2017 ANNUAL REPORT

¿Puedes ayudar a la gallina y a sus pollitos a llegar a la granja?

> SCHOOL THE WORLD

el árbol de Navidad. ¿Cuántas hay?



A Look Back at 2017

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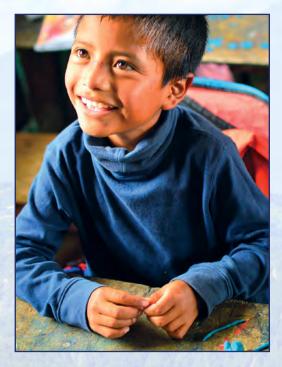
Our Mission & Philosophy

Who We Are

School the World is a Boston-based international nonprofit founded on the belief that empowerment begins with education. We envision a world where every child has a meaningful opportunity to learn.

Our Mission

Our mission is to lift children out of extreme poverty with the power of education. We start with school buildings. To create lasting and sustainable change, we also train teachers, deeply engage the parents and local community, stock libraries, and build life skills and values through play.



Our Philosophy

We believe all children love to learn, want to learn and are capable of learning. All parents want a better life for their children and all teachers prefer motivation and achievement to apathy and failure. Nevertheless, we recognize that we will need to be innovative and often disruptive to break the generational cycle and change the status quo.

Our Work Is Built on the Belief That Lasting Change Can Only Happen by: **Building safe & inviting** Strengthening the capacity learning & play of parents to help their environments children learn & thrive **Driving the supply Training & motivating** of critical learning teachers

materials

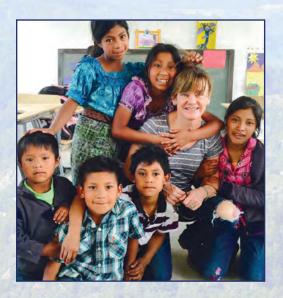
Welcome!

Letter from Kate Curran, Our CEO & Founder

When I started School the World in 2009, I never could have imagined that we would become so deeply engaged in training the parents of now more than 25,000 children in the poorest parts of Central America.

It was clear to us then that the lack of basic resources like books or a simple school building made it impossible for kids to learn. Poorly trained teachers and a complete lack of accountability didn't help either.

But everywhere I went, everyone wanted to blame the parents. "The problem is the parents", I would hear. "The parents don't support education."



We rejected that theory. We chose to believe instead that *all parents want a better life for their children*. We chose to empower parents living in extreme poverty to overcome any obstacle to giving their children a better chance in life.

Even we were amazed, though, when nearly 70% of the parents started attending our parent trainings every other week! It was so exciting when we started to get reports of how grateful they were to "learn that they had a right to ask how their daughter was doing in school"! Or how mothers with only toddlers were attending because they to get a head

start on supporting their child's education. One Dad even said: "We didn't know all of this. Maybe we should not be having so many children."

We were not surprised to learn, after extensive evaluation work in 2017, that 100% of our parents now understand their role as the "first educators" of their children. Significantly, this new influence of parents was leading to dramatic improvements in teacher adherence to the school schedule.

You will see in detail on page 13 of this report how these behavioral changes can lead to a dramatic decline in school dropouts. Changing behaviors takes *time*, though, so we need to thank you, our loyal supporters, for your commitment to providing all children a quality basic education and an opportunity in life.

With gratitude,

M. Kote Curran

Executive Director & Founder





Infrastructure: School Builds

Supporter Stan Bershaw

How and why did you first get involved with School the World?

"One morning in March of 2014 I was watching the local news and a 'human interest story' came on. It was about a young lady who was looking to raise \$10,000 to build a school in Guatemala through School the World in memory of her deceased father. I was so touched and intrigued by the story that I contacted this young lady and seeing that she had almost reached her goal, I pledged to supply her with the rest of the necessary funds. Then I met with Kate to discuss in detail what School the World was doing, where the focus was and how I could become involved."

What was it about your trip with School the World that made you want to stay involved?

"The trip was to the community of Pixtup, where a school was being dedicated to my older brother who had passed away just six months prior. That was my initial motivator for getting involved. It was an opportunity to dedicate something with the family name. I was so impressed by the strategy STW employs to build the school and keep it going. The idea of getting the community involved, the commitment that the families make towards books for their child, and the partnering with the local government. What made me want to stay involved was being down there, on the ground in Guatemala and seeing the community first hand. I was able to bring my entire family to dedicate this school to my brother so it really was a sentimental and noteworthy trip. It was truly a celebration for not just the school and the community, but for my brother."

