



We are @BECAschools

In the last several years, a number of BECA's intrepid & devoted team members have added "social media storyteller" to their long list of labors of love on behalf of their students, families, team members, communities, and BECA's mission.

Throughout this year's annual report, we celebrate their hard work with snapshots of their instagram and facebook sharing. Enjoy all that they have so thoughtfully curated. Their storytelling offers a beautiful window into our classrooms and communities, and also highlights important news and other information about the country we all love - Honduras - her challenges and éxitos (successes).

Please follow us!



becaschools · Following



becaschools The school year is coming to an end! So we asked our students at SJBS and SMBS to make an end-of-school-year memory book. They used a combination of pictures, writing, and drawings to show their memories of this school year and also about their expectations and goals for next year.



Check out some of their amazing work!

14w

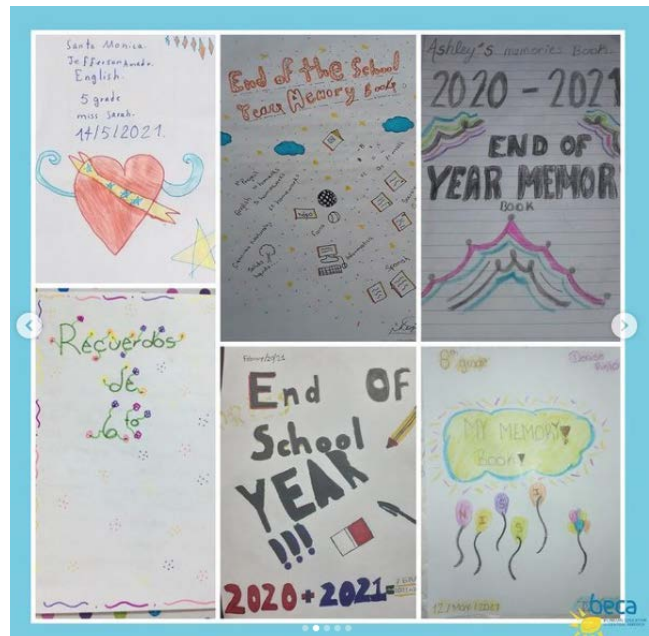
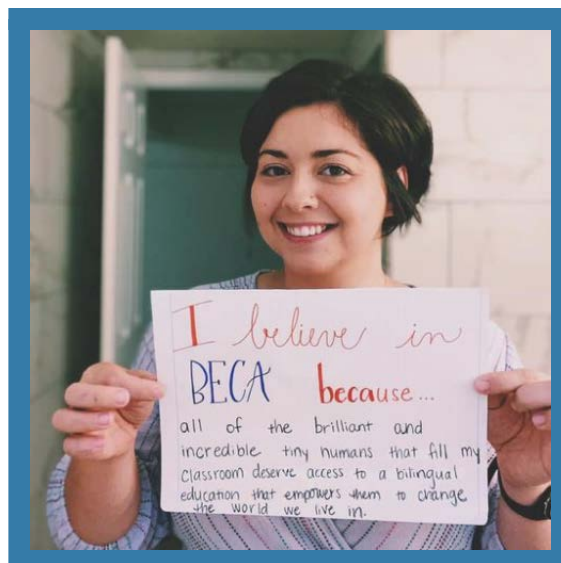


Table of Contents

From The Desk of Our In-Country Director	4
Our Schools - Year In Review	6
In Memory of Cristian Cubas	15
Honduran Bilingual Team Members	16
BECA Bachillerato Program	17
Culture in Context	19
Libros Y Familias	20
Team Member Reflections	21
Alumni and Friend Spotlights	23
The 2020-2021 Team	27
BECA's Donor Honor Roll	28



From The Desk of Our In-Country Director

As I'm sitting at my desk reflecting on the school year, I received a message from Orlando, one of BECA's Honduran bilingual teachers telling me he got his second and final covid vaccine. *"What a relief, hope is in sight, perhaps all students and staff will be able to return to in-person classes soon"* I thought to myself. As I write this letter currently **only 30% of Hondurans are fully vaccinated against covid-19**, a shockingly low number when you compare it to the U.S. vaccination rate of 52.6% or rates in Western Europe where most countries are well over 50% vaccinated. Equally troubling but necessary is the reality that all schools in Honduras (including BECA schools) have been operating virtually since March 2020 and the Ministry of Education is continuing to require virtual-only instruction as we begin the 2021-22 school year.

It has now been a year and half since students and teachers swapped their desks for screens, their classrooms for their living rooms, and in-person time with teachers and friends for intermittent zoom contact. Covid-19 has not only impacted the world's health, it has changed the way we interact and communicate with one another. Who could have predicted that an embrace, a simple but significant gesture, would be considered so dangerous and contagious? In the 2020-2021 school year, the phrase "virtual hug" took on a whole new meaning for BECA's students, families, teachers and staff as we quite literally virtually hugged our way through the year.

In November 2020 in the midst of a global pandemic, the unimaginable happened, twice.

Honduras was hit by two category 4

hurricanes within the space of two weeks.

The hurricanes caused major damage to the country's infrastructure.

Those challenges, coupled with the pandemic, leave Honduras in a devastating position.

Power lines destroyed and bridges knocked out; and running water, electricity and wifi all even more scarce commodities. When the hurricanes struck, SJBS, SMBS and ADJBS were forced to put a pause on online teaching, as the country fought its way out of darkness. But our collaboration was not put on pause. A number of BECA families were directly and seriously impacted by this disaster and the generous donations from you; BECA alumni, family and friends helped provide the immediate relief and support necessary for families to rebuild their homes and livelihoods. Also, the support so many of you provided to the Community Care Fund that we launched in the aftermath of the storms allowed us to ensure our staff and partners had the technology needed to be in communication with their communities and our team members. To the many of you who stepped up yet again, we are eternally grateful.

When virtual classes were mandated by the Ministry of Education in March 2020, BECA and our partners dove head first into making virtual teaching and learning as successful as possible for both students and teachers alike.



Orientation, Summer Institute and Summer Academy were carried out entirely virtually. **Thanks to the incredible work of BECA alumni and friends Jocelyn Foshay, Nemanja Demic, Meghan McCardle, Ryan Hebel, Lara Bryfonski, Cheryl Wozniak, Fran Talavera, and Katie Buttram** - teachers were able to work through thoughtfully constructed online teaching preparation modules specific to our efforts before beginning the virtual school year. This online platform has served as a training tool for new arrivals, and a helpful refresher for teachers throughout the year who are looking to improve and reflect on their teaching practices. The resilience, creativity and leadership of BECA's teaching team and partners this school year was outstanding. I reflect in awe on everything that the team, our partners and the community went through and achieved.

BECA's 20-21 teaching team included individuals from Europe, the United States, Africa, Asia and Honduras. Having a robust multicultural team meant that every challenge was approached from multiple perspectives and included many voices from the community. BECA's Honduran team members played a pivotal role in ensuring that this year was carried out in a way that reflected the realities of the community we serve, and we are proud to have grounded all decisions and practices with them.

