



RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.
"With RISE, the children have HOPE."
A Green Valley, AZ 501 (c)(3) Corporation
www.risesa.org

2024 YE President's Report

December 31, 2024

Dear Supporters:

2024 was an exceptionally good year for RISE and the children. Here are some of the highlights.

- **January 27 Presentation:** Desert Hills Lutheran Church Foundation invited Reed Olson to present RISE to its annual celebration breakfast hosting well over 100 people. It is invitations like this one that help promote RISE among the area's new and current donors.
- **May 17 First College Graduate:**



In 2017, RISE Scholastic Achievements was created to help fund the cost of high school and college education for abused and abandoned children at Casa Vida Nueva para Niños in Nogales, Sonora MX. At that time, none of the orphaned children were in high school, had any aspirations of going to high school or college, and there was no money to pay for it. RISE developed an inspirational / motivational program that promoted the importance of higher education which encouraged all children to stay focused on what their future could look like with a good education. It was a struggle for these abused and neglected children to understand what RISE was offering. Since then, 6 students have graduated from high school, four went on to college, but sadly three dropped out. What happened to the remaining student? On May 17, 2024, Carolina Ramirez Renteria became the first student to graduate from college with a degree in nursing. Reed Olson attended the graduation ceremony in Nogales, Sonora, MX. It was a wonderful event. Carolina

overcame all odds from her orphaned beginnings and proved SHE COULD DO IT if just given the opportunity. Now she has become a role model for the other children who see her as proof that there is hope if one stays in school. Currently there are two more students attending college as sophomores. Carolina is proof that with your continued support, love, and God's encouragement, RISE is making a huge difference in the lives of these wonderful children.

- **Summer: Solar System Expansion**

In August, a \$40,000 check was presented by the Gifts & Memorials Committee of Valley Presbyterian Church to Casa Vida Nueva para Niños to help upgrade their solar system. The upgrade was completed in October 2024. More panels were added, but more importantly, all the old batteries from the initial 2016 installation were replaced, plus additional batteries were also added. The upgrade has more than doubled the original amount of power. The Home now has enough power to power up the entire two-story home, all the laptops, watch TV, provide light to all rooms, eliminate the wood burning stoves (thereby improving the air quality of the facility), power up the water heater, and run heat / air

conditioning for the first time. Everyone in the Home is ecstatic and welcomes the upgrade and improvement in their living conditions.

- **November 2 RISE Board of Directors Visit:**

The RISE Board of Directors visited The Home. After a talk on the importance of higher education (led by the two current sophomore college students), the directors called up the current high school students and awarded them the “coveted” RISE T-shirt to wear. RISE re-committed paying for all high school and college / trade school costs. RISE hopes that by wearing the T-shirt the students will be reminded of where they want to go after high school. All the students were excited.

- **December 9th Christmas Visit:**

24 people visited the orphanage for the annual Christmas trip. Elias, Director of the Home, gave an overview of the home. Reed gave an overview of RISE Scholastic Achievements and then introduced the three college students resulting in thunderous applause. Next, the group toured the facility. Afterwards, the children gave three dancing / singing performances. Finally, a great Mexican lunch was served to the guests, while the children ate pizza. Then the children opened their gifts. Pandemonium followed!! Funding for the gifts came from various local organizations and from people around the country. The guests and kids never stopped smiling during the 3+ hour visit. Overall, it was an enjoyable day to share the love of Jesus Christ with these children.

- **New Director added:** Lori Dalesky is an added blessing to the RISE Board of Directors.

- **RISE website:** The web site was updated.

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 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), DHLC Sewing Bee (monitory donations from their boutique and 10 hand-made quilts), DHLC Foundation, Valle Verde Rotary Club of Green Valley and the many other individuals who have graciously donate. 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 or scan the QR code below.

Sincerely,

Reed C. Olson

Reed C. Olson
President