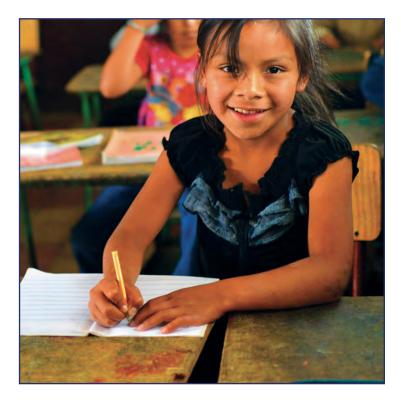
What do you hope your contributions will do for these kids?

"I hope that it gives these children the opportunities that their parents didn't have. Everyone who goes to school doesn't necessarily get an education. I hope these contributions to STW allow these children to earn a quality education."

Quality Learning Environment

Children need a safe and inviting place to learn, but the physical building is just the beginning! A three-classroom school is our first step toward quality education. It is a symbol of the partnership between our long-term program, the community and local government. It also symbolizes new beginnings and *hope*. It is often the first official school in the community, replacing makeshift structures or adobe buildings in desperate need of repair.

Our collaboration with the community from this initial stage of programming is vital for creating sustainable change. School the World requires that 50% of the construction costs are paid for by the local governments in Guatemala and Honduras to ensure their support in improving education. The local community members dedicate their time and labor to assist with the construction. We raise funds from corporate sponsors and generous individuals for School the World's portion of the infrastructure.





Infrastructure: Playgrounds

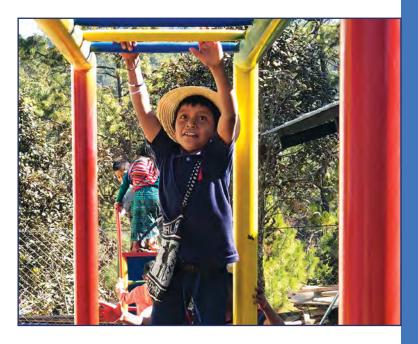
Most of the children enrolled in our schools go to work before and/or after school to help support their families. It is not uncommon to find children as young as five years old shining shoes, selling firewood or tending to a market stand. This leaves very little time for play.

We believe providing young students with a safe place to discover, imagine and explore is important. On the playground or through organized games, children develop social and cognitive life skills, mature emotionally and gain the self confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) through Play also leads to better behavior and increased focus within the classroom.

Our staff also organizes recess games that require increased levels of teamwork and communication to build feelings of empathy and citizenship among our students.

The Impact of Play on Gender Equality

Play also serves as a tool in deconstructing traditional gender roles prevalent in these regions. The game our staff favors most is co-ed fútbol (soccer) because it helps girls and boys to see each other as equals within the unity of a team. This impact carries over to life at home and within the classroom. By breaking down gender barriers and empowering girls and women to view themselves as equal to boys and men, progress is made not only within a community, but a region, a country and the world.



A Happy Talent

Once Delaney McKinney LLP decided to fund a school, the employees at the firm were inspired to join the action. Motivated by a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "It is a happy talent to know how to play", they guickly began to raise \$5,000 to build a playground for the school. The staff really enjoyed this service project because it helped kids in Guatemala and felt like a teambuilding opportunity at the same time. They met in teams and developed different ways to raise money, such as working with local businesses to sponsor fundraising nights, placing an office change jar and supporting denim days in the office. In January 2017, two members of Delaney McKinney traveled to Guatemala for the dedication ceremony. They brought suitcases full of school supplies that had been donated through a drive at the office. From start to finish, this experience was mutually inspirational. We are excited to continue our work with them in the future!



Parent Empowerment

Education Begins at Home

The majority of the parents we work with are illiterate, but they are determined to provide their children with the education they never had.

With an average of 6 children per family in the Quiche area and 3,409 parents trained, our parents trainings are impacting 20,454 children.

Through bi-monthly parent trainings, School the World empowers parents to

become "the first educators" for

their children. They learn how to support their child's learning both in and out of the classroom. They learn about their rights, the rights of their child, and the responsibilities of the teacher. Where necessary, empowered parents will hold teachers accountable.



Meet Kener, One of Our Outstanding Guatemalan Parent Trainers

Kener studied at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala. After three years, he was licensed to teach at the high school level. When he joined School the World's staff in 2015, Kener returned to school and is now on track to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Education Pedagogy and Administration in 2018.

