



RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.

"With RISE, the children have HOPE."

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

www.risesa.org

2023 YE Annual President's Report

December 31, 2023

Dear Supporters:

Here are some of the highlights of 2023.

- **February 11**, Valley Presbyterian Church sponsored a breakfast to host Casa Vida Nueva para Niños. It started at 8:30 am with a great breakfast for 130 people. Reed Olson acknowledged the attendance of special groups: New Life Church of God in Tucson with Senior Pastor Francisco Jimenez and his wife; Desert Hills Lutheran Church (DHLC) with Senior Pastor Mike Sager; DHLC Sewing Bee women; DHLC Foundation; Valle Verde Rotary Club of Green Valley; Spinning Web Design; and all other individual supporters of this mission. The morning turned out to be a celebration of "thanks." Reed presented the Home's successes and challenges including two special announcements: (1) There are now 4 children attending college and (2) The new Donna Wright "English as a Second Language" program. All children will now be home schooled in English twice per week.
- **June 22**, Reed Olson received the "Paul Harris Fellow Award" from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Sue Horton, President of the Valle Verde Rotary Club of Green Valley, presented the award to Reed Olson for his work and continued dedication to the Casa Vida Nueva para Niños orphanage in Nogales, Sonora, AZ. A Paul Harris Fellow is a person who has been recognized as having done something significant for others. The Foundation recognizes them by a contribution of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International which will be spent on Humanitarian efforts around the world: Recognition is significant and something to be proud of.
- **The December 9th trip to Casa Vida Nueva para Niños** was unfortunately canceled this year due to concerns regarding border crossing times and the unrest at many AZ borders. So, we came up with a "Plan B." Each person who had signed up for the trip was invited to come to a local zoom meeting, set up by Elias, Director of the Home to witness the children opening their Christmas gifts. After the children opened their gifts, each child walked up to the zoom camera at the orphanage and in very clear English thanked all of us for their gifts. This was the first year we were thanked out loud in English. We felt the new ESL (English as a Second Language) program has been well attended.
- **Donations:** This year, Amazon canceled its AmazonSmile program. RISE then focused on promoting a Qualified Charitable Distribution program (See RISE Website for more details).
- **RISE website** has been updated and refreshed.
- **RISE QR code** – RISE has created its own QR code - see below.

I want to thank the people around the U.S. for their encouraging support (physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial). Without their support, RISE would not have been able to supply the financial aid to the children's education. A special thanks goes to these major Green Valley organizations for their support: Valley Presbyterian Church, Desert Hills Lutheran Church (DHLC) and DHLC Sewing Bee (monitory donations from their boutique and 10 hand-made quilts), DHLC Foundation, and Valle Verde Rotary

Club of Green Valley. Finally, I want to thank the RISE Board of Directors for its support and guidance during this past year.

To learn more about RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc. go to the RISE website: www.risesa.org .

Sincerely,



Reed C. Olson

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President

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