



VIA CARITAS

Through God's Love

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What you may have missed at the 2019 Barn Celebration of CARITAS

by Kyle Forbush

Communities need gatherings. Meetings of likeminded folks remind us that we are not alone, and often yield ideas that are meant to improve and progress the community as a whole. CARITAS For Children is a large community, but every once in awhile we have the chance to come together to share our experiences and learn what's to come.

The 2019 Barn Celebration of CARITAS was a perfect opportunity... (cont'd pg. 2)

(from p. 1) for sponsors, donors and supporters to share their stories and learn more about what the organization has done and is working on currently. Curated by revered donor Steve Balistreri and CARITAS Treasurer Joel Nettesheim, attendees paid witness to a presentation of CARITAS Success Stories, which are essentially personalized, progressive snapshots of children who began our program when they were young and have grown and flourished with the help of sponsorship.

In addition to the Success Stories, attendees witnessed the unveiling of a new CARITAS sponsorship program and capital renovation project in Belize, a small, coastal nation in South America. With the help of community leaders from Milwaukee and donors (like you!), CARITAS is striving to yet again make everlasting change in the lives of disadvantaged and impoverished children. To learn more about the recent developments in Belize, keep reading on to the next article!

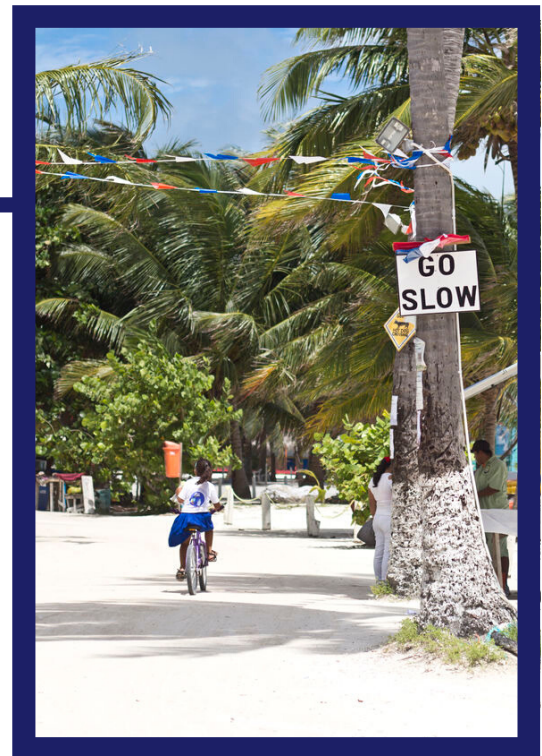
CARITAS Introduces: Belize!

An overview of the new sponsorship program & Educational Facility Enhancement project.

Belize is located in Central America, bordered to the west by Mexico and Guatemala and to the east by the Caribbean Sea. The first images one sees when Google-searching the country's name are ultra-edited snapshots of idyllic beaches and breathtaking sunsets, mostly posted by travel companies. However, hidden beneath the dreams of tourists are harder truths. Belize's people have experienced intense levels of poverty in the last decade, those most at-risk group being the children.

In 2016, roughly 49% of Belize's children were living below the poverty line. The numbers haven't improved, and CARITAS recently took notice of their plight. CARITAS President & C.E.O., Chris Hoar, traveled to Belize in 2018 alongside CARITAS Treasurer, Joel Nettesheim and collaborative donor, Steve Balistreri. They met with Bishop Lawrence Sydney Nicasio, Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Belize City & Belmopan. He gave them a tour of the places in need, both on the mainland and on Caye Caulker island, a small island 23 miles off of the coast, surrounded by the Caribbean.

