



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020



April 28, 2020

BECA familia,

In January, I spent five days in Honduran classrooms and communities with teachers and students seeking the best from each other, cinco días in the warm embrace of dusty roads and friendships that endure across time, borders, and struggles. I was of course visiting BECA schools.

After almost a week in Honduras being embraced by old friends and new, I traveled *al norte* to my family with the knowledge that yet another caravan left Honduras for places north that weekend while my journey took mere hours. Many of those who set out on that dangerous trek will never arrive at their intended destination and none of them travelled with the comfort of knowing how their journey would end. Put yourself in their shoes for a moment – you have been trying to find a job for years, your children are hungry. Their reasons are both infinite and finite – all packed into the suitcases of “survival” and “love.” Those who brave such a terrifying journey north are not seeking excess. What they need does not threaten what so many of us have and yet they must risk so much and leave everything behind with the odds stacked against their arrival.



Before I leave you in despair, join me in hope - in the classrooms and communities of BECA's partner schools – San Jeronimo Bilingual School, Santa Mónica Bilingual School, and Amigos de Jesús Bilingual School – new possibilities blossom every day: striving and high expectations, success and courage, love and connection – Hondurans (including 8 graduates of our schools now serving as teachers) work alongside Brazilians, Norwegians, Belgians, Irish, Kenyans, Germans, and people from the United States - all learning from each other lessons that hard work and trust alone can teach us.

Almost 19 years after I originally arrived in Cofradia, Honduras, so much has changed but those things that matter most to BECA's mission remain beautifully intact. Thanks to BECA team member Bruna Gomes for summing it all up so well with this quote that she wrote on my schedule for the last day of my January visit:

No one educates nor frees anyone; men and women educate and free themselves in communion, mediated by the world.

- Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

BECA is publishing this annual report at a moment in which the world is under quarantine. Honduran schools - like schools around the world - are closed. While our school buildings are shuttered, learning and relationship-building work have not stopped. Despite the economic, social and political challenges that Honduras is contending with, the work that BECA and our partners have invested in building our collaboration is proving to be fertile soil. While our students and families face incredible challenges even just figuring out how to connect to internet from home, they are moving virtual mountains in order to connect with teachers and each other every day - to support each other as Honduras braces for not only the health challenges but also the further economic upheaval COVID-19 is already bringing.

Our community partners are leaning into us and we are leaning into them (in this moment and always) as together we build the future by educating critical thinkers committed to justice, equity, and a quality education for all. **We will all need each other more than ever not just while we are sheltering in place - but when the world reopens - since the remittances and informal work that so many of our families rely upon are already drying up and our communities are facing a crisis.**

We are so grateful for all of the ways in which you support BECA as we work in communion with our Honduran partners to offer a high-quality, low-to-no-cost bilingual education that is changing lives every day. We hope this report inspires you to connect with us. Stay tuned for a BECA website refresh launch, our revitalized newsletter, and opportunities for BECA CommUnity building zoom calls in the weeks and months ahead.

Together | Juntos,

Jaime T. Koppel
BECA Board Chair

OUR MISSION

BECA exists to provide quality, affordable bilingual education to the educationally disenfranchised while fostering meaningful cultural exchange.

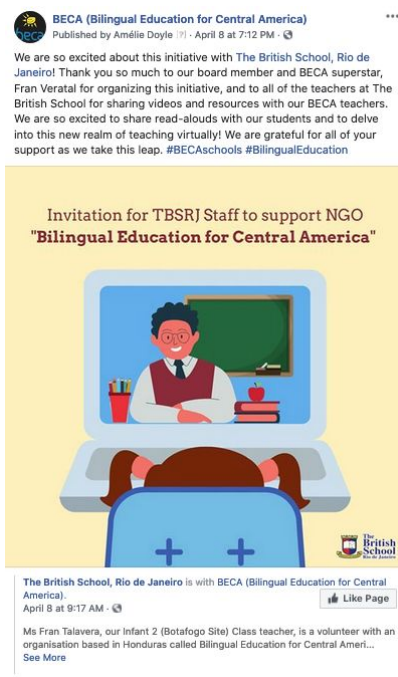
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Our Schools - Year In Review

