cerebral injury. We already have appointments in place to see the specialists.*

*We are again, grateful to God for using you to help us bring him home! There are no words. We pray God abundantly blesses each and every one of you at SowingRoots."*

*In Christ, -- Kemuel, Rut, Samuel, and Zabdiel*





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## Adoption story highlights The O'Shea Family

*"Dear SowingRoots,*

*Thank you so much again for blessing our family with a grant from your organization. We greatly appreciate your generosity and helpfulness in easing some of our financial burden due to our adoption!*

*We traveled to China from June 29-July 15 and are very glad to be home. We met our daughter, Lucy, on July 4th and she is doing very well! She seems to be adjusting and getting more and more comfortable with us and her surroundings. We love her so much and are so grateful that we are able to be part of the miracle of her adoption."*

*Thank you deeply,*

*Mike, Kari, Nora, Ryder, and Lucy*

## The Davis Family

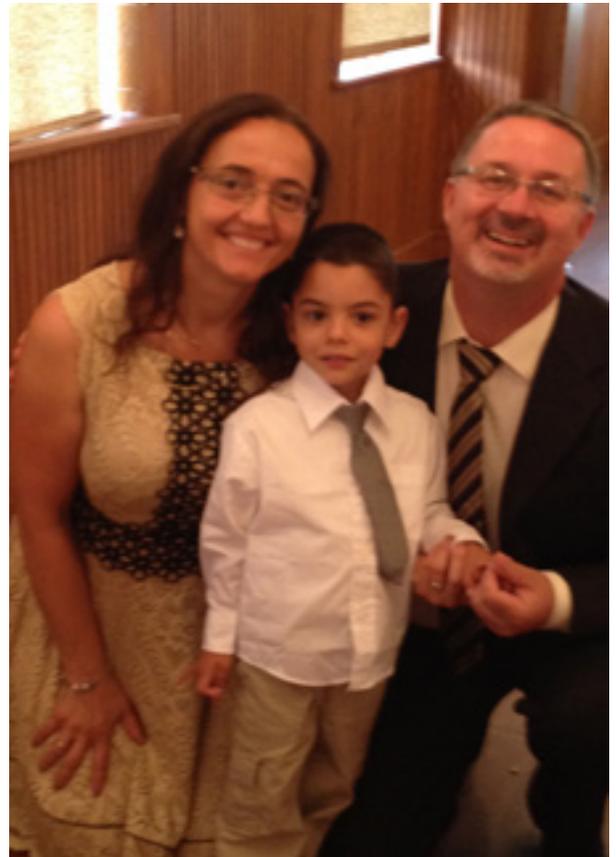
*"As we have finally returned from our travel to Hungary and we have settled in with our son Rikardo, we want to take this opportunity to thank you again for your financial support and for helping us bring him home and become a forever family.*

*After a very stressful departure and unexpected travel expenses - our flight reservation was canceled the morning of our flight as we were going to the airport but thank God we were able to book another, albeit at a much higher price!*

*We had six wonderful weeks in Hungary that gave us the opportunity to get to know our son and him the chance to know us, but that also allowed us to bond with each other. We obviously had our ups and downs and it took Riko awhile to adjust to his new family, but once that happened, we enjoyed lots of smiles, laughs and giggles. We were able to learn more about Riko's native country and traditions and we will treasure this knowledge so that one day, when he is older, we can pass it on to him and appreciate it together. Now we are finally back into our routines, and while challenges will always be a part of our family life, we are extremely grateful to have Riko with us and to begin the wonderful journey of parenthood.*

*Thank you again to everyone at SowingRoots for making our dream come true!"*

*Sincerely, -- Doug, Marinella and Rikardo Davis*





## Adoption story highlights **The Pugh Family**



*"Dear SowingRoots Board of Directors & Donors,*

*When Nathan and I think back on our adoption journey, we recall so many emotions: anticipating WHO God had planned as our child; questioning WHAT medical needs our future child would have; pondering WHERE our little one was living and if he or she was okay; wondering HOW God will provide given the high adoption expenses.*

*We're so thankful God chose us to use SowingRoots to fulfill its mission statement, 'to love and care for orphans worldwide' by alleviating the financial burden of our adoption. We're thrilled to share that the very orphan you cared for through prayer and a generous financial gift is no longer an orphan!*