What does education mean to you?

"To educate is to love. To educate is to inspire children who want to learn and to instill in each child that with a good education they have endless opportunities to be successful."

What is your favorite aspect of your position at School the World?

"I love that I can be an agent of change."

What is your ultimate goal to reach with your position as a Parent Trainer?

"To get the children to continue studying until they have a career that they love and can materialize their dreams. To convince parents that together they can achieve positive change in their community. To motivate teachers to love their work and find pleasure in teaching. And lastly, to make school a welcoming place for children to learn new things and imagine their dreams."





Teacher Training

The Challenge

Teachers in rural Central America begin their teaching careers with little training. They face inadequate teaching environments, few supplies and limited support from the government. Even just getting to and from the school can be challenging.

The Training

We provide our teachers with two years of intensive training that includes a special focus on child-centric teaching and early grade reading skills. Teachers participate in monthly group trainings followed up with individualized classroombased coaching. We also build a culture of professional pride, peer influence and motivation through awarding successful practices and praising exemplary teachers.





The Harbourton Foundation has been supporting School the World for six years. Their support began with a generous four-year capacity-building grant that allowed us to add staff and build our Student Service Learning Program. Most recently, the Harbourton Foundation has funded further development of our Teacher Training Program to include classroom management techniques and social and emotional learning, in addition to the core focus on literacy skills.



Harbourton Foundation



Classroom Libraries

The Gift of Literacy

Courtney Westlake and her children, Connor and Brenna, have been fond supporters of our book sticker campaign, initially taking on the challenge as a family and filling out their own stickers with encouraging messages and waiting to see where they traveled to. Courtney then

introduced the idea to Brenna's Girl Scout Troop and they raised enough funds for 60 books!

The Westlakes and many other families such as the **Orr's from Sudbury, MA** and community groups like **Ascension Church in Oak Park, IL** have generously funded much of our budget for classroom libraries to give the greatest gift of all ... the ability to read.



Children can't learn to read without books

We challenge parents to begin investing in books with our commitment to match their community contribution by 5 in the first year, by 4 in the second year, by 3 in the third year, by 2 in the fourth year and by 1 in the fifth year of programming. After five years, we have a full mini-library in every classroom and a culture of parents investing in the school!

Parents take this challenge very seriously, typically contributing \$1.25 per child per year (a meaningful investment often requiring sacrifice of food or other necessities). They write it up in the community's Book of Acts, many giving their thumb print as their commitment to pay because they cannot sign their own names.

We believe deeply engaging our parents in the success of the schools is critical to creating lasting change. This investment in books not only engages parents, it empowers them as cocreators of their child's education.





million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills." ~ UNESCO

When our first cohort of students graduated primary school in 2016, we added a Scholarship Program to support the most promising students in continuing their education.

Scholarships include funding for school supplies and books, a uniform, shoes, food and transportation. Our staff, all of whom have overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges, serve as mentors to the scholarship recipients.

Scholarships



The Power of Education

Meet **Veronica**, a recipient of one of our secondary school scholarships. She is very motivated and really enjoys studying. Although she had a hard time adapting to the heavy workload her first semester, she is getting closer to her teachers and her grades are now rapidly improving. She is very excited to be excelling in school and is motivated to continue progressing.

Veronica lives with her Aunt in the town during the week and goes home

on the weekends to help her Mother. Doña Julieta, Veronica's mother, encourages her daughter to continue her education. Veronica's father is no longer living, so Doña Julieta works endlessly to provide for her family. Doña Julieta makes sure to attend every parent engagement meeting in her community.

Thank you to our Scholarship Program donors who enable Veronica and other like students to continue their education!





We have a name for U.S. students who join our Service Learning Program. We call them World Changers!

This program includes an eight-day service trip to build a school and/or playground in rural Guatemala. The student group funds 50% of the construction costs (with the local government paying the other 50%). Collectively all the students that travel in a given year fund the programming that make our schools sustainable. Prior to traveling abroad, students participate in seminars that teach successful fundraising tactics and educate them on the region's history and culture.

2017: 6 schools & 7 playgrounds

During this life-changing experience, our World Changers open their eyes and minds to the deep and complicated challenges around international education, extreme poverty and gender discrimination. Most importantly, they leave with a renewed sense of gratitude, perspective and purpose.

World Changer Brothers!