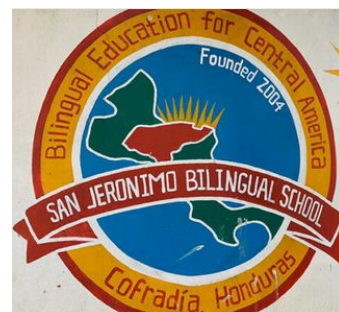
Although our students and teachers could not end our year in the classroom because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that Honduras is under a “stay at home” order, we are extremely proud of our transition to online learning. With the support of our partners, friends like The British School at Rio de Janeiro, our alumni, and each other -- BECA has compiled an online resource library for our teachers, students, and families. Teachers are sharing instructional resources with families on Whatsapp, hosting Zoom calls for students and families, and communicating constantly to ensure that the joy of learning and loving relationships continue. These unprecedented times have brought us even closer as we innovate and dream a new educational path into being.



In 2019-20 BECA is serving & learning from **671 students** and **their families** across **30 classrooms** in **three schools**

San Jeronimo Bilingual School

SJBS was BECA's first community partner school (opened 3 years after BECA began working in Honduras) and is located in Cofradia, about 30 minutes from San Pedro Sula. SJBS goes from preschool to 9th grade. BECA does not own and operate SJBS. The school is governed by the democratically elected Association of Honduran parents (ASPAPRO), a Honduran nonprofit organization. Together, we are shaping the future.



2019-20 was a year of growth, strength, unity building, and multicultural collaboration at SJBS - as evidenced by our strong relationships with ASPAPRO, students and families, and all school staff. Together we moved mountains to provide a positive learning and teaching environment.

The SJBS team includes five nationalities and one common spirit of commitment and passion for teaching. From Summer Institute to now, the team developed so much as teachers, professionals, and individuals. Honduran team members made all the difference - modeling for us all the kind of classroom perspective that comes with experience and maturity.

Our students' desire to learn made our classrooms very interactive and fun. From anywhere in the school you could hear 2nd Grade Teacher Kristoffer Holgerson's excitement as he greeted his students with "Good morning, champions!" every day before singing "We Are The Champions". Down the hall Victor Reyes and Karen Michelle Ruiz,

previous and current 3rd Grade Teachers, enjoyed Morning Meetings with their students exuberantly chanting the days of the week.

Across our campus Viviana Enamorado, Prepa and Kinder Teacher, was always creating new lessons and games for her kinder and prepa students. Karen Erazo, returner 7th, 8th, and 9th Grade ELA Teacher, was our journaling, literature circles and Reading Buddies expert - ensuring her students read with our lower school students once a week to improve reading skills and comprehension.

We Are All Students

We are grateful for this year's many training sessions that enhanced our leadership and pedagogical skills. We attended Trauma Awareness training at Amigos de Jesus on how to



be more aware of and responsive to trauma indicators. We also received additional trauma training from BECA alumnae Leah Beachley and Alyssa Baumgarten.

We went to the Teachers Teaching Teachers Conference (T3 Conference) at Escuela Internacional Sampedrana alongside many other bilingual schools from across Honduras. Lastly, the incredible help and training from our friends Christina Morado and Eva Mazier from Oyster Adams Bilingual School gave us great insight on curricula, lesson planning, and student engagement.

Classroom Resources

We also took initiative to upgrade our classrooms. Jaira Figueroa, 1st Grade teacher, organized a fundraiser to supply new desks. She also donated a television for the 1st Grade classroom. Matthew McCormack, 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade ELA teacher, organized a fundraiser with his friends and family to provide new online resources, school supplies and televisions for 4th, 5th and 6th Grade classrooms.

Halfway through the year we welcomed Max Smecz, our incredible Resource Teacher. His organization and passion allowed us to revamp our resource program. He redesigned resource teacher materials for future resource teachers. He also spearheaded Reading A-Z testing for all lower school students, allowing our teachers to better level their learning.

Events & Extracurriculars

We held many events for the SJBS community like our Christmas Dinner and a Valentine's Day celebration. Matthew McCormack organized a *Jornada de Amor* (Journey of Love) - a silent march to show respect, strength, and support for those who are sick around the world. Students made cards to be delivered to hospitals in San Pedro Sula. As we marched in silence around the school and heard testimonials, students expressed immense compassion for those fighting illness.

Luis Simas organized a soccer match against Amigos de Jesus Bilingual School. The students loved training together. The friendly competition helped build connections among students. By the end of the day students had formed new friendships.

Students had fun afterschool too. Every teacher helped spearhead an engaging club or extracurricular. We hosted Homework Club, Music and Dance Club, Soccer Club, and Photography Club.

