

Hello friends!

2018 was another great year, thanks to you.

As many of you are not in our facebook groups I will send out some tidbits monthly. I have not been very diligent about this and am setting it as a task in my calendar. Keeping you updated is important to us. Please do join our facebook groups if you have not already for constant updates and photos!

Fundraising events:

We had an amazing opportunity to run several fundraisers at the Badlands Amphitheater this summer. Located in Drumheller, Alberta, it is such a cool place and the venue for concerts and theater. Due to the unique landscape it has acoustics and a unique atmosphere. <https://badlandsamp.com/>



The Morgan Jayne Children's Foundation sold tickets, served drinks and ran concession for several events including Carmen- Opera in the Badlands, Corb Lund, Drumbeats Laser and Lights show and Passion Play. We are hoping to continue to partner with them for more events. These are SO much fun and the funds were badly needed. We hope you can join us for the next one!



Some of these funds went towards building the Sweet Shack!

The Sweet Shack at Bananarama was opened to try to help boost funds for the school and make it more sustainable. They are busy creating sweet treats and "cupcake of the day" drool-worthy desserts to sell. The proceeds go directly to supporting the school. What a sweet idea.



A letter was sent to our board last year from our coordinator in Roatan, Valerie Nelson. I wanted to share part of it with you as it shows what you are accomplishing; how the impossible becomes possible when so many wonderful people work together to create a miracle. Thank you for continuing to be part of this journey. I am constantly amazed by what YOU have all created. You are ALL critically important to our success and without any of you we would not be able to create this miracle. So thankful...

First of all, I want to thank you for all your efforts.

We are entering our SIXTH year with a zero transmission rate from mother to child!! Who would have believed it after all those years of using cardboard boxes to bury babies in! The school is the result of the success of the infant formula program as we felt a moral responsibility, after we saw the poor quality of life these surviving children had, to give them a better future. Being bilingual is paramount here for employment. We are in our fourth year and we have built a school that is amazing! You can be so proud of it. We have sixty children from kinder to grade eleven. We are limited to that amount as our building is a renovated house so we have space issues. We have a waiting list of more than a hundred children, that list grows as the school grows in its reputation. Our students get an amazing bilingual (Canadian English and Honduran Spanish) education. Mondays start with the children singing the national anthem of both countries. The other mornings start with them in yoga or meditation as their stress level in their lives are unbelievable high. You may know the resting pulse of a child is about 70 to 110 beats a minute. Many of our children have suffered so much trauma that theirs is twice that. We can actually lower it to normal rates with 20 minutes of meditation! Of the 60 children 28 have lost their mothers 54 have lost their fathers, 5 of their parents have been murdered (three in front of them). They see violence on a personal life daily. Seven of the parents are in jail. Fourteen of the parents sell and or use drugs. 50 of the 60 kids have a lack of food at home, often the two meals a day we feed them are their only meals, and sometimes the children come back to school on Monday not having eaten since last Friday. Every year when we accept a few more kids in we are reminded of what a long way our kids have come as the new kids take a few months to adjust. Our children are all involved in community projects to better the community (the school is located in an area called the swamp where many of our kids live that is very poor and dangerous) recycling and environmental projects as well as animal welfare projects. We are teaching them to be good citizens. We have established an internship program for our students that are not destined to go to university where the working different businesses with the possibility of getting hired. Right now we have one of our students learning how to be a dive master with Bananarama and another learning welding. We have one student, Yanika, in our SAT program so she can earn a scholarship to an American university (we have two students already there on scholarship). The school works! It is taking the children from the worst circumstances possible and giving them a future!