



RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.

"With RISE, the children have HOPE."

A Green Valley, AZ 501 (c)(3) Corporation

www.risesa.org

2017 YE Annual President's Report

January 19, 2018

Dear Supporters:

2017 was an exciting first year for RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc. I can't thank you enough for the encouraging support (physical, emotional, spiritual and financial) you've provided. We've managed to reach most of our goals this past year and it's been very encouraging. Creating a new 501(c)(3) corporation was exhilarating and humbling - but with God's help, RISE is now up and operational.

In this first President's Report, I thought it would be best to first review the reason RISE was created and who it is laser-focused on helping: the wonderful children of Casa Vida Nueva Para Niños, A.C.

Background: Casa Vida Nueva Para Niños, A.C. (House of New Life for the Children) is a "Home for Children" in Nogales, Sonora, MX, established to nurture and care for abused and abandoned children. Part of its mission is to foster an environment that keeps the children excited about their education. With support from the staff and their peers, these previously abandoned children are excelling in the public school system. However, the Mexican government only provides free education through the 8th grade. Their preparatory schooling level (our version of high school) costs about \$400 USD per school year. This cost may not seem like much to most Americans, but for poor families in Mexico, it's a fortune. The cost prevents many young people from acquiring the skills needed to make a good life for themselves. For a home with a growing number of children to send to preparatory school and higher education every year, financing is a constant challenge. A group of American volunteers decided that something had to be done to help these wonderful children become a viable part of society.

To help, *Rise Scholastic Achievements, Inc.* was formed.

RISE Mission: *To provide a sustainable source of revenue support for higher education and skills acquisition to eligible students at Casa Vida Nueva Para Niños, A.C. enabling them to continue the learning process as a core value which increases their opportunities to follow their dreams for a better life.*

What is RISE? RISE is a Green Valley, AZ based, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation created to provide a sustainable source of revenue support to eligible students from the Home for Children who have been accepted for upper education including preparatory school, colleges, universities, trade schools, professional/technical studies and/or work/study programs. The financial support includes, but is not limited to, funds towards tuition, books, supplies and living stipends, and commences upon confirmed acceptance by the upper educational organization or program and continues through completion. Each participating student's progress is monitored regularly to ensure that they are moving toward graduation or completion of the enrolled program. RISE board members do not draw a salary, and their time and travel expenses are not compensated. With the exception of nominal fees and expenses

required for governmental filings, the remainder of all donations go directly to supporting the children's higher educational goals.

To learn more about RISE and the support provided to the children, go to the RISE web site: www.risesa.org.

2017 Accomplishments

- June 2016: Volunteers started creating RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.
- March 1, 2017: RISE was incorporated – Thanks to Gina DeConcini
- March 31, 2017: First RISE Board meeting
- May 10: Second RISE Board Meeting
- June: Created Polo Shirts / business cards / RISE Logo / mission statement
- July 25: Board decision to grant \$300 per child per academic school year
- September: Received secondary school invoices for all 4 children
- October: First attempt at grant writing
- October 14: Visit to the Home for Children to award the first RISE Scholarships
- October 27: RISE Board Meeting - New Board Members added: Tony and Norma Laguna
- November: Web site created – Thanks to Kristen Spinning
- December 9: Christmas visit to the Home for Children with RISE overview presented
- December: RISE Donation request emails sent out
- December: Session of Valley Presbyterian Church approves RISE
- December: The Benevolence Committee of Desert Hills Lutheran Church approves RISE with \$1,000 donation
- December: White Elephant approves Barbara Collins as a RISE volunteer.
- December: Benevity (Microsoft matching \$200 donation: pending January 2018)

2018 Concerns: Raising donations due to the new 2018 Tax laws; grant writing; budgeting and withdrawals for future years.

I want to thank RISE Board of Directors for all their support during this initial year. I also want to thank all the people who have given their time, talents and financial support to help make 2017 a very successful start up year for RISE. I am looking forward to grow RISE in 2018.

Sincerely,

Reed C. Olson

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President