Matt and Nick Chiappinelli are two World Changer brothers who came on our February Service Trip. It was Nick's first trip and Matt's third trip. They shared what they liked most about this trip:

Shadowing: "This is when you go and meet one of the local families at their home. They give you a tour of their house and their way of life. *And WOW!* Women and children have to walk 15 minutes each way to a nearby spring just to get water. It usually takes 7-8 rounds to meet daily needs. That's 3 to 4 hours out of the day just to get water. *Shadowing helped us reflect on the privileges we have at home and how we should be much more thankful, even for seemingly little things, like a faucet and running water!*"

Teamwork within the Community: "Lots of people in the community helped. Fathers laid bricks, dug holes, painted and smoothed cement. Although language barriers made it hard to have long conversations, we still were able to work together in one cohesive team. What linked us was the same motive: to build a school together."

Familiar Faces: "For me (Matt) finding out I would be returning to Trinidad, my first school, was exciting. I instantly began mulling over old memories from two years earlier. I remembered the smiling faces of the children vividly. I even got to see Maynor again, a young kid I connected with so much during my first trip that I actually took Maynor as my Confirmation name."



Kids Helping Kids: Young Philanthropists



Dedicating a Birthday!

You may have stumbled upon friends who have given up their birthday and requested donations to a cause of choice in lieu of gifts, and that is exactly what brother-sister team Jordyn and Kyle dreamed of doing to celebrate their 8th birthday! They became eager to support School the World after watching our video of Hilario's 2.5 hour journey to school, even passionate enough to educate their classmates on what school looks like in other parts of the world. They then set out to make sure their birthday did something powerful ... and it did. Their Double the Love Campaign raised nearly \$3,000 for books! Way to go, Jordyn and Kyle!

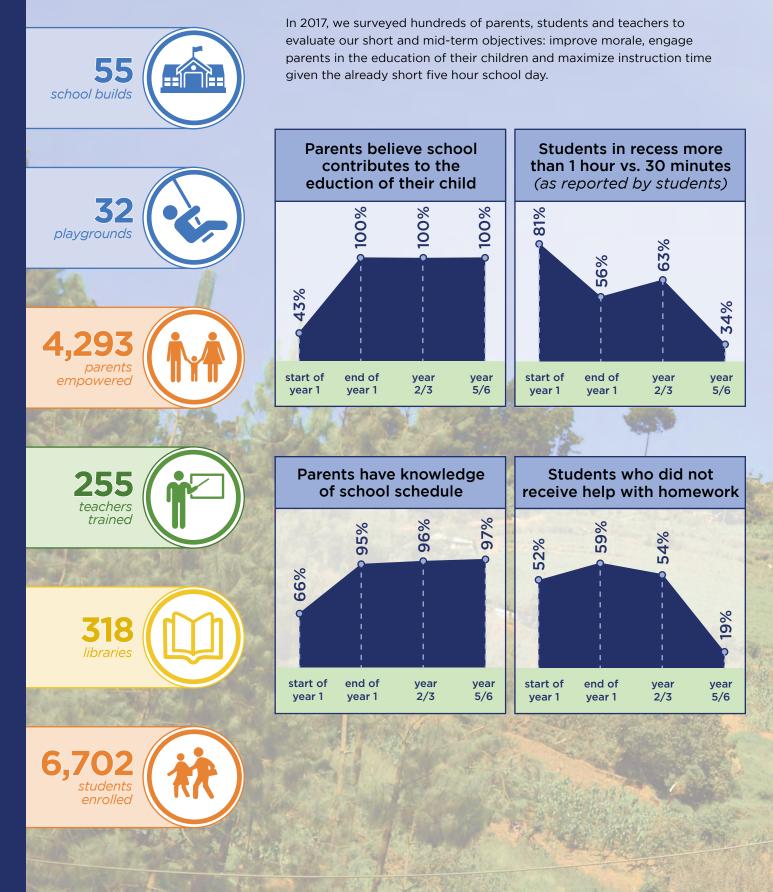
It Takes a Village!

The Student Council at Washington Elementary School in Wyckoff, NJ took on a big project this year as part of their yearly commitment to give back. They cast their votes and unanimously decided to build a school in Honduras. They thought it would take two years to raise \$10,000, but with determination and creativity they did it in just one school year!