At the beginning of virtual learning, many families did not have access to a reliable internet connection, and most of BECA's students were attending zoom calls, and working on their google classroom assignment from their parents'/caregivers' phones. **Thanks to a generous donation from one of BECA's supporters, we were able to provide families in need with access to both a stable internet and tablets,** which made virtual learning much more effective for the last half of the year. Since this switch to virtual learning, our students and teachers have become much more comfortable with technology, a skill that will transcend beyond the walls of the classroom and into their future careers.

Overall, 2020-21 was filled with lots of challenges but we also found lots of opportunities to grow as an organization and team. We are hoping that in person classes will resume in February of 2022 so we can finally be in person together again. Until that day comes, we will do what we have always done, we will continue to put our best foot forward and provide the best possible education to the students at BECA schools.

Con mucho amor,

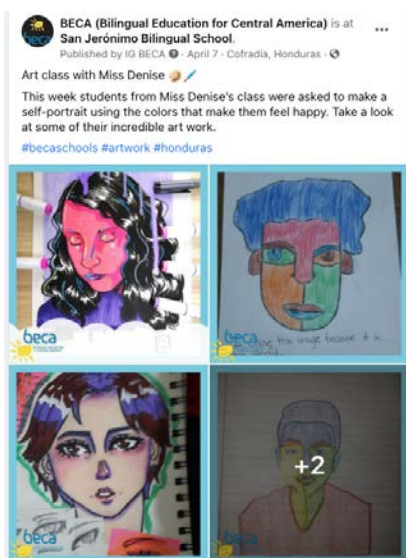
Amélie Doyle

Our Schools - Year In Review

In 2020-21 BECA served & learned from **700 students** and **their families** across **31 classes** at our **three partner schools**

There is no way around the fact that this year was incredibly challenging. While we will never forget the year that included Hurricanes Eta and Iota and the ongoing realities of a global pandemic - including the need for virtual learning - we will not define the year by these challenges but by the ways we came together to problem solve and support each other. We offer gratitude to the full multicultural teams at each of our partner schools who leaned into bringing our shared mission and vision to life every day. BECA's team continues to evolve and we welcome more Honduran bilingual team members each year. As who we are continues to grow and change, we are grateful to every member of the global BECA community for all of the ways in which we are constantly defining what it takes to effectively collaborate and build community within and across cultures.

On the next few pages, you'll hear more about each of our partner school's years in our team members' words.



San Jeronimo Bilingual School

SJBS is 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.

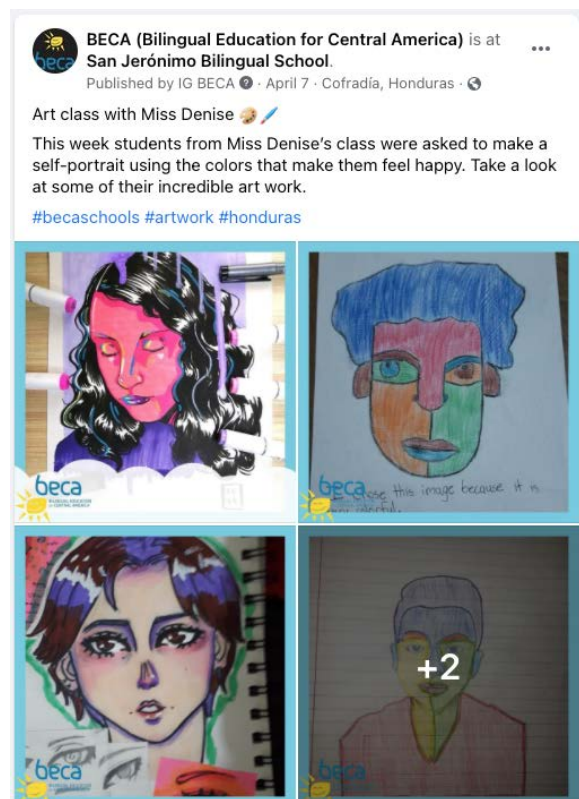


Our year in San Jeronimo was full of energy, frustration, wide-ranging emotions, opportunities to practice patience, and an incredible showing of effort by team members. In looking back, it is amazing to see how many challenges we surmounted! Together - staff, students, and families - we proved that we were more than able to do anything that we set our minds to accomplishing!

We started the year with the best attitude and were ready to accomplish all of our goals. Teachers were prepared to provide the best quality education.

Candidly, our initial dreams and planning stretched beyond the reality that many of our school community's families were living in - most especially in terms of access to technology for virtual learning. We were hoping to teach completely online in order to ensure students had as much time together with teachers as

possible. But, for many families at San Jeronimo - it was not possible to get online consistently. More than half of the school population was not able to afford a device or internet connection for every student. Covering content became more and more challenging as the weeks passed.

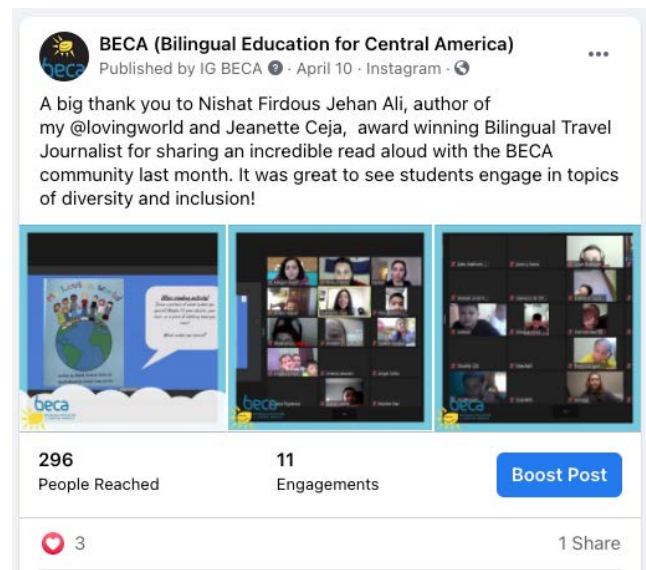


Nestor, the President of ASPAPRO, Mrs. Reyna, our school director, and Jaira Figueroa, BECA Program Administrator for SJBS, created a plan to ensure all students had access to high quality learning opportunities. We developed a special schedule divided by days and grades that worked really well. Teachers contacted students without devices or internet connections when they had free periods so that these students could not only study and work from home using study packs but had the opportunity to communicate with their teacher. We know that our efforts were even more important than ever since parents faced so many challenges navigating everyday life and often were faced with the need to leave children home alone or with a relative who was less well-positioned to support their child's participation and focus on online learning.

Every single teacher had their own way to teach and to gather their students' attention. It was so amazing to see how each person gave it their all - with our shared purpose of providing a quality bilingual education through collective, community efforts!

Every year we work hard to build a school culture of reading. In this virtual year, our families were able to come together virtually with the students and families of

BECA's other partner schools for a special literacy event, "My Loving World." During this Spanish/English author read aloud and community discussion, parents and students were encouraged to build community with each other.



We hosted a virtual graduation and despite our physical distance, we were able to share in the emotions of such a momentous occasion - celebrating with our ninth grade students and their families as they finished one chapter in life and nervously anticipated the next.

