

NEWSLETTER



Christine Burns-Fazzi
Founder & Board Chair

2017 will be an exciting year for the Foundation. We recently had our annual Board meeting and discussed several initiatives we are excited to share with you, one of which is sending our sponsors a quarterly newsletter — **Chica Connection!** Our goal is to keep you up to date on our activities and events, and share stories and highlights about your little girls and other projects. We hope you will enjoy the newsletter, and thank you for your support! Without you none of this would be possible!

- Chris

Write your Ajihada

It is time to write your Ajihada, here are some tips:

- Tell her about your family (kids, pets)
- Tell her about where you live
- Tell her about any special events
- Send pictures
- Ask what her favorite subject is and why
- Ask her to draw you a picture

Send your letter to padrino@ninodeguatemala.org it will be translated and delivered to your little girl!

Making a Donation is Easy!

The BFB Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible. Your one-time gift or ongoing support is life-changing to a child, her family, and their community.

To donate now please click here:

School Update

School in Guatemala is on a different schedule than schools in the US. The children at Niños de Guatemala started their school year this January 16th and have just completed their mid-quarter exams. The kids are excited for what will be a busy couple of months for them.

In March, the students in Basico (Middle School) started a program called SERniña. SERniña strives to end gender inequality in Guatemala by empowering girls to discover their truest selves and develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and courage they need to consistently make informed life choices from a place of self-knowledge, self-love and strength. The program seeks to include men and boys in this conversation so that all members of our human 'team' can function at their highest potential.



The same program is working with the parents of students in Parvulos (Pre-School) through Third Grade through parenting workshops offered at the school called Crianza con Cariño (Parenting with Love). This collaboration was organized and is run through the psychology program at the school.

The students take off a week from school for Semana Santa, or the week leading up to Easter, from April 10th - 14th. On April 20th and 21st, all 480 students will visit the Aurora Zoo in Guatemala City over the course of two days. As you know from previous updates, we are moving away from giving gifts for Birthdays and Christmas and trying to give the children more experiences. Most of the students have never been outside of their villages so this will definitely be a very exciting trip for them! Look for pictures of their adventures in the next Newsletter!

BFB Foundation Launches new Pilot Program for girls in Charlotte

BFB Foundation will expand its reach to girls in the United States, to address several core competencies for girls as well as to sustain and grow the financial support to two existing organization partners in Guatemala (Ninos de Guatemala and Soccoro). We are developing a pilot program or "club" to connect girls here in Charlotte to girls in Guatemala. The club will support middle and high school girls locally in learning to leverage funds to benefit others, generate funds to support Guatemalan girls attend school.



Implementation begins in four local schools this fall, and we plan to expand the program in subsequent years.

Did you know?

- There are 21 Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala.
- There are more than 30 volcanoes in Guatemala, out of which 3 are active.
- The first ever chocolate bar was also invented in Guatemala during the Mayan times.
- Guatemala's Lake Atitlan is the deepest lake in Central America, with a maximum depth of about 340 meters. It is also regarded as the most beautiful lake in the world.
- 14% of Guatemalan's live on less than \$1.25 US a day.



Chica Spotlight

Meylin Jackelyne Xicay Morales is a University student the Foundation sponsors from San José Poaquil, Chimaltenango. San José Poaquil is an area known primarily for its farming production. Meylin has four brothers and five sisters. Her siblings are all enrolled in school and work as well. Her mother and father both work outside of the home. She is in the process of getting a teaching degree and just finished the auxiliary practice which consisted in helping teachers prepare material, organize groups of work in class and many other activities in which the teacher needed support. She also attended the Chispa Event, which she describes as a unique and unforgettable experience that was part of her growth as a person and as a woman. Meylin strongly believes that education and teaching can help Guatemala become a better country.



Here is Meylin's update in her own words:

To: BFB Sponsors

I hope that God will pour out abundant blessings on every activity that you do.

The reason for my letter is to thank you for your help to complete this fourth semester during this year 2016 and tell you about what I did and what I liked about this year in relation to my studies.