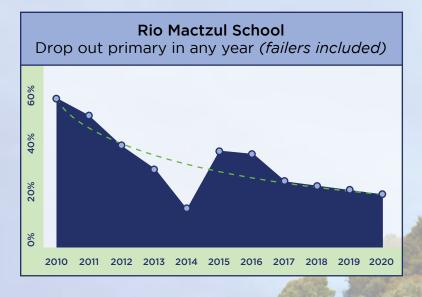
Impact: Before & After



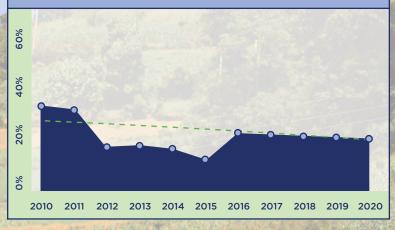
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Impact: Before & After

Rio Mactzul and Mactzul Septimo are two of the first schools built by School the World. We have traced student class cohorts over time to evaluate our success with two primary objectives: keeping kids in school and increasing 1st grade passing rates.



Mactzul Septimo School Drop out primary in any year (failers included)





While the focus of our mission is on children, an added benefit of our community-based strategy is the **empowerment of mothers**. In Rio Mactzul, for example, the women were not even allowed to attend the initial parent meetings. As years went on and our programming progressed, the women in Rio Mactzul found their voice and demanded that the Ministry of Education replace a delinquent school director. Today, women dominate the school committee and the dropout rate at Rio Mactzul has declined dramatically.

"We had two teachers we didn't like last year. We got rid of them." ~ Rio Mactzul Mothers

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Current Developments

We are excited to announce the growth of our service travel offerings.

Corporate Service Trip Program

School the World has partnered with three corporations to kick off our Corporate Service Program! Flywire, Envisage International and IvyWise each committed to send 5-7 employees in March 2018 for a service-oriented team building experience! The group will be traveling to Quiche, Guatemala to complete a school and a playground.

College Service Learning Program

Many of our World Changers



are now almost college graduates! In 2017 we were so pleased to answer the countless requests from our alumni with a new opportunity to build on their passion for service and the STW mission. Our inaugural College Service group is traveling to Roatan, Honduras to build a school in May 2018.

Beyond the Classroom

Yumarie Ortiz Lopez has been inspired by her family's support for education. After graduating college, she began her work in higher education which has allowed her to work within 17 countries throughout South and Central America and meet students from many cultural backgrounds. She was eager to start her own campaign and raise enough funds to build a school because of her firsthand knowledge of how transformative education can be for children from rural communities.

one of the things that I hold dear to my heart. My mother is a K-3 teacher, who is retiring this year. She has taught me outside the classroom.

Standout Supporters

Alberto Musalem and Claudia Pinto are two of STW's most important partners.

Alberto joined the board in 2011 and Claudia immediately began hosting School the World fundraisers in their D.C. home. "School

"The impacts of are not only positive. but long-lasting" Alberto

the World as it exists today, supporting 6,702 students, would never have been possible without them," says founder & CEO Kate Curran.

> "Education is very important to us," says Alberto. His father, as he describes,



was "the living example of the power of education". He was born into a very poor family in Argentina. However, at the time, Argentina had a world class education system. Hard work and education allowed

him to lift himself from his humble origins and eventually make it to a top graduate program in the United States. Education changed not only Alberto's father's life, it changed the opportunities that Alberto and his children would have.

How did you get involved with School the World?

"I (Claudia) had been studying for a while about how to set up a

non-profit dedicated to improving education. Alberto came home one day and told me how impressed he was after he had met Kate for the first time. We decided to have lunch, the three of us, and within 10 minutes I thought: "Why reinvent the wheel, Kate is already doing great work, and she needs us!" So, we decided that I would join Kate on an upcoming trip to Guatemala, as well as organize a DC fundraiser. This was the beginning of a very strong partnership that continues to grow and will hopefully never end!"

What aspect of School the World's program are you most passionate about?

"We think the Parent Training is one of the strongest and most innovative components that STW offers. Many organizations underestimate the power of training parents to be the first educators.

Everything begins at home and, with the proper training, we have found that parents are not only willing, but also eager to become a part of their children's education, whether they are themselves literate or not."

When visiting Guatemala, Claudia, what stood out the most about the communities?