None of this would have been possible without our students' families. Their dedication and love create a warm atmosphere that helps SJBS shine even brighter and makes our work possible. As the year is coming to an end we have much to smile and dream about TOGETHER.

Amigos de Jesús Bilingual School

ADJBS, BECA's third partner school officially opened in August 2013. In 2020-2021, we will celebrate our first ninth grade graduation after adding a grade each year since the school opened. One of the many beautiful realities of this partnership is that the school (located at the ADJ children's home) not only serves most of the home's 140 children, it is also open for children from neighboring towns. Every day the children from the home and neighboring communities are breaking down barriers and building their collective future together with the guidance and support of their teachers.



The ADJBS team had an outstanding year. With teammates hailing from the U.S., Kenya, and Honduras, we worked hard to design fun and exciting lessons to reach all of the learners in our classrooms, while simultaneously creating connections that will endure.

The BECA team benefited tremendously from the opportunity to work closely with our Honduran Spanish-language teammates who have been working at ADJ for many years -- an

important part of ensuring consistency for our students and building authentic multicultural collaboration.

A big part of our success can be tied to our frequent grade-level team meetings. This forum created space for us to discuss issues when they arose. Discussions about classroom management, student success, and everything in between sparked collaboration between the English-language and Spanish-language teachers. These friendships were not limited to the classroom or school campus. The entire teaching team could be found laughing and conversing together in the Sala de Maestros (Teacher's Lounge) during free periods, or enjoying a smoothie together in Azacualpa after a long week of teaching. We had frequent convivencias (socials) where we bonded over food and fun games. Occasionally we also played fútbol together against the hogar's madrinas and padrinos.



Events & Extracurriculars

The team planned and executed a variety of school wide events to motivate and inspire our students. In January, we hosted the first school spelling bee. Students showed off their English language spelling by participating in spelling bee eliminations and literacy activities in classrooms. The day finished with the final rounds in front of the entire school. In February we organized the Math Olympics. The entire teaching team worked together to plan and engage in exciting math activities including math BINGO, Jeopardy, Twister, and circuits. Watching students work together to win competitions and tell teachers how much they loved math was a beautiful sight and validated all of the hard work that went into the planning.

March brought warmer weather, the close of the third marking period, and the science fair. Classes from each grade were divided in half to conduct science experiments in English and Spanish. On the day of the science fair, judges scored each presentation. Miss Olivia's 4th Grade group was the lower school English language winner. They constructed solar ovens and tested what combination of materials produced the most effective oven. Miss Sinead's 8th grade group won the English-language upper school

prize. They studied the effects of exercise on memory. The entire ADJBS learning community was so proud of the students and their curious, scientific minds.

This year, the team also worked to implement a reading buddies program. Each grade was matched with another grad. During reading buddy time, students read books or played vocabulary games with their buddy, creating enjoyable opportunities for mutual learning.

The 2019-20 year at ADJBS was nothing short of spectacular. Teachers showed astounding commitment to their students' learning, to our collaboration with ADJ, and to BECA's mission.



Together we proved that there is no limit to what can be achieved when teachers work together and support each other as a community that prioritizes the success and well-being of each and every student and staff member in the school.

Since BECA began working in Honduras in September 2001, we have provided more than **one million hours** of instruction!

Santa Monica Bilingual School

Santa Monica Bilingual School (SMBS) is located in Vida Nueva - which means “new life.” The town of Vida Nueva represents just that for its residents. Vida Nueva was established in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch for people who were displaced by the storm. SMBS is a school founded through the herculean efforts of the Sisters of San Agustin and the community. Santa Monica Bilingual School represents another beautiful stage of rebirth for a community formed through adversity and BECA is proud to have collaborated with SMBS since 2011.



The 2019-20 SMBS team includes Hondurans, Brazilians, and North Americans and collectively has so much to celebrate. Co-planning and collaboration allowed us to create a well-rounded, positive education experience for students by bridging content and themes across classes taught in Spanish and English.