This past year taught us that if you are able to make your coworkers a family team you will conquer any obstacle. It was so satisfying to make plans and be able to make those plans happen with the help of a team that speaks so many different languages and brings so many different perspectives and experiences.

In the end, San Jeronimo's families received the quality education that they deserve and we all learned so much along the way. In addition to the human power that made this possible, our efforts were successful because of the tablets donated

for our families in need. It was incredibly moving to see our families crying when they received their devices - literally connecting them to a better education!

We ended the year exhausted but with a positive attitude.

Amigos de Jesús Bilingual School

ADJBS, BECA's third partner school officially opened in August 2013. In June 2021, we celebrated 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.



Like most people around the world, in particular teachers, this was a challenging year for BECA volunteers at Amigos de Jesus Bilingual School. The 2020-21 team was one of the most international BECA teams that ADJBS has seen, with volunteers from the UK, Ireland, United States, Kenya, Poland and Honduras. Welcoming and supporting such an incredibly diverse team was accompanied by careful Covid regulations. All volunteers quarantined before being

able to interact with the children who live at the children's home (hogar). Additionally, volunteers, staff, and students wore masks and maintained social distance while at the school. Our team members also remained on the property to limit the risk of infection and spread. Because ADJBS is located in a children's home, we were able to teach the children from the home in person while we taught those who live off-site virtually. This was a huge learning experience for

everyone involved! The team worked incredibly hard and did an excellent job at providing quality lessons in both realms. After trying various scheduling configurations, each student from the community received 15 Zoom calls per week; three for English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Spanish, two for Science and



Social Studies, and one for Computers and Physical Education.

These instructional sessions were coupled with independent work on Google Classroom. Simultaneously, the students from Amigos de Jesus children's home came to the school from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m every day to attend classes in person.

We also worked hard to maintain our regular school event calendar; organizing virtual spelling bees and a virtual Christmas concert, as well as fun activities and social calls for día del niño among others. A team of teachers delivered small gifts to students in the community for día del niño. For día de

día de la madre and día del padre, the teaching teams were treated to breakfast and lunch by the rest of the teachers - to honor their care for their students.



For the first time this year, we also welcomed ADJBS graduates, who graduated from the school's monolingual program and who had just finished high school, to help the BECA team. Miss Sonia worked with in-person Preparatoria classes and Mr Carlos and Mr Osman offered extra support to students in 2nd and 3rd grade and also covered classes when lower-grade teachers could not teach in-person. They were a great addition to the team and were keen and willing helpers.

The first BECA class at ADJBS was set to graduate in June 2021. When the year started, we were hopeful that by June, we would be able to see the class graduate together, a class that hadn't been able to see each other for more than a year! Of course, things were not back to normal by June and we had to come up with a plan. We got really creative and implemented a drive through graduation! The administration team did an amazing job and put everything together for what turned out to be a really special day.

This was unquestionably a very difficult year for BECA volunteers at ADJBS - not to mention for our students, families, and partners. In addition to trying to navigate teaching both virtually and in-person during a global pandemic, we were also faced with two hurricanes that hit Honduras in November.

To our entire team - congratulations and thank you for putting your entire hearts into your hard work and commitment to providing a quality education to the children that we serve.



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 2020-2021 school year was one to remember for SMBS. Planning for a completely virtual year was definitely challenging considering the socioeconomic realities of many of our students. Through a combination of Google Classroom and virtual Zoom classes, our teachers provided the best education that they could for our students.

Many families from Santa Mónica have more than one child in the school, but only one or two devices. Because of this hardship, scheduling virtual Zoom classes for the students was a bit of a challenge. Miss Glenda Garcia, School Director, and Miss Erin, BECA Administrator, collaborated constantly on scheduling with a shared priority of keeping things fair for all. This meant that if there was any overlap with Zoom classes for even one student, that class was rescheduled for a time that worked for all students.

What did classes look like?

Every week students logged into five or more Zoom calls with their teachers – one call per class and then optional calls to help further reinforce the themes they were learning about. Teachers also uploaded a week's worth of activities to the Google Classroom every Monday by 8:00am. Here, students had the ability to watch



personalized videos their teachers made for them, turn in homework, do projects, take quizzes, and ask their teacher questions if they

did not understand something. The Google Classroom platform was very useful because students had the ability to do their

assignments on their own time and turn everything in by midnight on Fridays.

Virtual Teaching Highlights from Each Grade

Each and every one of our BECA teachers did an amazing job at adapting to virtual learning. They got creative and made a unique and engaging experience for all students. Miss Katherine, our preschool teacher, is proud to say that her kiddos were speaking English for the first time with her as their guide. They mastered things like saying the alphabet and doing small addition problems. Our first-grade teacher, Miss Bessy, loved supporting her students to give their best work. She saw lots of improvement in their English abilities this year.



In second grade, Miss Susan watched her students enhance their pronunciation abilities through reading short stories. She also, along with a handful of other teachers, held optional conversation calls every week to give her second graders the opportunity to practice their English in smaller groups. Miss Sol, our third-grade teacher, was inspired by her students' abilities to create

water filters for a science project they completed on their own. She is so proud of them and all of their hard work. In fourth grade, Miss Jennifer was impressed with how much her students wanted to participate on Zoom calls. Their excitement to learn, even virtually, was contagious and she is thrilled to see them succeed in 5th grade. Miss Sarah, our fifth-grade teacher, had the wonderful idea for her students to create Memory Books of their school year as art projects. Students reflected on their favorite memories both school and non-school related. What a great way to commemorate this year! Mr. Antoine, our sixth-grade teacher, noticed that students were struggling with some of the math topics, so he decided to make personalized weekly math videos to give them as an extra resource. Miss Shelby, our seventh, eighth, and ninth grade ELA teacher, developed great relationships with her kids. Knowing that virtual learning is tough, she had weekly mental health check-ins on her Google Classroom to give her students a space to talk about how they were feeling. She also included her dog, Sam, on many of her Zoom calls, and the students loved it! Finally, Miss Alyson, our seventh-grade science and math and eighth and ninth grade science teacher, held movie Zoom calls every Friday for students who turned in all of their assignments that week. It was a great motivator for students to get their

work done as well as a cool opportunity for her to get to know them even better!

Things we did as a school

Día del Niño virtual Zoom Calls

Each teacher team organized fun calls where they would play games with the students to celebrate. They played things like bingo and jeopardy, had scavenger hunts where students found things around their houses, had arts and crafts, sang karaoke, listened to music, etc.

7th - 9th Grade Language Exchange Calls

This year we continued with bi-weekly language exchange program calls with the advanced Spanish students at Woodinville High School in Washington. With the help up SMBS Administrator, Miss Erin, 7-9th grade ELA teacher Miss Shelby, and 2nd grade teacher Miss Susan, 7-9th grade SMBS students connected with students in the states to talk about things such as cultural similarities and differences, traditions, food, politics, and hobbies just to name a few.

Padrino Letters

Students in first through fourth grades wrote two letters during the year to update their padrinos about their lives explaining things like what virtual learning was like, what they missed about in-person school, their likes/dislikes, etc.