I took five courses that focused more on learning strategies in the different areas that are point out in primary schools, specifically in the areas of mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and communication and language. I learned how to make all kinds of very creative materials to teach different subjects in classrooms and make classes dynamic and productive. Also during this semester, I took the auxiliary practice, which consisted in helping teachers prepare material, organize groups of work in class, passed work-sheets and many other activities in which the teacher needed support. Perform my practice at the Official Urban School "Oxlajuj No'j", located in the municipality where I live. To have done my practice in this school it was a very motivating experience since I spent 60 days living with the teachers and especially with the boys and girls in the classrooms, I also realized that I chose correctly the career that I like and I do not regret choosing it.

This fourth semester was a little difficult for me because apart from going and doing the university homework I had to elaborate material, prepare some classes and attend every day to school due to practice, but thanks to God and of course to the BFB foundation I finished this semester. I do not justify myself in any way for the practice, but my grades for this semester declined, I tried to improve and put effort into the courses but in some of them I did not get the qualification that I would have liked to have, in the course that I obtained less qualification was the Strategies for the teaching of the natural sciences, I gave the best of myself in this course but I have had to work harder. The course that I was excellent at was the practice because in addition to attending the schools we had to prepare a report on everything we did during the practice, and my report was one of the best and it was selected for evidence of the work done that the teacher was doing.

I also want to tell you that as part of two courses at the university,

we had a trip and visited two museums, located in the Capital City of Guatemala, this museums were part of our learning and it was a very beautiful experience, thanks to you I could attend and be part of this experience.

I also want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Chispa event, it was a unique and unforgettable experience that was part of my growth as a person and as a woman. In this activity I learned the importance of growth, both academic and personal, that we must have people that supports us to succeed in life and also to be an entrepreneurial person with the desire to succeed in overcoming the obstacles that life presents us.

I am completely grateful to you who have made it possible for me to have had the experiences I had this year 2016, I hope to improve and learn more things to be a prepared and useful person for society as you expect.

Next year will be a much harder year for me because I will do my final practices by teaching students, I hope to do well and not neglect the other courses that I will receive at the university.

I also want to wish you happy holidays at the end of the year that God bless you with such noble work that you do and I hope that everything you do for us God gives it back, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a happy new year full of blessings, love and joy. Having nothing more to say I say goodbye to you truly grateful for your unconditional support during my academic preparation.

*Sincerely, Meylin Jackelyne Xicay Morales.
PS: Here are some pictures.*



Participating in the Chispa event



Some students and I in the classroom

Board Member Spotlight

Name: Jeff Ziliani

Occupation: CPA - CFO of BFB Gallagher

Hobbies: Music (play piano and trumpet), baking and my favorite, playing with my son Evan



Jeff, his wife and son

Why you wanted to be a part of the BFB Foundation?

Before joining the Board, I knew very little about the country of Guatemala. Through the BFB Foundation, I have learned so much about these wonderful people and I have seen first-hand their critical needs,

including food, shelter and education, which most people take for granted. From the very beginning when I heard about the concept of the BFB Foundation and its mission to educate and empower women through financial education, I wanted to play a role and do whatever I could, personally and professionally, in order to make a difference.

Have you been to Guatemala and if so, what was your favorite memory?

I am fortunate to have been to Guatemala twice. My favorite memory, which I will never forget, is seeing the pure joy, love and appreciation in the children's faces at Ninos de Guatemala. When you meet the students for the first time, you are touched and overwhelmed with the smiles and laughter that only a child can produce. Knowing that many of them are there getting an education, along with the numerous other benefits provided by the school, primarily because of the BFB Foundation, makes it all worth it.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.bfbfoundation.org

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, September 21, 2017
6:00 - 8:00 pm

WOMEN + ART FUNDRAISER FOR EDUCATION
Educating Women and Girls in Guatemala

BFB Foundation and Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy are hosting a fundraiser to raise awareness and celebrate women interested in supporting the education of women and girls in Guatemala.

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