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## Update from the board

Dear SowingRoots supporters,

Thank you so much for making 2014 a fantastic year! The momentum has continued into and through the first quarter of 2015. We continue to be amazed at the difference you all are making in the lives of kids and families all around the world. In the first quarter of 2015, SowingRoots received 40 new grant applications from families pursuing adoptions locally, around the country and for kids internationally. Our application committee will be gathering soon to review these applications and provide grants to those that are warranted.

The first quarter also gave us an opportunity to support a couple of local families in particular who were staring at the finish line to adopt kids in Pierce County, WA. One family could not cover the cost of their final court and attorney fees. DSHS reached out to SowingRoots, to *you*, for help. And you delivered, helping this family remain intact as grandparents adopted their granddaughter.

In an effort to continue the mission of SowingRoots, we are hosting our annual May Fundraising Dinner and Concert. We will host the event at the Cultura Events Center in Tacoma, WA. Please consider joining us to learn more about how you can continue to touch the lives of others! We will be talking about the SowingRoots service trip to Honduras in August (for which we are still accepting applications), a new partnership in the Philippines and much more. The band we have on deck is sure to provide an awesome evening of fun! We hope to see you there.

In closing, I want to extend my gratitude on behalf of the board and team at SowingRoots. The grants we provide would not be possible without your generous gifts! These grants not only provide financial support, but also moral and spiritual support in a time of need. It brings joy to my heart knowing that people like you are willing to make a difference in the lives of kids and families for which are complete strangers to you. Pause for just one moment. Try to put yourselves in the shoes of one of these adoptive families and how encouraged you would be if you received a financial gift to help bring a member of your family home. Thanks for all you do to help change the world one child, one family and one orphanage at a time!

Sincerely,

Nate Angelo

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



FOR THE LOVE AND CARE OF ORPHANS

## You're Invited: May 9th - Annual Fundraising Dinner

We invite you to gather your friends and family and join us for the 3rd Annual SowingRoots Fundraising Dinner - where we'll celebrate as we come together to focus on a single goal: to help bring together forever families and impact orphans globally.

### Event details:

- Saturday, May 9th at 6pm
- Cultura Events Center | 5602 S. Washington St. | Tacoma, WA | 98409  
*Street parking available*
- Enjoy the live band and great food!
- Ticket cost is \$30/person and cash bar
- Purchase tickets at SowingRoots under "Events"
- Questions? Contact [info@sowingroots.org](mailto:info@sowingroots.org)

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## Honduras Service Trip: the time to apply is now!

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SowingRoots is embarking on an 8 day / 7 night journey to serve the children of the San Jose Orphanage in La Paz and the Jubilee Centers International in La Era, Honduras.

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and nearly two thirds of the population lives below the poverty line. UNICEF estimates that there are over 170,000 - 180,000 orphans in Honduras.

### Going on this service trip with SowingRoots is sure to do the following:

- Forever imprint on your heart in an indescribable way what it means to love children you've just met
- Push you outside of your comfort zone a little - helping you grow
- Take in the amazing countryside and vistas that Honduras has to offer
- Make all of your friends and family jealous when you come home full of smiles, stories and photos of those you've met and impacted on the trip

### Important details:

**Service trip takes place:** August 17 - 24, 2015

**Cost:** \$1,350 + airfare (some scholarships available)

**Deadline to apply:** Extended to early May, 2015

**Where to apply:** [www.orphanoutreach.co/mymissiontrip/index.asp?tripcode=HO15-08SR](http://www.orphanoutreach.co/mymissiontrip/index.asp?tripcode=HO15-08SR)

### Interested and want to learn more?

Email [jenny@sowingroots.org](mailto:jenny@sowingroots.org) for more information or with any questions you have about the trip, costs, what it includes, or other.