Christmas

Students did different activities with each teacher. They made art and crafts to hang around their homes, sang Christmas songs, and made Christmas cards. Teachers made a video to send out to guardians and parents wishing them a Merry Christmas.

Mother's & Father's Days

Students created cards for their moms and dads and/or for a special woman/man/person in their lives. SMBS teachers made a video to send out to guardians and parents wishing them a happy Mother's/Father's Day.

Graduation

We hosted our graduation using a five by five approach. For most of our students and their families, this was their first opportunity to come together in person since the beginning of the pandemic.



In Memory of Cristian Cubas

A reflection by Erin McClintock



Unfortunately, this year brought tragedy to Santa Mónica. Cristian Cubas was an 8th grade student whose passing impacted the entire school community, students and teachers alike. The unexpected loss of such a bright young soul was difficult to accept.

Cristian had a way of always bringing a smile to everyone's face. He absolutely loved going to school at Santa Mónica and his energy showed it. In the early mornings when the teachers were barely awake, he would excitedly run up to all of them with his arms wide open and ready for a hug saying, "Good morning miss! Good morning mister!". Cristian's hugs became a morning routine for everyone, and if by chance he was ever absent from school, you felt like something was missing. In the classroom, Cristian was a jokester.

Whether it was running and sliding on his knees or getting out of his seat to break out in dance, he was always having a good time. Even though this would sometimes lead to consequences, Cristian didn't mind because that meant that he could hang out with whatever teacher was on detention duty that day.

Cristian was an artist. He loved to draw using colored pencils, crayons, markers, chalk – anything he could make art with! He especially enjoyed drawing pictures of nature like trees and flowers, and animals like giraffes, dolphins and turtles. Every teacher at Santa Mónica probably has at least one of Cristian's drawings; he loved to give them as presents. Not only did he love to draw, he loved to work with his hands and create projects. On his own time, he created cars and working boats powered by balloons to float around his pila at home.



He also really enjoyed physical activity. Running around during recess or lunch and having someone time how fast he could go from one end of the school to the other was so fun for him. He loved racing his friends and playing tag with his entire class. He also loved to talk. Many times during recess or lunch he would want to just sit and have conversations or play UNO with his favorite teachers. He would even surprise them by gifting them topollillos that he bought with his own money. Sometimes he would stay at Santa Mónica during after-school hours when clubs were held and race his bike around saying hi to everyone in his path. At home, Cristian was a nature and animal lover. He had his own pet turtles that he and his mom would take care of along with the many beautiful flowers that they grew together in the garden.



Perhaps one of Cristian's most amazing qualities though was the way he genuinely cared for others. He was a child who just wanted to show love and be loved back. There are not enough words to describe how truly incredible he was. Every student and every teacher who ever knew him at Santa Mónica feels an enormous loss to not have his pure heart in our lives anymore. Rest in peace, Cristian. You are and will always be loved.

Honduran Bilingual Team Members

Since our earliest days in Honduras, BECA and our community partners dreamed of the day when our students would return to their classrooms as teachers - the ultimate indicator that our mission is successfully embedded in the work that we do to encourage critical thinking in classrooms and change-making in communities.

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.

In 2020-21, we increased the number of Honduran bilingual team members, welcomed several of them into leadership positions & hired BECA Bachillerato Program scholarship recipient, Grasibel Nicolle Cruz Ayala, as a teacher. We congratulate the following amazing team members for celebrating three + years with us: Mirian Paz, Susan Amaya, & Sol Palada. Congratulations also to Jaira Figueroa & Karen-Michelle for completing their second years.



BECA's TEAM	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Honduran Bilingual Teachers	3	8	10	11	15
BECA graduates		6	6	7	9

BECA Bachillerato Program

The BECA Bachillerato Program Scholarship, is awarded each year to an outstanding graduating student with financial need from each of our partner schools. The scholarship provides students with the means to earn a diploma from a bilingual high school.

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

We are delighted to congratulate our first BBP recipient from Amigos de Jesus Bilingual School!

Joseph is planning to attend ITEE.

His dream is to be known for being the best engineer in Honduras!

Joseph David Mejia Rivera
*Amigos de Jesus Bilingual School
Class of 2021*

Congratulations to this year's recipient from Santa Monica Bilingual School!

Pablo plans to attend Centro Cultural Sampedrano.

Pablo's plan is to complete high school and then join the army.

Pablo Manuel Reyes Castellano
SMBS Class of 2021

Congrats to this year's SJBS recipient!

Neyzer plans to attend Centro Cultural Sampedrano. His dream is to study business so he can provide for his family the way his sister has provided for him. With a high school diploma and degree in business, Neyzer says "I will have all the tools I need to start my own business."

Neyzer José García Martínez
SJBS Class of 2021

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. Ever since BECA's collaboration with Amigos de Jesús Bilingual School (ADJBS) officially began in August 2013, we have collaborated towards graduating our first bilingual ninth grade class at ADJBS. One of our 2020-2021 highlights

was arriving at this important moment and finding ways to celebrate this accomplishment with our students, families, and teachers despite the challenges of the pandemic. All three of BECA's partner schools are now graduating ninth graders!

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.

#ACHIEVE #BBP

Many thanks to the members of this year's scholarship selection committee for their thoughtful review and recommendations. Not only did they invest their time in reviewing applications, they also worked to ensure that every student who applied received a personalized letter in response.

<i>BBP Scholarship Selection Committee</i>
Melissa Bride
Eva Mazier
Julie Schillreff
Blanca Surgeon

Culture in Context

BECA team members are not only teachers in the classroom and the community, they are also learners. There is much to learn and discuss about Honduras. For a number of years, our team members have committed time and energy to learning about and discussing social, political, and economic realities in Honduras as well as arts, culture, and more about Honduras and Central America. They have identified content, invited guest speakers, and committed to doing homework to prepare themselves for robust conversations with their teammates and community members. In the last years, they have also sought to share their learning and current events' updates with our global alumni and friends following - an effort made easier because of great news coverage from friends like <https://contracorriente.red/>

BECA (Bilingual Education for Central America)
 March 18 · 🌐

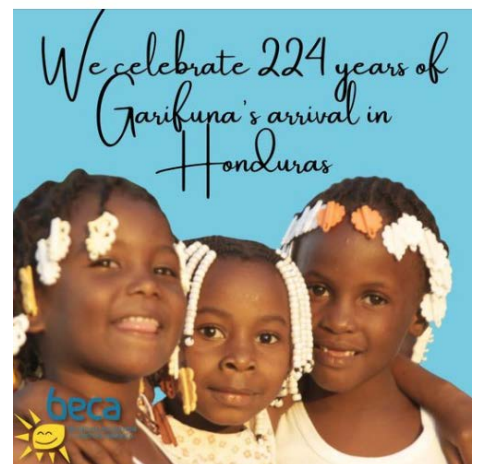
Understanding our Context
 Starting today, every Thursday the BECA social media team will share news stories from or concerning Honduras. As many of our volunteers and followers are international, we hope this initiative will help bring better awareness and understanding of the reality of our communities.