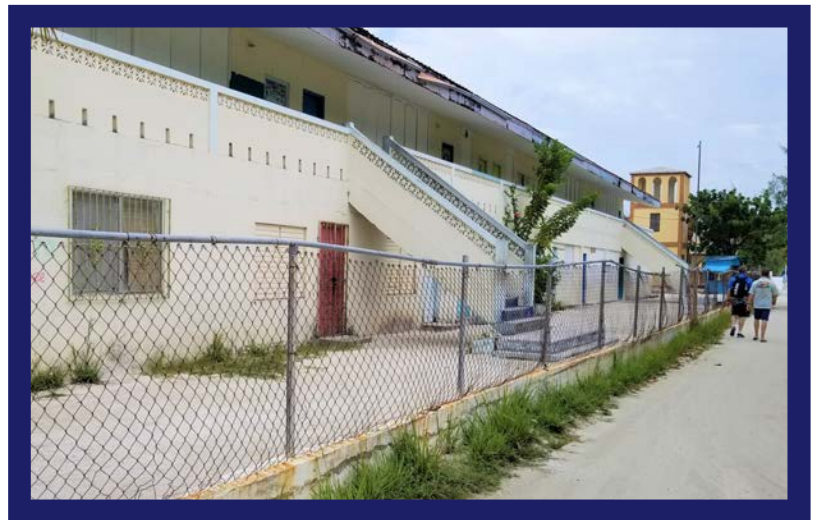
On the island, Chris, Joel and Steve found that their school is in desperate need of repair. Composed of rotten, crumbling walls and surrounded by mostly broken fencing, the Caye Caulker



Island Roman Catholic School requires extensive renovation if classes are to resume there.

In June 2018, Bishop Lawrence gave his blessing to CARITAS for establishing new child sponsorship opportunities on Caye Caulker island and eventually the mainland of Belize, as well as instituting an Educational Facility Enhancement project to renovate the school, install enhanced technology and security, and bolster the school's educational programs.

Beginning on Thanksgiving, we will invite you to join us on this beautiful mission to renovate the Caye Caulker Roman Catholic School. Until then, please direct any inquiries to alezcano@caritas.us.



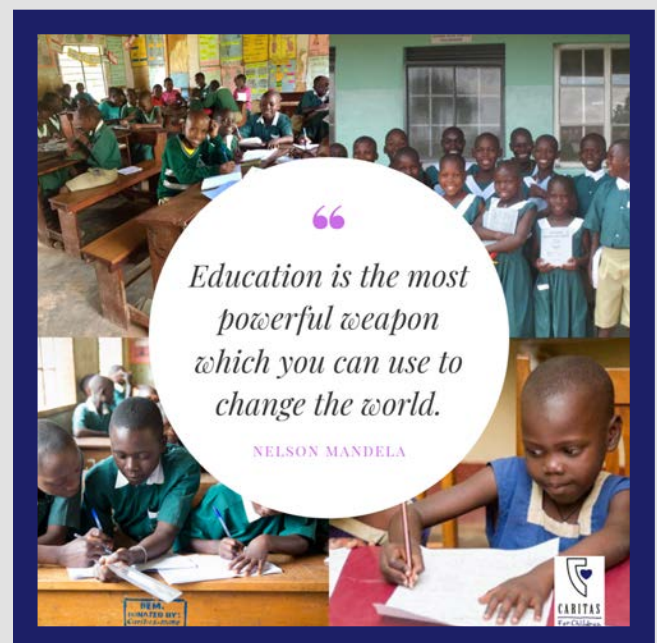
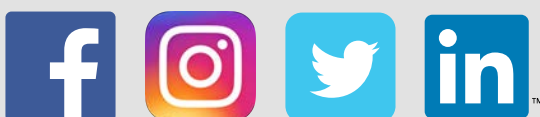
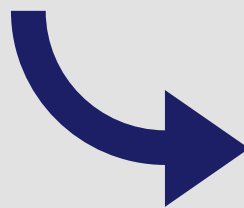
(above) Caye Caulker Roman Catholic School



(from left, above) Chris Hoar, Joel Nettesheim, Bishop Lawrence & Steve Balistreri.

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Welcome, Arnold!

CARITAS is proud to introduce the newest member of our staff & family, Arnold Lezcano!

by Kyle Forbush & Arnold Lezcano

The newest member of the CARITAS staff and family is here, and our horizon already looks brighter. Arnold Lezcano, a former Brother of the Capuchin-Franciscan order, will assume multiple roles at CARITAS For Children, Inc., working to expand our ministry by broadening its reach with his expertise in Digital Marketing and Social Psychology.