In Our Classrooms

Exciting science experiments, vocabulary and math games, reading buddies, and completing chapter books were just some of our daily activities. As a second-year teacher, Miss Nely celebrated her students' progress from Prepa to 1st grade - noting how impressed she is by their ability to lead Morning Meeting independently. Miss Susan's 2nd graders worked with 6th graders on reading in English and crafting their own mini books. Miss Sol's 3rd graders created incredible artwork while 6th grade teacher Miss Erin's students “cooked” some food in their homemade pizza box ovens -- a science lesson on heat transfer. Miss Katie's 9th graders engaged in serious group discussions in English

class on the book *Sold* by Patricia McCormick, which chronicled the heavy subject of human trafficking through the eyes of a girl from Nepal.



Events & Extracurriculars

Our teachers worked hard to organize extracurriculars. The clubs were fun and introduced students to other cultures. Our Administrator, Miss Bruna from Brazil, held Capoeira Club where students participated in the Afro-Brazilian martial arts combining elements of dance, acrobatics, and traditional music. Miss Erin organized Ballet Club. Miss Nely hosted Art Club and let's not forget to **add** Mr. Ricardo's Math Club. Mr. Moises rounded out the

activities with Fútbol Club. He not only coached but also happily joined in on the games.

The team also hosted academic clubs for students needing enrichment. In the Homework Club, students could work 1-on-1 with a teacher.

Connecting Across Border & Language

BECA Program Manager and 8th/9th Grade English Language Arts teacher, Katie McClave



piloted a language exchange program in partnership with Parlamerica (a U.S.-based nonprofit) and Woodinville High School in Washington State. 9th graders participated in weekly video calls with the advanced Spanish class at Woodinville. Students chatted via google hangouts each week. Half of the call was dedicated to practicing English, and the other half to Spanish. The calls were a beautiful example of not only language exchange but cultural exchange as well. Each week, the students' conversations focused on a different topic - holiday traditions, politics, schooling and everything in between. One of the most valuable things about this initiative was the opportunity to talk about their differences in ways that highlighted how similar they are.

It has been beautiful to see the seeds of friendship planted between students and our schools. We are discussing what the program might look like in the future. Many thanks to Katie, teachers at Woodinville High School, and to Marcia Pantic and board members at Parlamerica for their inspiration!

SMBS Graduates First 9th Grade Class

In June 2019, SMBS graduated its first class of 9th graders - a huge moment in Santa Monica's history. 90% of students have continued their studies in high school, with a majority enrolling in bilingual schools. Most students are receiving scholarships to continue their studies thanks to the BECA Bachillerato Program and scholarships from Pro Honduras.

The Padrinos Program Got a Refresh

We are so grateful to our partners Amigos de Jesus. In addition to our collaboration around ADJBS, they graciously connect BECA and SMBS with generous sponsorship support (padrinos) that allows us to ensure a SMBS education is available to the children of Vida Nueva. The program has been well-established for a number of years now and was revamped this year to better serve both students and padrinos. We are hugely grateful to the three teachers who managed the refresh. In particular, Ms. Susan put an incredible amount of time and care into guiding her students through the letter writing process and ensuring that each update to the padrinos was sent with love.

Hiring Our Graduates

Since our earliest days in Honduras, BECA and our communities have dreamed of the day when our students would return to their classrooms as teachers - the ultimate indicator that our mission is embedded in the work that we do encouraging critical thinking and change making. That day has arrived!



BECA's Honduran bilingual teachers are not only role models for their students, they are social change agents as well as cultural ambassadors for BECA's international volunteers.

They represent the evolving face of high quality bilingual education in Honduras. Their daily work as teachers and leaders actively contributes to our commitment to championing linguistic diversity and “englishes” from around the world. Our Honduran bilingual teachers represent what it truly means to be bilingual. Watching them flourish and grow as teachers and leaders at BECA and in their communities is like watching a seed you have watered with love and care blossom into a flower more beautiful than you could have even imagined.



BECA Bachillerato Program

The BECA Bachillerato Program (BBP) Scholarship, created by BECA alumnae Hilary Hammell and Bridget Kelly, is awarded each year to an outstanding graduating student. The scholarship provides the student with the means to earn a diploma from a bilingual high school - an extremely valuable commodity in Honduras. In 2019-2020, we were proud to support three BBP recipients.

The BBP is an extension of BECA's overall model of increasing access to education for all members of the community. The BBP

My favorite class is physics. Physics is a very complicated subject considering that knowledge and reasoning are used at the same time. I'm not that good at it, so that's why it's my favorite. Not understanding or not being the best helps me to challenge myself and to go beyond what I am capable of.