#beca #becaschools #news #honduras



BECA (Bilingual Education for Central America)
 April 12 · 🌐

Each April 12th there is a wonderful cultural celebration, the anniversary of the arrival of the Garifuna's on Roatan in the 1790s. On April 12, 1796 a group of Garifuna people were marooned on the island of Roatan. They Brits ousted them from the island of St. Vincent in the Grenadines, in the Eastern Caribbean. You will find small Garifuna communities scattered about Central America, including this community in Punta Gorda on Roatan, another community on the Honduran main... [See More](#)



BECA (Bilingual Education for Central America)
 Published by IG BECA · April 27 · Instagram · 🌐

Few weeks ago we had our first Culture in Context, Steven Santos a medicine student and front line worker at Hospital Mario Catarino Rivas gave us a deeper understanding and context about how Covid has been treated in Honduras.

#becaschools #honduras

Libros Y Familias

Libros y Familias
Un evento virtual para toda la familia
Jueves 2 de Julio
3:00pm

Queremos dar la invitación a todos ser parte de nuestro evento virtual Libros y Familias. Vamos a conectarnos por medio de Zoom. Estamos muy emocionados para este gran evento!

The Little Skunk Who Was Afraid to Stink
Brielle Kelley · Mark Wayne Adams

becaschools · Following

becaschools Hey all of our BECA students and families! Looking for something fun to do this week? Join us for a virtual event on Zoom with author Brielle Kelley! We'll talk about her bilingual book and the process of writing a book. We'll also talk about your own passions and dreams and how you can reach your goals! We can't wait to see you on Thursday afternoon! For more information, check the event page on our Facebook! ¡Hola a todos nuestros estudiantes y familias de BECA! ¿Está buscando algo divertido esta semana? ¡Únase a nosotros para un evento virtual en Zoom con la autora Brielle Kelley! Tendremos una charla con Brielle de su libro bilingüe y del

Liked by meghananne05 and 23 others
JUNE 29, 2020

Originally introduced by author Dr. Alma Flor Ada, the idea behind the Libros y Familias program is that successful home-school-community partnerships with culturally and linguistically diverse families are possible if we recognize the enormous “funds of knowledge” families bring, and promote meaningful dialogue between home and school based on mutual respect and trust.

BECA (Bilingual Education for Central America)
Published by Amélie Doyle · February 19 · Instagram

BECA is so excited to partner with Nishat Firdous Jehan Ali, author of *My Loving World* and *Jet Set with Jeannette* bilingual travel journalist, for a Spanish - English read aloud of *My Loving World*. The link to register for the event can be found here: <https://cutt.ly/GlrY7i3>

BECA está muy emocionado de asociarse con Nishat Firdous Jehan Ali, autora de *Mi Mundo Amoroso* y *Jeanette Ceja*, periodista de viajes bilingüe, para una lectura en español e inglés de *Mi Mundo Amoroso*... [See More](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Virtual Read Aloud
Author Nishat Firdous Jehan Ali and travel journalist Jeanette Ceja, will lead a Spanish - English virtual read aloud of *My Loving World*. This is an opportunity for students across BECA schools to have fun, interact with each other and engage in topics of diversity and inclusion. Be sure to register here: <https://cutt.ly/GlrY7i3>

March 24th from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Lectura Virtual
La autora Nishat Firdous Jehan Ali y la periodista de viaje Jeanette Ceja liderarán una lectura virtual en español y inglés de *Mi Mundo Amoroso*. Es una oportunidad para los estudiantes de las escuelas de BECA de divertirse, interactuar entre ellos y participar en temas de diversidad e inclusión. Asegúrese de inscribirse aquí: <https://cutt.ly/GlrY7i3>

24 de marzo de 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

beca
BILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

Since in-person events are not possible - in July 2020, we invited all three school communities to join us on zoom for a virtual Libros y Familias program featuring author, Brielle Kelley, reading her book, ***The Little Skunk Who Was Afraid to Stink***. In March 2021, we hosted another virtual Libros Y Familias event. This time we were joined by author Nishat Firdous Jehan Ali for a bilingual read aloud of her book, ***My Loving World***.

We are also grateful to our team members who regularly recorded and posted read alouds for students and families.

becaschools · Following

becaschools Weekend Read Aloud with BECA: Part 2 | Listen to Mister Ben finish 'Arthur's Back to School Day!'

278 views
FEBRUARY 6

Team Member Reflections

BECA is literally powered by love - as demonstrated by the many ways that our team members, alumni, partners, students, families, and friends support each other. Below is a snapshot of reflections they have shared from the 2020-21 school year.



One of my kids came to our school a few weeks late to start first grade. He had a hard time adapting to school and he was feeling embarrassed to be there and did not want to participate. He and I did a lot of co-regulation exercises to make sure he would gain confidence in himself. Through our work together I realized that no matter if you only stay to teach for one year or you teach a different group of students the next year, you can make a difference in the life of a child. I will always treasure that dedicated time with that student. **Mirian Paz, ADJBS**



Once I found out that my dad had passed away from COVID in March of 2021, I made the difficult decision to go home for a month. The amount of support and love coming from Amigos de Jesus, the school, my fellow BECA teachers, and my kids made it a lot easier. I truly appreciated all of the kind words and deeds done during that time. **Van Vuong, ADJBS**



One of the best moments that I had this year was in parcial II. As everyone knows, we work with google classrooms where we can find a section named "stream" - the place where recent assignments and announcements are found. I was about to go in just to add content. To my surprise I found a new comment which said "my class is great i love it" That feeling of satisfaction that your students like what you are doing so far is the best. **Grasibel Cruz, SJBS**



At the end of each parcial, I had my students do a final project and class presentation. Even though it was COVID, we managed to do the presentations. Students from 8th & 9th grade opened about their lives and feelings not only to my but the whole class. It was impressive to understand what each of them is feeling. Not being in schools makes it hard to have deeper topics. It was awesome and made me realize how kids need a space in school to express themselves. **Denise Pinto, SJBS**



A really nice moment I had took place at the end of the past school year. A student of mine, her brother and her parents came by to visit us at the apartments and brought us a cake and coke. Miss Shelby and I had a nice time eating, drinking and talking with the family. It was especially nice to spend time with one of my students in person at a time when everything was virtual. **Antoine Masserey, SMBS**



Every single call with my students was a new adventure but my favorite moments were when they were joining and you could hear almost every single kid singing a “Hello Miss” on their way in. I also had this girl who daily told me “ *que bonita anda hoy miss*” or “*Miss, usted es una reina*” and that made every day better. **Kristell Figueroa, SJBS**

There were many challenges this year at ADJBS, with teaching virtually & COVID restrictions. Sometimes it felt like nothing but negativity & problem after problem. What helped me



through these times was the students; particularly being able to spend time with & connect with students from ADJ outside of class. Building these relationships helped me to see the true value & purpose of what we were doing, because these students are wonderful & deserve the best - not just from school, but from every adult in their lives. I wish I had been able to spend time with the students from the community in person, but there were many moments on calls, and when speaking with their parents on WhatsApp, that I also felt this feeling, a sense of connection, and excitement and hope to see all the wonderful things these children will do in the world. **Saoirse Fergus, ADJBS**



The best part of being a teacher is the affection that we received from the children. On one occasion a mother wrote to me and sent me a photo of a small card that her child had made for me. I was very moved by all the affection. **Estefany Fernandez, SJBS**



It was very difficult to be away from the physical classroom for the entire year. However, I had the opportunity to connect with my students in other ways. Following COVID guidelines, we grabbed coffee together, chatted in the park, played FIFA together and I even had the opportunity to gift a book to every one of my students at the end of the year due to the generosity of my friends and family. You could see on my students' faces that they were happy to be together again as well. **Matthew McCormack, SJBS**

Alumni and Friend Spotlights

BECA's Summer Institute & Academy are essential preparation for our teachers. We know the best teachers are those who are given regular opportunities to be students of good education practices. Our team members consistently indicate how crucial ongoing professional development is as they settle into classrooms and put their Summer learning into practice. We are so grateful to our incredible BECA alumni who continue to invest so much of themselves in ensuring that summer learning sets the stage for a successful school year.