Arnold is no stranger to evangelical pursuits. After achieving degrees in Social Psychology and Theology, he worked sales and marketing at different secular companies until realizing that he desired more than monetary wealth. Feeling driven towards ministry and service, he did research on various Religious Orders and decided to join the Capuchin-Franciscans because they possessed the "joyful peace" that Arnold longed for.

For the last five years, Arnold discerned religious life with the Capuchin-Franciscan order in the Province of St. Mary, located in New York & larger New England. The Capuchin Franciscans are a group of Catholic-Religious men who live in community with vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Their main mission is to live the Gospel in the style of Saint Francis of Assisi, engage in daily contemplative prayer, and actively go out into the margins of society to spread peace, love, and joy.



During his time with the Capuchins, Arnold was involved with Prison Ministry, Youth Retreats, Digital Marketing and other charitable endeavors. Now, he believes he can help CARITAS make a tremendous impact on the world through the sponsorship of children, seminarians, Nuns, and funding operations in impoverished countries. We are proud to welcome him, and can't wait to see the impact of his work on our ministry.

The President's Profession

by Arnold Lezcano

After a 5-year period of both discernment and formation, the Franciscan Family welcomed Christopher T. Hoar ("Chris") into the Franciscan Third Order, on October 19th, 2019. The Third Order (Secular) Franciscans are a community of over 350,000 clergy and laity with contemplative hearts that pursue justice, peace, and the loving care of creation. Through his profession, Chris has decided to grow further in the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi, who recognized that lay men and women were still drawn to serve God with deeply committed hearts and lives.



Even 800 years after his death, many have chosen to follow the way of Saint Francis because he so closely mirrored the love of Christ and the living Gospel. Others have chosen to follow him because of his sincere love for the poor and the marginalized. What many forget is that Francis, like Jesus, zealously faced some of the toughest questions of his day, such as, "How should one lovingly respond to the easily forgotten, marginalized, and disadvantaged people in the world?"

For over two decades, Chris has actively grappled with this issue, and has engineered a brilliant method to confront this growing challenge. In the United States, he owns a for profit business that serves the transportation needs of commercial, non-profit, and religious organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada. This business, **Fleet Services, Inc.**, has provided him with the opportunity to create and acquire funding--along with the support of our selfless donors and sponsors--for a very "Franciscan" nonprofit organization, namely, CARITAS For Children, Inc.

What makes CARITAS different than other child sponsorship programs is that their ministry services are made possible with the cooperation of Catholic Religious (i.e. Capuchin Franciscans) who are trusted to provide the on-location care and supplies to the children in need. This includes educational necessities, nutritious daily meals, clean water, counseling, religious instruction and more. Chris has also discerned a method to financially support the Catholic Religious men and women who are instrumental in the success of our programs. As of today, CARITAS helps sponsor children in Poland, Nigeria, Uganda, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and coming soon, Belize.

The Spotlight

Stories of children who were featured in our "Feature Friday" series but still need a sponsor. Could it be you?

Sign up to receive the weekly "Feature Friday" e-mails, which contain more stories of children in need of sponsorship, by [Clicking Here](#). Also find them on social media!

Kevin, 19

Kevin's otherwise happy upbringing was interrupted by the sudden death of her father in 2009, when she was 10 years old. Her mother and older brother, valiant and strong, family-oriented individuals, took over the responsibility of paying for her education and supporting her general health & welfare from that point on. Kevin was able to complete Primary & Secondary-level school with exemplary remarks, and blossomed from a helpless child into an upstanding, kind and optimistic individual.

Kevin now has the commendable goal of earning a Nursing degree. Her mother and brother, however, cannot continue to support her education throughout the collegiate level. This is where CARITAS (and YOU!) will find an opportunity.

The opportunity we refer to is not simply to put a child through school. By agreeing to become Kevin's sponsor, you will also contribute to her health-care, general welfare, and spiritual development. She will be at a Catholic University, surrounded by intellectual, devout faculty members who have made it their life mission to create paths to success for those who were never given the road map. For you, she will be a God-Daughter with lifelong love and appreciation.

Kevin is in need. Her entire country is in need, and she has a mind and heart to help. Now it's your turn. To become Kevin's sponsor, [Click Here](#).



For we are not truly alive when we are separated from those that need us.