



RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.

"With RISE, the children have HOPE."

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

www.risesa.org

2019 YE Annual President's Report

January 15, 2020

Dear Supporters:

2019 was the second full year of operation for RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc., and we want to thank you thank you for your encouraging support (physical, emotional, spiritual and financial). Running a new charity has its challenges but we managed to reach most of our goals this past year while a few goals were postponed until 2020 due to time, people and issues with US/MX border crossings. We are thankful that with God's help, RISE is established and expanding its presence in our local area. In 2019, the number of children going to preparatoria school (high school) increased from 6 to 7, at a cost of \$563 USD per child. The increase was due to the change from a public to private school to help the children assimilate into a formal classroom environment, resulting in a better education. RISE agreed to the cost increase because it supported our 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.*

In this President's Report, I thought it would be best to review the reason RISE was created and who it is laser-focused on helping: these 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 their peers and the Home's staff, these previously abandoned children are excelling in the public/private school system. However, the Mexican government only provides free/public education through the 8th grade. This preparatoria schooling level (our version of high school) costs about \$563 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. Financing is a constant challenge for The Home for Children with a growing number of children to send to preparatoria school and higher education every year. A group of Green Valley, AZ volunteers decided that something had to be done to help these wonderful children become a viable part of society. **With God's help, Rise Scholastic Achievements, Inc. was formed.**

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 preparatoria 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. 99.5% of all funds go directly to supporting the program.

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

www.risesa.org .

2019 Accomplishments

- 7 Preparatoria school scholarships were awarded for the 2019 – 2020 academic year.
- One child is newly enrolled in an accelerated “4-year college program” which will be completed in 3 years. This is the first child in college and RISE is paying for her college costs.
- RISE Board Meetings: January 9, March 29, and September 13.
- Trip / activities for Casa Vida Nueva para Niños:
 - January 17: Visited Valley Verde Rotary Club of Green Valley. During their breakfast meeting, a presentation was made with Elias Herrera, Director of The Home resulting in the Rotary sponsoring 2 children for higher education.
 - February 9: Valley Presbyterian Church Mission Committee sponsored a breakfast featuring Casa Vida Nueva para Niños. 132 people attended including 13 senior staff members of New Life Church of God in Tucson – the major sponsor of The Home, and 8 people from The Home.
 - March 23 trip to The Home for the “Give a Kid a Book” event. 30 people attended this trip to witness the joy each child had when they received their very own, hardcover book written in Spanish with their name in it.
 - September 14 Trip to the Home was attended by 28 people.
 - Nov 20: Desert Hills Lutheran Church Sewing Bee members visited the Home. They brought / donated 6 sewing machines to help the children make and decorate banners to be used in their rooms at the home as well as clothing. This hands-on educational experience is part of the ongoing RISE program which sponsors children's education beyond eighth grade in Mexico. 45 children participated in making the banner crafts.
 - December 14 Christmas trip: Canceled due to unrest at the US/MX border.
- Joined Guidestar: The world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. RISE was awarded a GOLDSTAR status which allows other organizations to donate to RISE through Guidestar.
- Joined AmazonSmile: With every purchase using AmazonSmile, a donation is made to RISE.
- RISE t-shirts with RISE logo and slogan: “TODO ES POSIBLE” awarded to the 7 preparatoria students. Each child was also awarded a RISE Certificate of Achievement for the 2019 -2020 school year.
- RISE investment plan continued to be managed by RISE Board Member Roger Fisher.
- RISE Educational forecast expense revised for the next 5 years.
- The major organizations sponsoring children are: Valley Presbyterian Church, Desert Hills Lutheran Church (DHLC), DHLC Sewing Bee (RISE is one of 4 charities they supported), DHLC Benevolence Committee, Valley Verde Rotary Club of Green Valley, and Evangelical Free Church (Men's Prayer Group) of Green Valley.

- Improved RISE web site: www.risesa.org

2020 Concerns:

1. How to sustain a stable level of donations to support a steady increase in the number of children enrolling in higher education. For the school year 2020-2021 there will be 9 children in preparatoria school and 3 children enrolled in either college or trade school. Every year these numbers are forecasted to increase.

2. Improving the level of our activity / trips at The Home during an increasing disturbance on the US/MX border which prevented trips in 2019.

I want to thank the RISE Board of Directors for all their support during this year, and to thank all the people who have given their time, talents and financial support to help make 2019 a very successful year for RISE. I am looking forward to growing RISE and continuing its mission in 2020.

Sincerely,

Reed C. Olson

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President