#overheard

"Summer training so far has been a challenging but rewarding experience, and I am excited to put these skills to the test! I have enjoyed learning about how to create a compassionate and supportive learning environment and hope to implement these ideas soon. Overall, I can't wait to meet my students and their families - I am looking forward to a great year!"

Megan Taylor

Perhaps you can begin to imagine the amount of work that it took to pivot our intensive in-person programming online for summer 2020? We offer gratitude to **Dr. Lara Bryfonski and her colleagues at Georgetown University** for their incredible efforts to build and coordinate an online learning platform for our team.

Thank you too to BECA alumni and friends who served as learning module creators and Summer Institute mentors:

Developing literacy skills - Meghan McArdle
Curricula and planning - Fran Talavera and Lara Bryfonski
Classroom Culture - Jocelyn Foshay
Teaching Science - Fran Talavera
Teaching Math - Cheryl Wozniak

#affirmation

Summer training has been an incredible experience in educating me on how to teach English language learners. This intensive training has helped me to better understand how to best teach my students, but also instilled a lot of confidence in myself to conquer online learning. I am beyond excited to start this school year and learn and grow with my kiddos! This year will be full of exciting challenges and incredible accomplishments. Looking forward to started the school year!"

Mallory Young



BECA's Summer Camp is typically a fun mix of literacy, arts, & physical education for BECA's students and a great way for volunteers to experience BECA. Many summer camp volunteers ultimately join BECA as full-year teachers. However, Summer 2021 presented a formidable number of challenges. Despite these challenges, BECA was lucky to once again be able to call upon the dedication, expertise, and fun-loving spirit of BECA alumnus, **Nemanja Demic**.

Our long-time in-person summer camp that emphasizes literacy, arts, and sports was not a possibility. That reality coupled with the fatigue of online learning, the challenges of more than a year of limited direct instruction, and the aftermath of two hurricanes would have deterred many people. But, fear not. Nemanja and a fearless team of volunteers rose to the occasion to support students whose families and teachers had identified them as in need of academic enrichment and connection. From Monday, June 21st through Friday, July 16, the summer volunteer team implemented a thoughtful first through ninth grade tutoring program. All participating students received tutoring in English, Science, and Math. Participating students from Amigos also received weekly Spanish instruction from Profe Gaby. At Amigos, the effort was concentrated on serving our ninth grade students from the local community - who didn't have any in-person instruction in 2020-2021.

The summer volunteer team worked with the 20-21 team and with families not only to identify students but also to gather all learning objectives teachers had not covered yet and build lessons around that work. They surveyed families and tutors pre- and post-summer.

Students coming together across schools was a beautiful part of this opportunity. Profe Glenda, Director at Santa Monica, expressed her enthusiasm about the opportunities for direct interaction and small group communication that this endeavor offered students.

To Nemanja and to the alumni and 20-21 team members who made this possible, thank you!

Summer Squad Vibes		
Liza Beardsley	Andres Lopez Galeas	Emma Pampanin
Cassandra Benavides	Profe Gaby	Denise Pinto
Pierina Camilo	Antoine Masserey	Jennifer Rivera
Grasibel Cruz	Laura Montes	Karen Ruiz
Alyson Drennan	Yazmine Navaro	Van Vuong
Olivia Korostoff-Larson	Mirian Paz	

Our **Volunteer Interview Committee** was led by alumna **Dawn Bowes** in the 2019-20 year - when she also led a restructuring of our e-newsletter and designed important professional development and trainings for our 20-21 team. In 2020-21, recruitment was coordinated by our In-Country Director, Amelie Doyle, due to the specific recruitment realities of the 20-21 year (COVID and hurricanes, oh my!). This committee consists of alumni & team members:

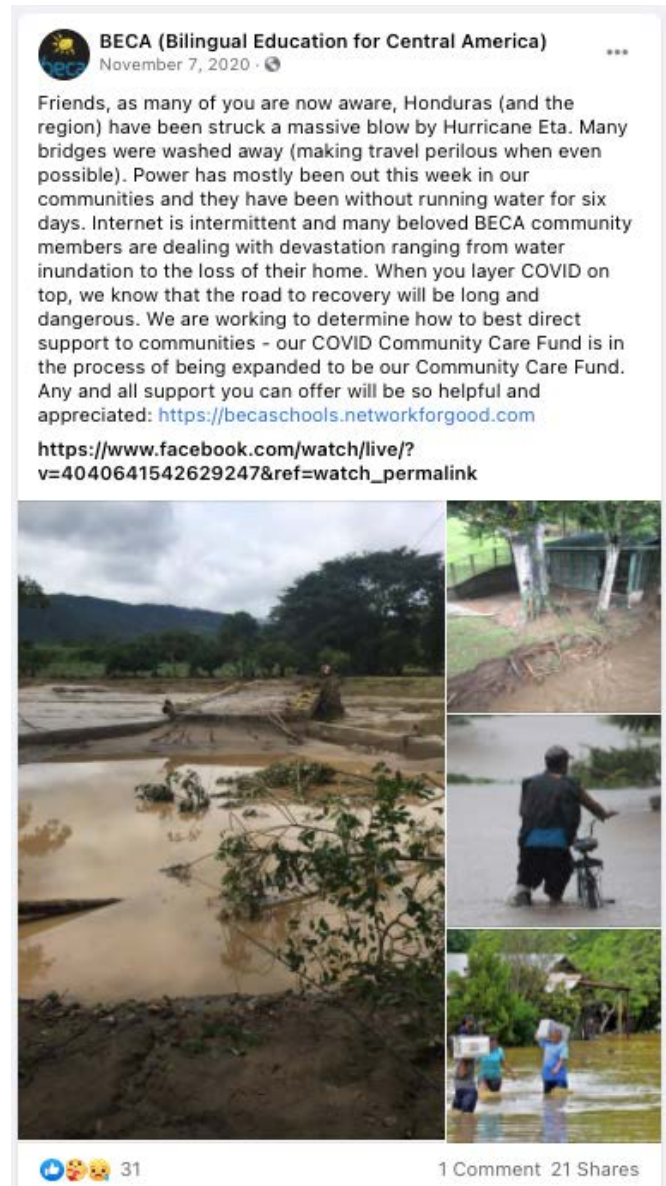
Andrew Scanlan, Bruna Gomes, Erin McClintock, Hattie Everroad, Kristoffer Holgersen, Lena Novak, Matt McCormack, Nemanja Demic, Orlando Padilla, Patrick Holland, Pierina Camilo, Samira Vachani, Sondra Cooper, Sophia Bahlkow, Victor Reyes.

