

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome Message

I am so excited to be sending our second Newsletter to you! A lot is going on with the Foundation here in Charlotte, NC and in Guatemala. Thanks to the diligent hard work that Elizabeth Maddrey and Mary Beth Ausman have been doing since last fall, we have exciting progress to report on the formation of our first pilot clubs... connecting girls in the US to girls in Guatemala. Read more about it in this newsletter and even more to come in the fall.

Board members, Jen Jackson and Pilar Fitzgerald have been working hard on the Padrino Program (mentors) with Niño's, looking at new ways to make it more relevant to both the girls and their Padrinos.

Also note in the Guatemala School Update, the Niño's students have developed the first Student Body Government! Now that's inspiring.

Our Women, Art + Education Benefit for University Girls is underway and getting ready to hit social media! Save the Date for September 21, 2017. A million thanks to Christie Taylor and Lauren Harkey for hosting at Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy and for all their time and effort in helping to plan and organize this event. Kit Reuther, one of Nashville's most revered artists, works will be featured! With many thanks for Jen Jackson's generosity, we have a raffle offering a trip to the Caribbean! THANK YOU JEN!!! BFB Foundation will also be offering an all expense paid trip to Antigua, Guatemala. [Click here for more information or to buy a ticket.](#)

Fortune has smiled on us with the unexpected gift of an introduction to [RECOVER BRANDS](#). Their mission is to create the best, most environmentally friendly and socially responsible products possible; and to educate and inspire those around us to live and work for a sustainable tomorrow. They produce T-shirts made with recycled materials and have a facility in Guatemala City! They were happy to know about the work we do to support girls in Guatemala and offered to co-brand our T-shirts on their website, with the profits going to BFB Foundation partner schools. Hope you will consider buying a T-shirt when we send the link soon!

The Chica Spotlight is about the mother of a girl with children at our partner school, Niños de Guatemala. It's always gratifying to learn how families have been directly impacted thanks to your support of BFB Foundation.

I really hope you will enjoy the newsletter. So much is happening and all of it is benefiting the girls and women in Guatemala! Thank you for your support.

- Chris, Founder & Board Chair

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@ninodesguatemala.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:

Niños School Update

There is a lot to report this Quarter on the School Update! First, the kids had so much fun on their field trip to the Zoo. The 480 students were split up into 2 groups; the younger students went to the Zoo the first day, and the older went to the zoo the second day. Both groups had a wonderful time; they loved being able to leave their hometown, take a bus into the city and spend the day with their friends at the zoo.

The students had so much fun walking around and seeing all different kinds of animals. One of the younger groups loved howling at the wolves in hope for a howl back! The wolves, of course, did not but that did not stop their excitement. Later that day, the little ones then witnessed feeding time with the snakes! The crowd favorite for everyone were the penguins which they were able to watch playing in their glass aquarium. It was impossible to keep the groups moving forward to see the next animals!



The Basico (middle school) students received free tickets to use the big slides! This was perfect for this group of students as most took the opportunity right away! One student climbed to the top of the slide with the intention of sliding down on her potato sack. Upon reaching the top with friends, she froze with fear. She couldn't make the move to slide down the giant slide! After some time of having her class cheer her down and give her encouragement, she finally made the move and made it down!



Overall, all of the students had a great time on their field trip. The experience was something that many won't do again. They were very grateful to the Padrino Program for sponsoring this trip and are already asking what is coming for next year!

Niños School Update continued...



The next update is equally exciting! Elections were held for student body government on Friday June 9th! The students have been campaigning for the last month so there was a lot of excitement around these elections. This is the first year that the schools have implemented student body government and both the staff and students are looking forward to this new activity.

Each grade had a specific plan they turned in for the election process. There is now one president for each grade and one president to lead this group who will make up the Student Government at each school. They will be working on formulating a unified plan soon!

The overall responsibilities of the student government are as follows:

- Organize activities to benefit the school; community involvement, classroom learning, raising funds to gain resources for the school
- Take charge of the participation and learning of the students
- Take responsibility that all students get to class on time and finish the school year without dropping out
- Take responsibility in fulfilling all rights and duties of the student body
- Propose and develop an annual plan
- Present a report of the work that was done at the end of the year

Stay tuned for more information as the Student Government formalizes and implements their plans!



Padrino Sponsorship

The Foundation has 24 girls who need sponsors so please reach out to your friends and family! Join us in spreading the word about the opportunity to make a difference and change the path of the world we live in!

- Sponsorship is \$600 a year, which is less than \$1.70 a day
- An underprivileged little girl who's family cannot afford the uniforms and books for public school will be not only be provided with a good education, but her parents will have access to classes that will educate them on how to support their daughters so they can stay in school and develop and achieve her goals.
- You create a relationship with a special little girl and through the years watch her grow, give them unbelievable opportunities but also encourage them and help show them how to change the world they know.

For more information please visit our website at WWW.BFBFOUNDATION.ORG
or email **Elizabeth Maddrey** at emaddrey@BFBFoundation.org

Chica Spotlight

At Ninos de Guatemala (NDG) one of the requirements for the students to attend is their mothers have to volunteer at the school doing various activities. This Quarter we wanted to spotlight one of the Mom's of the girls we sponsor! Andrea Carron, Padrino Coordinator at Ninos, spoke with **Maria Angelica**, the mother of three students; two are enrolled in Nuestro Futuro and the oldest is in his last year of Basico. She is the mom of Dulce Maria Gómez Piche, Pilar Fitzgerald's ahijada.