Grasibel Nicolle Cruz Ayala
SJBS Class of 2018
Sacred Heart Class of 2020

My favorite thing about school is when they let us work alone; I like that feeling that I get when I have been doing something wrong and then all of a sudden I get it. My future goals are not ones like "be the best in something and have a lot of money" or "go to university." My goals are way more than that. It doesn't matter to me if "I have a lot of money". I just don't want to improve in a professional way but in humanity too.

Daniela Quintanilla
SJBS Class of 2019
Kiddy Kat Class of 2021

takes into account not only financial need but also academic achievement and motivation. We hope to inspire all of our students to strive for academic excellence.

Bilingual Hondurans are virtually guaranteed jobs that pay twice as much as their non-English speaking counterparts, if not more. With this scholarship, students who may not have the financial means to continue their education are able to obtain a degree (equivalent to a college degree in the United States).

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have an 85 average or above in their core subjects of Math, Science, English, Global Studies, Spanish, Civics, and Social Studies. They must also complete an application process that includes essays, a parent application, and teacher recommendations. The scholarship covers

full matriculation and tuition at a bilingual school of the student's choice for the duration of that particular program of study (some programs are two years and others are three years).

Recipients are selected by an impartial committee. We are grateful to the members of the scholarship selection committees who devote their time to not only reviewing all student applications but to providing thoughtful feedback and input to students as a part of their review.

My favorite class is Elementary Physics because in this class we need to analyze the problems to know what formula we have to use to solve it. When I graduate from CBS and the BBP, I will enjoy studying at the university to be a teacher. I see myself teaching middle school and eventually being a director of a school.

Juan Manuel Santos Valladares

SMBS Class of 2019

CBS Class of 2021

#ACHIEVE #BBP

SMBS BBP Scholarship Selection Committee:

Carlos Martin Cabrera

Luke Bishop

Lourdes Davila

Lucia Donatelli

Eric Tomala

SJBS BBP Scholarship Selection Committee:

Pamela Ayuso

Humberto Barreto

Bridget A. Bunten



BECA's Mission In Action

From the Desk of Our In-Country Director:

This year BECA was all about celebrating diversity and multicultural collaboration within and across schools and communities. With a volunteer team composed of multiple nationalities from North & Central America, Europe and Africa we were able to learn from each other in more ways than one.



Jose's *Culture in Context* sessions on socio-economic complexities and human rights violations associated with the Lenca community of Honduras was eye opening to many of us and led to some fruitful discussions about power and privilege in Honduras and around the world. In particular, Jose emphasized the work of a national hero and activist: Berta Cáceres and her grassroots campaign which rallied the indigenous Lenca people of Honduras in fighting for their rights for land, language and culture. Learning about the tragic and suspicious circumstance that surrounded Berta's death allowed us to learn first-hand about the adverse effect and consequences that an institutionally weak justice system can have on a country's ability to develop democratically.

Our fruitful discussions over team dinners allowed the international members of BECA's community to realize that albeit all our good intentions - our presence in Honduras is reflective of a power dynamic several hundred years in the making that should never be forgotten. These conversations allowed us to delve into our roles and responsibilities as educators in Honduras and lean into our Honduran team members in building common values we want to see championed in our classrooms.

Our phenomenal summer training led by the wonderful Lara Bryfonski coupled with the visit by Christina Morado and Eva Mazier from Oyster Adams Bilingual School in January only further solidified our belief that our work needs to be grounded in our core values of providing high quality bilingual education within a multi-collaborative context. Learning new ways to bridge content across subject areas using a schoolwide thematic structure - was one of the many ways we learnt how to achieve greater results in literacy and numeracy within a bilingual school setting - a project we hope to take even further in future years.

Finally, this year would not have been possible without incredible and fearless leadership from our team members and Honduran staff at our partner schools. A special shout out to Miss Glenda who taught us that when the going gets tough we should not sit and wait for the storm to pass but learn to dance in the rain!

Amélie Doyle

BECA Alumni Spotlights

BECA is literally powered by love - as demonstrated by the many ways that our alumni and friends are the engine that makes our multicultural collaboration run. Below are just a few examples of their generosity and commitment.



Curricula Hero: In 2019, alumna Eva Pokorny, (2015-2018) who now teaches at San Pedro Sula-based Happy Days and Freedom School put the finishing touches on BECA's newly-revamped science curriculum. Building from the lower school curriculum content, Eva designed exciting content for 6th-9th grade. Eva's effort will ensure a purpose-built and inspiring science curriculum through our whole school experience! Mil gracias Eva!