### Quick stats about Honduras:

- More than 180,000 orphans
- Over 50% live in poverty
- 27.8% unemployment rate
- 2nd poorest country in Central America



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## Adoption story highlights



### The Sumetz Family

*"Our sweet son, Caden Jeong-su, came home in November 2014. We are so thankful that over the last few months he has settled in and adjusted so well. Every day we hear giggles of laughter as the kids race around the house together and we can't help but smile. Caden is the perfect fit and we feel so blessed we get to be his forever family.*

*When we first applied for our adoption we did not know how we would fully fund it, but trusted the Lord for His guidance and provision. The SowingRoots grant we were awarded was an incredible blessing. These funds helped alleviate some of the financial pressure we felt in the final stretch of our adoption process.*

*As we reflect upon our adoption journey we are thankful to those who helped unite our family. We look forward to the day when our son is older and we can share the entire process with him and he will understand how many helped bring him home.*

*We pray the Lord's abundant blessings upon SowingRoots and the wonderful work you are doing."* -- The Sumetz Family

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### The Buckman Family

*"Dear SowingRoots - Words cannot express our gratefulness for your organization and your donors!*

*On March 4th, our beautiful and healthy son was born. We now celebrate his life and God's goodness, faithfulness and perfect timing, as a family of six.*

*Thank you for choosing to partner with us, as we walked in obedience to God's calling. Thank you for your support and encouragement while we waited for our son. Your financial gift was such a blessing to us, and we appreciate you and your partners so much!*

*Thanks again!"* -- The Buckman Family  
(Bryan, Amy, Bella, Grady, Lilly and Taite)

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### The Hurst Family

*"Our family is complete! Thank you SowingRoots!"*

*-- The Hurst Family*

*(Jody, Allison, Anderson, Isaac, Kirby and Ezekiel)*





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## SowingRoots in the Community

### The LaJueness Family

SowingRoots has been partnering with several organizations in the community and in first quarter, DSHS gave us an additional opportunity to serve the community, this time for the LaJueness Family. Traveling from Grant County to a 9am court appointment in Tacoma, WA, they were facing a 4 hour drive just before a stressful court meeting. SowingRoots contributed financial support for a hotel room, allowing them to get much needed rest the night before the appointment. They asked to express their thanks to SowingRoots donors for making this possible.

*"Dear SowingRoots,*

*My name is Erin LaJueness and on April 10, 2015 we adopted our baby girl, Paisley. You and your organization paid for a room for us at the Silver Cloud Inn in Tacoma.*

*I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kindness and helping make our day that much more special. It was priceless! I can't even explain how excited we are to have our family complete with having our precious daughter officially ours! She is the light of our lives! Thank you again! I have included some pictures to see what a happy family we are!*

*Sincerely, Erin LaJueness"*



## Upcoming events at-a-glance

### **May 9, 2015 | Annual Fundraising Dinner**

More details can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

### **August 17-24, 2015 | Service Trip to Honduras - Apply now!**

There are 7 spots still available for ready and willing individuals to serve orphans in Honduras.

Please be in prayer 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](mailto:jenny@sowingroots.org).

### **September 14, 2015 | Annual SowingRoots Golf Tournament**

Grab your friends, family and clubs and sign up to compete for the kids! More details will be coming soon. In the meantime, if you're interested in sponsoring a hole to benefit SowingRoots, send an email to [jenny@sowingroots.org](mailto:jenny@sowingroots.org).



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## 2014 Quick Stats

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### Money raised

An astounding \$84,000 was raised in 2014

### Grants distributed

In 2014, \$33,000 in grants were awarded to adoptive families

### Children with forever homes

29 orphaned children were joined with families to love them forever

### Families forever changed

The lives of 24 families will never be the same and all for the better!

## Grant updates

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### First quarter 2015

We received 40 grant applications for our March 30th review. SowingRoots awarded 18 families with grants for a total of \$20,000. These 18 families represent 22 children from Bulgaria, China, Columbia, Ethiopia, the Philippines, and the U.S. We're excited to report that *all* adoptions outside the U.S. were for special needs children, a group that has historically been neglected even more so than others.

**Note:** our next grant application deadline is July 1, 2015. Download an application today by visiting [www.sowingroots.org](http://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](mailto:info@sowingroots.com)

SowingRoots is a registered 501c3 organization

Tax ID: 46-1302229

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

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