



TO LOVE AND CARE FOR ORPHANS

Year 1 Recap

By Nate Angelo, President

One year ago SowingRoots was a dream. It literally kept me awake for nights on end. We were in the middle of our family's own personal adoption journey and yet what kept me awake was the idea that there was something more. There was something more for these children who need families. There was something more for these families longing and aching to fill their homes with children who are vulnerable and without. And the reality is that money should not be the inhibitor of a very able family bringing home a child in need.

That's what would wake me up, night after night. And then it became clear. We were supposed to do something. That's where SowingRoots was conceived - the idea that we can do more. We can band together and support each other and support those we don't know in order that families can be united forever. And bigger than that the vision was that for each child brought together with a family SowingRoots would also bless that orphanage or foster home with some sort of sustainable gift. Simply put, that the children left behind would be blessed with something lasting, something that could make life a little better for them.

We set out to award 5 families grants in 2013. So, now one year later we are proud to report that we have met and exceeded that goal! Because of the generous donations of donors and people surrounding us and believing in the mission we have also been able to bless a number of orphanages around the world with some tangible needs.

This past year has shown us that SowingRoots does have a place in the adoption community as well as the orphan care community as a whole. We are actively seeking partnerships so that we can continue to do more and expand our reach. We hope that the next 12 months prove to be full of impacting others in a way that is life altering. We can only accomplish this by partnering with people who realize that by saying "yes" they too can make a difference in the life of a child and forever family. We thank you in advance for your continued support to help SowingRoots love and care for orphans.

SowingRoots

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IN THIS ISSUE



Running Campaign

In April Nate ran the Boston Marathon in honor of his son and raising funds for SowingRoots. The SowingRoots running campaign raised over \$1000 towards the mission of helping adoptive families.



Donations

In May SowingRoots was able to donate 22 mosquito nets to an orphanage in need in DR Congo. Malaria kills some 400 children a day in this country – an often preventable disease that kills too many. Along with mosquito nets this orphanage received 15 mattresses, malaria test kits, beans, rice and powdered milk.

Being a Blessing

May 18th, 2013 SowingRoots hosted its first launch event in Tacoma, WA. We were able to express the mission and vision behind SowingRoots to a room of about 100 people. We were blown away by the generosity of those in the room. We were able to raise over \$20,000 that night.

One of the special things SowingRoots did that night was to make each part of the event something that "worked" towards the goal of caring for orphans. With that, the centerpieces were different sized, cute, brightly colored shoes. Each of these pairs of shoes was then donated to an orphanage in Honduras where we've created some relationships through other adoptive families



and missionaries. In July, these shoes were delivered to a thankful staff and children at that Honduras orphanage.

A nun at the orphanage in Honduras accepts the donation of shoes for the 25 children they care for.



The Chapmans at home with Suubi

SowingRoots in Action

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY:

In June of 2013 SowingRoots was pleased to provide the Chapman family of South Carolina with a matching grant as they set out to complete their adoption of their little girl Suubi from Uganda. At the end of June this family of then, 5, set off for Uganda to meet their new daughter/sister and embrace her, complete the court process, bond with her, and then finally after many weeks bring her home. In August they were welcomed home and have since settled into life as a family of 6. SowingRoots is so happy to see this family together and this sweet little girl home!

THE SELLER'S FAMILY:

"We are so thankful for this grant!! I cannot tell you how God has showed up big time this week. We prayed fervently over the weekend that God would provide the money we needed for our travel expenses! We've been told by our agency that we may be traveling in December! We still needed monies to make that happen. Thank you for being God's Provision and part of our story to bring home our baby boy. Thank you so much for loving our baby boy enough to help make this possible for us! We are so grateful that you are being used by God to get our baby boy home."

SOWINGROOTS LAUNCH

Group of college students that helped serve at our launch event in May



SowingRoots May Event



Shoes delivered to orphanage in Honduras

Goals for 2014

- Grant 15 adoptive families
- Sustainability Service Trip to Africa
- January 2014 fundraising event in LA
- Spring event in Seattle/Tacoma area
- Golf tournament summer 2014 – details to follow
- Expand the ambassador program
- Continue to form partnerships with the foster care community
- Continue to meet tangible needs of orphans and foster children worldwide



A local MOPS group (Mothers of Preschoolers) in Tacoma, WA helped with donating a car full of needed items for foster homes and an orphanage in DR Congo. Items were delivered to Africa in May.

Impact you made as a donor...**Family Grants:**

- 24 applications received
- 8 grants made
- \$15,000 in family grants

Sustainability Efforts:

- 22 Mosquito nets delivered to children in Africa
- Shoes delivered to kids in Honduras
- Hygiene items delivered to orphanages in Haiti
- 15 mattresses supplied to orphanage in DR Congo
- Malaria testing kits provided to orphanage in Africa
- Bulk food donations to orphanage in DR Congo – including rice, beans, baby food, and formula.

A story from Ethiopia

In October SowingRoots was able to partner with YWAM and meet the tangible need of a remarkable young man who grew up in Ethiopia with no family to call his own. Not only no family, but now this young man, Kalieb has aged out of the system and has to leave the orphanage. This remarkable young man has survived the system in Ethiopia and has thrived by pursuing the education that was put before him and surpassing everyone's expectations. When teachers didn't show up to class, he would stand in and teach. And for years continued to pass test after test and remain at the top of the class blowing everyone away and graduating with honors. Kalieb just came up on the time for national exams in Ethiopia. As in most African countries this exam decides if and how strong of a university you will attend. He pressed on with no help, no tutors, no

mom and dad encourage him. Well our new friend Kalieb was the top scorer in all of Ethiopia. What does this mean for Kalieb? It means he now is admitted to university if and only if he can find a laptop. Really, a child who raises himself, never asks for help as an orphan is going to not go to university because of computer. SowingRoots thought this was silly too. So because of your faithful donations, SowingRoots was able to provide Kalieb (who undoubtedly will change the world in time) with a computer. In fact he already has, he just doesn't know it yet. This is the impact SowingRoots is having around the world, one life at a time.

Give to Support Forever Families

It's that time of the year to consider where your year-end gifts will go. We at SowingRoots would love for you to consider designating a gift to help further our love and care of orphans worldwide. We love that we've been able to help fill the financial gap for 8 families since May of 2013. We have been able to bless more families than we originally set out to in year one and have received more than double the number of applications we were expecting. We want to be able to provide financial assistance to the many deserving families we have yet to be able to assist. You can help us fill the gap. If you go to www.sowingroots.org you can donate specifically to help fund a matching grant, provide a grant, or give directly to tangible needs of orphans.

We are also in the throes of planning for 2014 and are excited about the Africa service project that we are finalizing. We are actively looking for financial partners to help us offset the cost of materials that are needed for the work to be done there to help children. We hope that as you plan out your year-end gifts for 2013 that you will continue to consider SowingRoots and helping us connect forever families and care for orphans around the world.



The Angelo's returning home from bringing home their son from Congo and a fun view/perspective of their airport arrival:
<http://www.kristalynsimler.com/2013/11/sowing-roots.html>

Thank You Partners who have helped SowingRoots grow in mission and reach orphans around the world: Lynnae's Pickles, Dialogue Pictures, Stella & Dot – Katie Bullen Independent Stylist, For God's Cakes, and Wirsthaus LA German Restaurant.

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