Leading With Heart: From her years as a volunteer, through her outstanding service as Director of Program Development (DPD), Erin Rudegeair has lived her commitment to BECA's mission through every action. As DPD, she modeled the importance of relationship-building, created new data tracking approaches to help us consider the changing face of volunteer recruitment, constantly sought out creative solutions to thorny problems, & operated with humility/grace. Erin placed the well-being & experience of each student, family & teacher at the forefront as she steered us towards true north.



Cruise (ahem, Summer Camp) Director Extraordinaire: BECA's Summer Camp is a fun mix of literacy, arts, & PE for BECA's students & a great way for volunteers to experience BECA. Many summer camp volunteers ultimately join BECA as full-year teachers. Under the phenomenal leadership of alumnus, Nemanja Demic, summer camp planning is a full team affair & the in-country experience kicks off with a 4-day orientation. The team works on service projects, reflections, and team-bonding activities each afternoon. Thank you, Nemanja!



Marketing and Communications Guru: We are so grateful to Cody Hays for his incredible contribution of communications and marketing support. Cody has developed a brand book to ensure that our volunteer-powered organization has a crisp, consistent social media presence. He is currently finishing up a massive overhaul of our website - featuring beautiful photos he took while visiting Honduras.



High School Scholarship Champion: After adding a grade each year since the school opened, SMBS celebrated its first class of 9th grade graduates in June 2019. Vida Nueva does not have a high school and so BECA alumna Leah Beachley (2012/15) led a campaign to support SMBS graduates, including a [BECA Bachillerato Program](#) scholarship for a graduate to study at a school of her choosing (and transport for any SMBS graduate to neighboring Cofradia each day, where there are high school options). Special thanks to alumni Lauren Graff, Ryan Hebel, and board member Adam Wozniak who supported this project in 2019 and to Katie McClave, Miss Glenda, and Hermana Martina!

The “Who Needs a Summer Vacation” Crew: Much gratitude to BECA’s summer trainers: Fran Talavera, Ryan Hebel, Eva Pokorny, Meghan McArdle, and amazing BECA mom and Math wizard, Cheryl Wozniak. Thanks also to our alumni who returned to serve as Academy Mentors: Stephanie Fore, Nemanja Demic, Jocelyn Foshay, Meghan McArdle, Katie McClave, Amelie Doyle, Amelia Sierra.

Volunteer Interview Committee: Led by Dawn Bowes (2012/2013) and previously by Sarah Stanton, this committee consists of devoted alumni and current team members:

Andrew Scanlan, Adam Wozniak, Bruna Gomes, Erin McClintock, Hattie Everroad, Kristoffer Holgersen, Lena Novak, Matt McCormack, Nemanja Demic, Orlando Padilla, Patrick Holland, Pierina Camilo, Samira Vachani, Sondra Cooper, Sophia Bahlkow, Victor Reyes.

This group is the first “face” of BECA and provides much needed support in moving our candidates from the first intro call highlighting BECA’s history and accomplishments through the third interview and review of applicants’ sample lesson plan. As a people-powered organization, alumni interviewers are crucial to ensuring BECA is a good fit for a prospective volunteer and vice versa, Our volunteer committee has gone above and beyond in generously sharing their #BECAlove, challenges, and experience to this crucial work. We are profoundly grateful to them.





Summer Institute '12 (Lara is in bottom row, 3rd from right)

Summer Institute Super Maestra: BECA alumna Dr. Lara Bryfonski (2012-14) has devoted so much time and energy into training BECA's teaching teams over the last **seven** years.

2019 was a very exciting year for Lara - not only was it her lucky seventh BECA summer training but it was also the year she got her PhD, married her #BECAlove, Andrew Scanlan 2012-14, and was offered an Assistant Professorship in the Linguistics Department at Georgetown University! Felicidades, Dr. Bryfonski!

A Reflection from **Lara Bryfonski (BECA 2012-2014, Summer Institute Lead Trainer):**

This past summer marked my 7th year supporting BECA's Summer Institute for new volunteer teachers. The Summer Institute is designed to equip our volunteers with the skills, knowledge and cultural understanding necessary to serve as BECA classroom teachers. Volunteers have the opportunity to attend training sessions on a range of topics relevant to their future classrooms, such as: "Incorporating Literacy through Content," "Planning a Differentiated Lesson" and "Supporting Bilingual Development." Teachers then test out their lesson plans and classroom management skills with classes of students in our training Academy, which for the past two summers was held in partnership with the students and administration at Amigos de Jesus. Each year I am impressed with the dedication, perseverance and energy our teachers and trainers dedicate to this intense 6-week training program. Supporting our training team and new volunteers each year is just one small way I stay connected and give back to an organization and community that has had such a profound and positive impact on my life.