New Corporate Supporter



Helping Communities EVOLVE

is an acclaimed author, international speaker and clinical psychologist with a focus on family and parenting. She first learned of School the World's mission in 2016 and

Dr. Shefali Tsabary

was quickly inspired by our work and eager to get involved. Dr. Shefali invited our founder & CEO, Kate Curran to her EVOLVE Conference and asked her EVOLVE community to support her in building a school in Guatemala. Her call for action was answered twice over and two schools were funded during the event and built in 2017. In July of 2017, Dr. Shefali joined us with her daughter for one of our Student Service Learning Trips. She was eager to see our programs in action and visit the EVOLVE schools. We are so thankful for Dr. Shefali and the EVOLVE community's support and look forward to continuing our relationship in the pursuit of making education possible for the most marginalized children.

> "If you want any term, nothing has greater impact than planting the seeds of knowledge.' ~ Claudia

"I was really impressed by how scattered families were in the rural communities and by how much the school and the STW programs had contributed to unifying the communities. It quickly became very apparent to me that these schools are not only a place where children get educated but also a unifying center where families get together for activities. In the last few years, with the addition of the playground area, this is even more visible."

Financials

"My trip to Guatemala this summer really opened my eyes to the strength of the organization on the ground, particularly in its ability to pull in all of the various constituents — government, community, parents, teachers, volunteers, donors — and get them all working together for the good of the community."

~ *Keith Clausen*, CEO of Envisage International Corporation & member of School the World's Board of Directors since 2016

	Revenue Growth by Year						
A NUMBER OF A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRIPTI	\$1,200K \$1,000K \$800K \$600K \$400K	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of Street,		2013. 2014. 2015. 2016.	· · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · ·	Revenue .\$376,924 .\$507,022 .\$738,304 .\$825,014 .\$984,043 1,167,773	- 4 1 4 3

		2017 Expenses
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	1	Fundraising \$30,344
7 2 5	のでないという	85% Program Services \$973,695
	A CALLER ST	

Summary of Financial Activities					
	<u>2017*</u>	2016			
Revenue	\$1,167,773	\$984,043			
Expenses	\$1,146,705	\$919,383			
Net surplus	\$21,068	\$64,660			

Summary of Financial Position

	<u>2017*</u>	2016
Assets	\$254,436	\$213,227
Liabilities	\$171,803	\$153,982
Net assets	\$82,633	\$59,245

* Unaudited. Audited financials will be available on STW website upon completion of audit.

Board of Directors

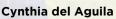
Spotlight on Cynthia del Aguila

In the words of **Cynthia del Aguila**, "My first interaction with School the World was more than 10 years ago when Kate visited me at Alianzas | USAID, where I was the Education Manager. It was instant synergy. We were searching for institutions that were willing to work with the poorest communities in C

to work with the poorest communities in Guatemala; School the World was working in El Quiché in the poorest indigenous communities providing: parents empowerment, teacher's training, books and infrastructure to make the school a place of opportunities for our children's learning. We worked together for some years and the results were outstanding.

"Later, in 2012, when I became the Minister of Education in Guatemala, it was such a pleasure to have Kate as one of my first visitors. I was looking for partners who wanted to promote reading as a basic skill and work closely with our communities so once again this was a perfect partnership.

"Today, I again have the opportunity to be involved with this wonderful organization as a member of the Board of Directors. I truly believe in their mission, values and philosophy. Children in the poorest areas deserve a quality education. Parents need to know that their involvement is crucial for their children's growth. Parents are the first educators and STW focuses on empowerment of parents; parents learn to support their children in and out of the classroom, become aware of their rights and their children's right for quality education, hold teachers accountable and realize that with better education, better hygiene and better decision making, their children will have better opportunities in life."



Executive Secretary, Foundation of the Universidad del Valle de Gautemala; *Former Minister of Education,* Guatemala

Merrily Bodell COO, IvyWise LLC

Keith Clausen CEO, Envisage International Corporation

Cindy Clemson *Co-Director of Municipal Development,* Eaton Vance

Joseph Cronin President & Founder, International Travel Insurance Group

Kate Curran CEO & Founder, School the World

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Thank You, STW Donors!

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\$1,000+

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A Huge Thank You to Our Changemakers Club!

By giving monthly, you are a transformative partner of School the World. We could not bring quality education to so many children without each and every one of our **STW Changemakers**!

Faizah Abdullah Haifa Alkhulidi Nadia Aqeel Thomas Baker Susan Bloor Dina Budiarto Mary E Callahan Liviu Chis Miriam Colomsky María A Davila Margarita Estrada Po Man Fok Maria Galia Vanessa Guzzardi Mary Pat Healy Laurie Hill Rebecca Johnston Monica Judge Roxanne Kanak Runesh Karpaya Yuchi Kuah Edwina labonte

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