*Three-year-old Conlan came home from China in April 2016 and has grafted beautifully into our family. We cannot picture life without him now, which deepens our gratitude as we know not every adoption story is so seamless. He's quick to smile, constantly serving and nurturing and is so eager to learn and try anything new. I often say, 'to know Conlan is to love Conlan,' and it's that simple: he's a complete joy.*

*Thank you, SowingRoots, for your service and generosity. Our faith in the Lord was bolstered as a result of your gift and care for our son and we're very thankful that you're forever a part of our family story."*

*Blessings, -- Nathan, Jessica, Lachlan & Conlan*



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## **The Cramer Family**

*"Hi [SowingRoots],*

*Just wanted to give you an update. We were finally able to come home from Texas last week and are trying to figure out our new normal as a family of four! Thank you again for all your help!*

*Her name is Journey Amber - born September 1, 2016, in Dallas, Texas. We named her Journey as a reminder of God's faithfulness to us in every step of this process."*

*Sincerely, -- Jenny Cramer*



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## Annual Fundraising Dinner Debrief

On May 20th we enjoyed an evening with friends and shared once again all that SowingRoots has been doing. Attendees joined us at the old Armory building in downtown Tacoma and heard wonderful music from singer/songwriter Scott Krippayne. Through a quick interview and pictures we were able to share how the trip to Honduras changed one participant's view of what she could do. That translated to Erin planning and executing a SowingRoots partnered Christmas event in Edmonds for children in Foster Care. We're excited to say that this will happen again this year as well thanks to Erin's dedication.

We were able to share about the wonderful progress made in the Philippines when we took two occupational therapists there in January. The time these two women gave and the information and learnings they shared were more than beneficial to Children's Shelter of Cebu. Both Sally & Kristin were able to address the needs of children from trauma backgrounds and help the caregivers there to have more tools and skills to work with these children as they live in the children's home and prepare for eventual adoption.

The highlight of the night was listening to our special guests SuLee Allen and Sarah Osborne tell their very intimate story of adoption. SuLee was blessed with the gift of a 3rd daughter by birth mom Sarah. The two shared the sweet connection they have with an open adoption as well as Sarah shared the quiet story of the mom that chose adoption for her child. It was a beautiful night highlighting that while adoption comes out of loss, there is beauty on the other side.



**Be on the lookout for your invitation to next year's event!**





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## Event Recap: 3rd Annual Golf Tournament September 12th, 2016 - Fircrest Golf Club | Fircrest, WA



The Pacific Northwest delivered a sunny 70 degree day as participants walked out onto the greens for our 3rd annual golf tournament.



In addition to the funds raised from sponsors and participants, the 10th hole was dedicated to a specific effort for foster care. Generous donors helped us raise enough money for this effort to fund a Christmas party for foster care children to be hosted in December!



The winning streak continues for the foursome of Greg Swanson, Tyler Edwards, Kellen Eakin and Jeff Crawford - swinging their way to victory for the 3rd year in a row.

Watch your inbox and Facebook feeds and begin recruiting your team to help de-throw them next year!



### A huge thanks to our Golf Tournament Sponsors:

- Game Changers
- Portfolio Strategies Inc
- Roblee's Total Security
- TravelChair
- Columbia River Advisors
- Premier Events
- Innovative Fitness
- First Western Properties
- Chick-fil-a
- Life Christian Academy
- YMCA
- HiStrength Bolt
- Gilchrist Buick & GMC
- Fircrest Children's Dentistry
- Bargreen Ellingson
- Weller Orthodontics
- Grating Pacific

### A special shout-out to our co-tournament sponsors this year:

**Merriman and RPM Mortgage**



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## Upcoming event

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### Lynnwood/Edmonds Fostering Together Christmas Party

On December 6th 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?*

Want more info? Contact [erin@sowingroots.org](mailto:erin@sowingroots.org)

## Upcoming applications

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Seeking an adoption grant?

Our next grant application deadline is March 30th, 2017.

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](mailto:info@sowingroots.com)

SowingRoots is a registered 501c3 organization

Tax ID: 46-1302229

[www.sowingroots.org](http://www.sowingroots.org)

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