Maria Angelica lives in Ciudad Vieja, which is about a 10-15 minute walk from the school. She studied up until 4th grade and then stopped when her mother told her it was time that she started working. She usually works around the house taking care of the children, but during coffee season she works in the coffee fields and really enjoys it! While her husband normally works in construction (hired labor), he is out of work right now.

Maria Angelica speaks very highly of the Padrino program and the excitement it brings to her children. She described the Padrinos as special friends for her children. She mentioned that when they get letters, they bring them home and show them to her. She is very grateful for all of the support the Padrinos provide for her children's education.

Maria Angelica feels very proud and lucky that her children attend the NDG schools. In comparison to the public schools in the area, the children receive extra classes like English and computer classes at no extra cost for the family. Her two children in Nuestro Futuro stay after class many times and sign up to help clean in return for extra computer time. She also mentioned that the NDG schools are more reliable, unlike the public schools as many times classes are cancelled for teacher strikes or other varying reasons. At the NDG schools, her children are encouraged to go after their dreams; another point she says is unique. Her fourth grade daughter wants to be a doctor or an elementary school teacher, her second son wants to be a firefighter, and her oldest son wants to become a lawyer. Not only are the teachers encouraging her children to reach for their dreams but also, with the help of the parenting school at NDG, she and her husband have learned to support these dreams too.

Maria Angelica also shared she has been caring for another student at the school. This young girl's mother passed away and is now being raised by her father. Because her father works in Quiche, another department of Guatemala (about 6 hours away driving), he has to leave for days at a time leaving the student and her siblings to care for themselves. Maria Angelica spoke with the father and offered to take care of his daughter until he can find work closer to home. "Even if all we can afford are beans and tortillas for dinner, she will at least have the love of a family around her".

One of the last things Maria Angelica mentioned was the following: "We [as parents] have to fight for the dreams of our children because that is what is left."



Amigas Connection Club

Amigas Connection is a new girl's service club we are offering to 4 schools in Charlotte this fall. We are starting out small with hopes to expand over the next 3 – 5 years. The purpose of the clubs is to build connections between girls in the U.S. and our partner schools in Guatemala and to raise funds to support education while doing it. Small groups of middle and high school girls will participate in 18 sessions over the course of the school year, facilitated by their teachers. Students will exchange communications and cultural experiences and get to know each other through Skype. The U.S. clubs will also have lessons in financial planning to learn how to develop a fundraiser, which will benefit their amigas in Guatemala.

In March, we met with our school partner administrators in Guatemala to introduce the new club concept, and in July, we will meet with the students. Stay tuned!



Pictured here at Ninos de Guatemala, (L to R)
Elizabeth Maddrey, Chris Burns-Fazzi,
Misha Rodriguez, Harriette Rothwell,
Mary Beth Ausman.
(March 2017)

WOMEN ART + EDUCATION BENEFIT

ON **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**, WE ARE HOSTING AN EVENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HODGES TAYLOR ART CONSULTANCY (CHARLOTTE) TO RAISE FUNDS FOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS IN GUATEMALA. THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE WINE, CHEESE, ART, A RAFFLE FOR TWO ALL-EXPENSE PAID INTERNATIONAL TRIPS, AND STORIES ABOUT THE 20 GIRLS WE ARE SENDING TO UNIVERSITY. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST BFB FOUNDATION EVENT IN CHARLOTTE TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS AND RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT EDUCATING THESE GIRLS.

TICKETS ARE \$50.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY A TICKET OR MAKE A DONATION!](#)

Board Member Spotlight

Name: Gary Lenz

Occupation: Information Technology Consultant

Hobbies: Traveling/Exploring, Kiteboarding, Barefoot Water Skiing, Flyboarding, Scuba Diving, Paragliding, Face Time with nieces & nephews, and spending time with my amazing girlfriend Lauren and our profusely friendly golden retriever



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

As the foundation was getting started I was intrigued at the possibilities. I became impressed & interested in getting involved as the foundation formed relationships with the schools and other organizations in Guatemala, opening the doors to have a positive influence on so many more women and children. I love opportunities to get personally involved in ways that help people build a brighter future, and I completely agree



with the focus on education and empowerment. The genuine people we get to meet along the way have just as much of a positive impact on our lives too! I've tended to be a workaholic, so the opportunity to become part of the BFB Foundation with such a respectable mission and great people, outside of work, is exactly the type of balance I needed. Thank you Chris!

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

It was such a heartfelt moment to finally meet my ahijada at Nuestro Futuro! We had a great time and she got to help me lead all the kids in forming a huge circle and playing under our giant colorful parachute! My favorite memories were all the smiling faces and fun times with the children on the playground that day! Laughter needs no translation! It was also a complete joy to see their excitement taking turns walking a slack line with several of us from the BFB Foundation offering a helping hand to hold onto.

Board Members

Christine Burns-Fazzi
Founder & Board Chair

Elizabeth Maddrey
Executive Director

Thomas Farrell
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Gary Lenz
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Pilar Fitzgerald
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Jennifer Jackson
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CONTACT BFB FOUNDATION

Maria Fazzi
Marketing Officer

✉ mfazzi@bfbfoundation.org

☎ (1)-877-332-2265 ext. 239

🏢 4600 Park Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28209

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.bfbfoundation.org