



December 28, 2019



## Thanks for a Great 2019!

Thanks to our donors and friends for making this year's Christmas at Santa Maria de la Esperanza, a success. **Erwin Musper** produced a musical pageant with heartwarming performances by the kids in each dorm. The Christmas story was brought to life complete with Mary, Joesph, Gabriel and a host of angels and shepherds. Dancers in precious costumes and teenage boys doing hip hop brought big smiles to the crowd of expats and local residents. The band sang *Silent Night* and a beautiful rendition of *Hallelujah*. Then Papa Noel delivered

**"This pageant is always a highlight of the year! So many smiles and hugs."**

-Darlene Howell



backpacks stuffed with clothes, shoes and some surprises. The caregivers got extra large bins of school supplies and a little treat just for them. Everyone got a new towel in the shape of a rabbit. That evening the orphanage family dined on a feast provided by you generous donors.

### **Highlights of the year**

1. Support for Infants: FOSMO provided \$2900 worth of formula for the babies this year. It's part of our mission to provide for the health of children, especially ones who arrive with special needs.
2. Education: Thanks to a successful Back to School drive, we were able to purchase a printer, laminator and computers to help kids do their school projects on site. FOSMO also provided monthly taxi fare for a child to get extra help before entering school and supplies for fine motor training for some other children. Recently, we also paid for installation of internet service at the boys facility, Ghandi. The total for education was about \$3500.
3. Infrastructure: At the request of the director, FOSMO renovated key office areas to provide a better environment for the children as they enter the orphanage and later come for counseling. Later a key section of roofing was redone and improved. All together the projects were \$10,550.
4. Christmas: All of the back backpacks, school supplies and other treats cost just \$4547. That included 77 children and 8 caregivers in training. Thanks to some generous friends for providing the bins used for school supplies and also some personal care items. About half of the money spent was education related.

5. Other: During the extra cold weather this year, each child received a warm blanket. We also provided about \$300 of fish and chicken to the orphanage.

### **Thanks to Donors and Volunteers**

FOSMO is very fortunate to have no overhead costs. No one is paid and we have essentially no operating costs other than our bank and PayPal fees. Likely much of what nonprofit organizations have to pay is donated. **Andrew Kagan**, once again, provided legal services, help with tax filing and even reimbursed our local US bank fees.

1. Donations: Donations this year were \$16,384 which was about four times that of our first year as a nonprofit! FOSMO now has eleven recurring donors for a total of \$300/month which is very helpful in projecting cash flow. This year, we had a number of large donations from individuals which is greatly appreciated. There are so many kind souls who have given with love and genuine care. A big thanks to all who helped Cyndy Wergin raise nearly \$1000 in tips for her piano lessons and performances.
2. Fundraisers: Thanks to those who donated to the silent auction, bought tickets and came to help raise close to \$9,500 for the cause. Your work as volunteers and supporters make the event successful. And a big thanks to those who bought tickets to the 50/50 raffle for the Back to School drive, raising \$1200 in just 6 weeks.
3. **Roger Thomte and Cyndy Wergin** deserve a huge round of applause for all their efforts. Since the founding of FOSMO in January of 2018 and even before, their passion for the kids has led them to give generously of their time and talents. Their leadership turned this group of volunteers into a qualified nonprofit with a nice website. They laid the foundation for many successful years to come. Also retiring from the board are **Bill Baker** and **Annie Rikel**. Both of them have worked very hard especially when it came to supporting the fundraisers and Christmas. FOSMO has been very lucky to have had some terrific board members over the last two years and they all deserve our thanks!

### **Plans for 2020**

The new board for 2020-21 is as follows:

Officers:

Kaye Gosline, President

Maria del Carmen Montesdeoca, Vice President

Shawn Turner, Secretary

Pat Sheperd, Treasurer

At-Large:

Michelle DeWolfe

Miguel Labrador

Panayota Keramidis

Teresa Muñoz

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a thank you social as we bring 2020 into focus:

Tuesday, January 14

2:00-4:00pm at the Sea Garden Hotel in Olon

We are not asking for money! We just want to share our vision for helping the kids. Come and bring your friends!

**For more information, always check [www.fosmo.me](http://www.fosmo.me)**



Three of the board members with the Director of the Orphanage, Isabel Dietrich.

What else is in there?

*Gratefully yours on behalf of FOSMO,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaye Gosline".

Kaye Gosline, Treasurer 2019/President 2020