Summer Spotlight

Summer with BECA is a spotlight unto itself. BECA alumni from around the world return to Honduras to help train the team - all while summer camp provides a safe and supportive environment for students. The summer itself represents only a tiny fraction of the work - year round virtual planning sessions convened by volunteers like alumna and BECA Board Member Fran Talavera ensure the training is relevant and aligned with our curricula resources - setting the stage for year long mentoring to ensure each team member is supported in doing their very best in their work with students and families.

#observed

The summer training provided by BECA was by far the best teacher training I have ever received. My favorite thing about the 6 weeks of training was hands down the people leading it -- past BECA volunteers. It was amazing to listen to stories about their years in the classroom and learn from them as they explained and modeled numerous teaching strategies to target all types of learners that would be in our classroom. Rooted deeply in current language apprehension theory and research, summer institute is a challenging but extremely rewarding few weeks that are full of opportunities for growth. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in ESL education, but I honestly could not imagine surviving my first year of teaching without those 6 weeks of training and the people that led it.

Megan Devin

1st & 2nd grade teacher

Amigos de Jesus Bilingual School 2019-20

Summer Institute & Academy are essential preparation for our teachers. And, our team consistently indicates how crucial ongoing professional development is as they settle into classrooms and put their Summer learning into practice. We know the best teachers are those who are given regular opportunities to be students of good education practices.

BECA volunteers set a very high bar for themselves to be the best teachers they can be. During the evenings and weekends, our team members spend countless hours researching, planning for future classes, creating more engaging and dynamic lesson plans, pushing themselves on ways to excel as an educator, and getting to know their students, families, and the realities of life in Honduras. At the core of our professional development work, BECA focuses on tapping into the strengths and talents of each volunteer so that they can grow as an educator and as a global citizen - a leadership pipeline to a world we believe is possible.

#overheard

As a full time teacher during the year, this break was exactly what I needed! The community was so welcoming and it was really neat to be able to go on home visits and get totally immersed in the culture! The weekend excursions were great for relaxing, team building, and seeing more parts of Honduras. I am so grateful for the team that I got to work with, the students that I got to teach, and the love that I felt from the community.

Liza Beardsley

BECA Summer Camp Counselor 2019

Fundraising & Friendraising Events

Every year, BECA alumni, family and friends host friend raisers, fundraisers and educational events that ensure we are bringing BECA's mission to life for people around the world. Below is a sampling of 2019 events. Thanks too to alumni and current team members from Boston and Baltimore to Norway and many places in between who also generously hosted events!

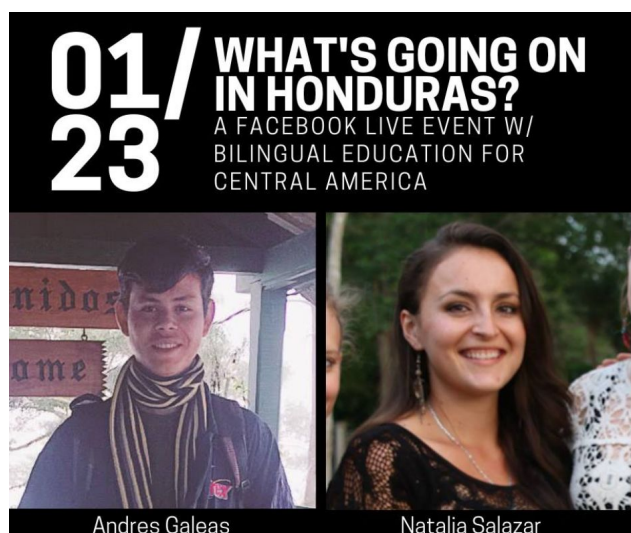
Facebook Live event

As 2019 began, immigration, border walls, and migrant caravans were words frequently seen in newspaper headlines. The stories of Honduras and Hondurans that accompanied these headlines were very one-dimensional.