Alumni and current team member interviewers are crucial to ensuring BECA is a good fit for a prospective volunteer and vice versa. We are profoundly grateful to them.

Hurricanes Eta and Iota, which struck in rapid fire succession in late 2020, were simply incomprehensible disasters in the midst of a global pandemic. BECA launched a **COVID Community Care Fund** in spring 2020 as a way to raise and distribute funds to our communities struggling to meet even basic needs because of pandemic realities - severely curtailed informal work opportunities, a massive constriction in remittances, and supply shortages to name just a few of the challenges. When the hurricanes struck, this effort also became a means to support our communities who were now without electricity, water, housing, and basic necessities.

We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who donated to our Community Care Fund, supported one of the gofundmes that BECA alumni organized, or found other ways to be in solidarity with our communities in Honduras. The recovery will stretch into the years ahead and we know that the support from the BECA community that came from all corners of the globe meant so much to our family and friends in Honduras - not to mention the current BECA team.

A special shout out to **Krista Jackson** and **Shelby Soliwoda** for organizing an event in December 2020 so that BECA alumni could come together virtually and support our Community Care Fund efforts.



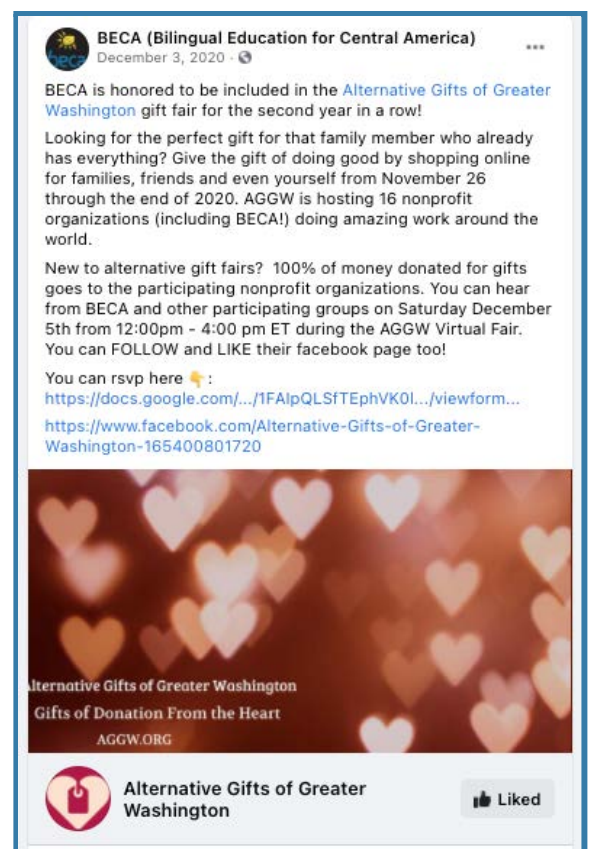
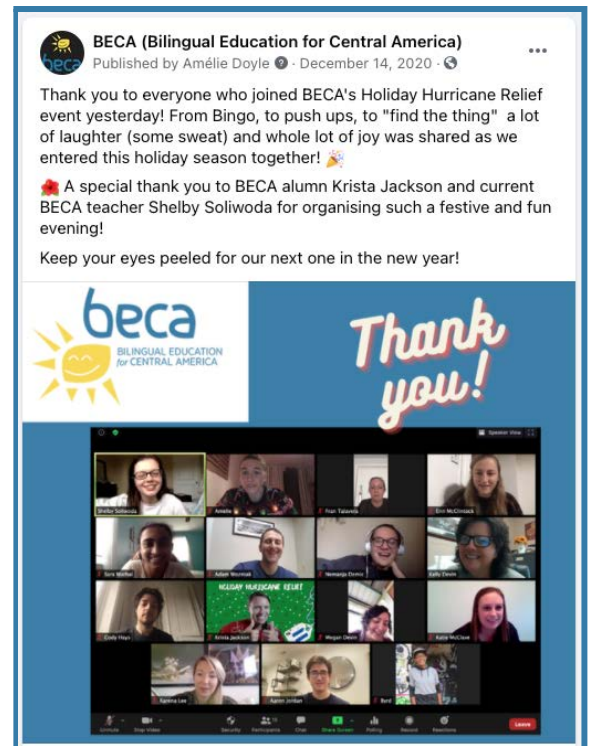
When the Basics Are Not So Basic

At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year BECA and our partners faced no small number of challenges. There was much uncertainty regarding when/if we might be able to return to in-person learning and virtual learning was proving very challenging because many families did not have a consistent means of accessing the internet or a device other than a cellphone to use.

When the hurricanes struck, we were surveying families to determine who needed a tablet, which families needed internet access, and which families needed both. The results made it clear that tablets (rather than laptops) would be the most effective in catering to our communities' needs since a significant percentage of families do not have wifi in their homes and use their phone data to connect to virtual classes. While the original plan was to provide wifi to these families, it became apparent that providing wifi would be very tricky because of the way internet service providers structure contracts in Honduras. As a result, we had to find tablets with sim card slots for families without wifi. File all of this under **#complicated** and **#timeconsuming**

After months of exploring options to purchase in Honduras, elsewhere in Central America, or in the United States; sorting out shipping & supply chain challenges related to the hurricanes and COVID; determining how many tablets should be internet chip ready; and ensuring that the tablets we chose would work with both zoom and google classrooms, we purchased 200 tablets and delivered them to families. Success! We offer our eternal gratitude to BECA supporter, **Jamie Hawken**, for supporting BECA and our families with the resources that made this effort possible.

Many thanks also to our good friends, **Alternative Giving of Greater Washington (AGGW)**, who included BECA in their first ever virtual Alternative Gift Fair. This financial support arrived at a critical moment for BECA and our communities and we are profoundly grateful for this partnership.



The 2020-2021 Team

We offer gratitude to the teams at each of our partner schools who lean into our mission every day.