On January 23rd, 2019, BECA hosted a Facebook Live event "What's Going on in Honduras?" BECA's Director of Program Development Erin Rudegeair facilitated a discussion with guest speakers and BECA team members, Andres Galeas and Natalia Salazar.

We are so grateful to Erin, Andres, and Natalia for helping to paint a more complete picture of life in Honduras and our multicultural partnership with three amazing Honduran communities. We could not have asked for better representatives - Andres was not only in his third year of teaching with BECA at the time, he is also a BECA graduate. Natalia

volunteered with BECA from 2014 - 2016 and returned again in 2018-19 after working for several years as a Legal Assistant in Tucson, Arizona for the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project - supporting children and families arriving in the United States from Central America.



Where The Caravan Began: An Evening's Journey to Honduras

In April 2019, BECA hosted our annual Washington, DC fundraising and friendraising [event](#). Thank you so much to our Fireside Charla guest speakers - bilingual education expert, Sandra



Gutiérrez and immigrant justice expert, Flavia Jimenez and to our former CEO, Monique Turner-Lopez for moderating their discussion.

Thanks also to our generous sponsors, including One Eight Distilling and Three Stars Brewing Co., and to our silent auction donors.

Finally, a huge thanks to our alumni who brought their brilliance to the Voces de BECA panel discussion: Lara Bryfonski, Sarah Stanton, Jillian Shropshire, and Meghan McArdle. And, a festive thanks to Ricardo Loaiza of The After School Dance Fund who made sure we all left dancing by getting everyone on the dance floor for salsa and bachata lessons.

New Mexico Event

Each year at the holidays, BECA's dear friend and long-time supporter, Blanca Surgeon, invites around 100 friends and family to her beautiful home nestled in the hills of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Awaiting her guests is a feast of traditional Honduran dishes, lovingly prepared by Blanca's mother, sisters and nieces. All in attendance learn about the beauty of Honduras, as well as the challenges its people face through stories shared by those who understand best, Blanca and her Honduran family, while BECA's mission and latest efforts are discussed by BECA Board Member, Michael Buttram. Estamos agradecidas, Blanca y familia!

The 2019-2020 Team

In addition to the many brilliant people highlighted in these pages for all of their incredible contributions of time, energy, and love - we offer gratitude to the on-the-ground multicultural teams at each of our partner schools who are leaning into bringing our mission and vision to life every day

San Jeronimo Bilingual School

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Christian David Andino Andino
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Amigos de Jesus Bilingual School

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BECA Board & In-Country Staff

Amélie Doyle, In-Country Director
Adam Wozniak, Treasurer
Fran Talavera, Secretary
Jaime Tackett Koppel, Chair
Michael Buttram, member

Our Community Partners

SJBS: Nestor Colindres & the ASPAPRO board
SMBS: Hermana Martina Moncadas and the Sisters of St. Agustin
ADJ: Amy & Wilson Escoto and the Amigos de Jesús team

Former BECA Staff

Erin Rudegeair
Monique Turner-Lopez
Staci Bruce

BECA's Donor Honor Roll

We Saved the Best for Last. We literally could not do what we do without you. You are the foundation upon which BECA's financially scrappy, incredible people-powered efforts are built. Gracias!

In 2019 **263 donors** made gifts to BECA ranging in size from \$5 to \$25,000. 44% of donations were less than \$100 (and 86% of donations were less than \$500) proving that every little bit truly does help! In 2019, 31 donors made monthly sustainer



commitments ranging from \$10 - \$750. In this moment, we are reenergizing our sustainer campaign with a new name and new energy - our monthly sustainers program is now known as the BECA Believers program (bit.ly/BECAbeliever). We hope you'll consider this way of giving (which helps BECA have a better sense of financial resources we can rely upon).

Note that we are publishing this report on April 28, 2020 so that it may help you - our donor community - help us fundraise during the COVID-19 crisis in which the world finds itself - a financial crisis that is already dire for our Honduran families and friends.

We will update this version with our 2019 final financials in May 2020. Our bottom line is very simple - we put every penny you provide to full use. For an annual cost of less than \$300 per student or approximately \$6,500 per classroom, together we are providing a game-changing education for 671 students across 30 BECA classrooms. Our graduates are going on to high school and college; they are succeeding as engineers, doctors, business owners, and teachers (in the same classrooms they studied in as students). To weather the storm ahead, we need your support now more than ever. We thank you for always being there with us and ask that you stay with us now and in the future.

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