San Jeronimo Bilingual School

Profe Reyna Matilde Hernandez Varela, Director
Jaira Figueroa - Program Administrator
Matthew McCormack
Viviana Enamorado
Michelle Cruz
Kristell Figueroa
Estefany Fernandez
Karen-Michelle Ruiz
Grasibel Cruz
Mallory Young
Denise Pinto
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Astrid Cabellos
Marie Paz
Rosibel Hernandez
Ansony Murillo
Ramiro Leiva
Elina Tellez
Katherine Trochez
Brenda Reyes
Abigail Amaya

Santa Monica Bilingual School

Profe Glenda Garcia, Director
Erin McClintock - Program Administrator
Katherine Nahomi Delgado Moya
Bessy Sagastume
Susan Amaya
Sol Palada
Jenniver Rivera
Sarah Henderson
Antoine Masserey
Shelby Soliwoda
Maria Teresa Ayala
Sonia Elena Pineda
Gina Alejandra Flores
Maria Sonia Gusman
Kevin Pinto
Guillermo Reyes

Our Staff & Community Partners

Amélie Doyle, In-Country Director
SJBS: Nestor Colindres & the ASPAPRO board
SMBS: Hermana Martina Moncadas & the Sisters of St. Agustin
ADJ: Amy & Wilson Escoto, Suyapa Sabillon Caballero, and the Amigos team

Amigos de Jesús Bilingual School

Profe Osman Quintanilla, Director
Megan Devin - Program Administrator
Sinead Walsh - Coordinator
Amelia Sierra - Academic Advisor (Amigos)
Maria Luisa Garcia
Mirian Paz
Saoirse Ferguson
Benjamin Clary
Joanna Ksiazek
Justin Reliford
Orlando Padilla
Van Young
Jack Simpkins
Selena Cristina Castellanos Lara
Tania Marileth Aguirre Martinez
Ana Elisabel Rivera Garcia
Karla Jackelin Rodriguez Lopez
Sonia Aracely Villanueva
Denia Arely Garcia Lopez
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Carlos Josue Andrade
Ingrid Edith Martinez Aguirre
Noely Rashell Castillo Ramos
Osman Leonel Peña Barahona
Evelyn Cecilia Casco Lopez
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Roynel Rodiber Ruiz Tabora
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Bayron Josue Ramirez Mejia
Oneyda Leticia Martinez Caballero
Elizabeth Maria Arteaga Rosales
Claudia Viviana Moreno Rodriguez
Gabriela Maria Perdomo Santos

Amigos Volunteers

Emily Hillman, Ellen Golden, Patrick Kluesener, Brenna Fankell, and Maxon Lube

Amigos Graduate Volunteers

Sonia, Carlos, Osman

BECA's Donor Honor Roll

2020-21 was the stuff of telenovelas, for sure. When we say “we could not do it without you” that is reality. You are the foundation upon which BECA’s people-powered efforts are built. Thank you so very much!

In 2020 (calendar year) **300 donors** made generous general support gifts to BECA. 72% of donations were less than \$100 (and 88% of donations were less than \$500) proving that every little bit truly does help!

In 2020, calling upon the leadership and support of alumni volunteers and team members, we rebranded our “sustainers” campaign to be our BECA Believers program. We now have 49 donors whose monthly giving commitments range from \$10 - \$750. We hope you’ll consider this way of giving - which helps BECA have a better sense of financial resources we can rely upon (bit.ly/BECAbeliever).

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 (approximately \$6,000 per classroom), together we’re providing a game-changing education for 700 students across 31 BECA classrooms and a life altering experience for our team members. 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). Our alumni are making a difference in every corner of the globe. To weather the ongoing storms ahead, we need your support now more than



BECA (Bilingual Education for Central America)

November 18, 2020 · 🌐

Two hurricanes in less than two weeks..

As category 5 hurricane #Iota makes its way across the region, Honduras is currently being hit with extreme rainfall and strong winds leading to flooding, landslides, power outages and much more.

While the rain persists and the rivers fill up, most of our community members and all our #Beca teachers are safe in their homes keeping shelter from the storm.

A handful of our community members in Cofradía, who live close to the river are seeking shelter at San Jeronimo Bilingual school as they wait for the storm to pass.

The extent of the damage is yet to be determined as the hurricane makes its way across the country, but the road to recovery will be difficult.

Keep Honduras and our community in your thoughts as we navigate these difficult times together! [#FuerzaHonduras](#) [#togetherwearestronger](#)

Below are some images of the flooding in Cofradia 🙏🙏



ever. We thank you for always being there with us and ask that you stay with us now and in the future.

General Support

We do not take lightly the trust our donors place in us to steward your contributions with care. Thank you for stretching yourselves and sustaining your commitment to BECA's mission through your contributions.

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Victor Reyes
Patricia M. Roach
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Noreen Rosenblatt
Marcie Rubardt
Hugo Ruiz

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Hansika Shergill
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Jillian Shropshire
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Paula Yablonsky

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Krista Zimonick
George Zoto
Genesis Zuniga

BECA Bachillerato Program (BBP) Donors

The BECA Bachillerato Program Scholarship is awarded each year to outstanding graduating students and has always been made possible through the care and fundraising efforts, and contributions of BECA alumni and friends.

Alyssa Baumgarten
Leah Beachley
Lauren Graff
Joan Hebel

Kimberly Murray
Jeff Rodriguez
Liz Rose
Andrew Scanlan

Community Care Fund

While our students and families face incredible challenges even just figuring out how to connect to internet from home in these challenging times, they are moving virtual mountains in order to connect with teachers and each other every day. The Community Care Fund has allowed BECA to ensure our teachers, students, and families have the support they need as they bear the brunt of the ripple effect of the contracted global economy and natural disasters.

A

Maja Aaøyen
Marina Andina
Sheila Arimond

B

Sophia Bahlhow
Christoph Barchewitz
Alyssa Baumgarten
Deborah Baumgarten
Liza Beardsley
Bel Bing
Laurence Birdsey
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D

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Colleen Davis-Timms

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Emma Elizabeth
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F

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Tannaz Fouladi
Sara Free

Meg Fuchs

G

Dr. Philip and Suzan Gaynes

Maureen Gesley

Roy Gesley

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Joe Hill

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K

Laura Keadle

Jasmine Kirkpatrick

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Linda Klemm

Julie Korostoff

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L

Keith Lippwe

M

Sarah MacDonald

Paul and Linda Malmgren

Athena Matilsky

Micaela Maynard

Meghan McArdle

Katie McClave

Matthew McCormack

Shelly Morton

Brooke and James Murphy

Kimberly Murray

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Anna Shiroma

Jillian Shropshire

Joseph Starzl

Josh Stebbins

Scooter Stein

T

Norah Tahiri

Salal Tahiri

Shivona Tavares Walsh

Tom Taylor

Vanessa Thomas

Matt Thornton

V

Rita and Sushil Vachani

Samira Vachani

W

Deirdre Walsh

Bonnie Weiler

Adam Wozniak

Ron Wrenholt

Z

Krista Zimonick

BECA Believers

The BECA Believers program is a growing community of BECA alumni and friends whose monthly contributions allows BECA and our community partners to confidently plan for the future - with the assurance that we will have the resources we need to fulfill our commitments to our students, families, and teachers.

B

Jessica Barrett

Alyssa Baumgarten

Deborah Baumgarten

Liza Beardsley
Bruce Birdsey
Allison Brown
Rosemary Bush
Michael Buttram

C

Katy Cassingham

D

Colleen Davis-Timms
Nemanja Demic
Timothy Douglas
Amelie Doyle
John and Angela Brophy Doyle

E

Heidi Erickson

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Maureen Gesley
James Green

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Elena Hight
Joe Hill
Karoline Holgersen
Kristoffer Holgersen
Pat Holland

K

Lisa Knowles

Olivia Korostoff-Larsson

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Katie McClave
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Nick Zosel-Johnson

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Some big hopes and dreams for the future generation of Honduras captured today by BECA's program administrator Miss Megan and the 9th grade students of ADJBS ✨

Read Miss Megan's description of the activity below 📖

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