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If you want to help for a day, give them rice;
 If you want to help for a while give them a tree;
 If you want to help for an eternity, give them an education.

Winter 2018-Part 2

Looking Back at 2017

Alan Turing, the “father” of the computer who broke the German coding system helping bring an end to WWII said: “Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.”

Paulina Baez, a former David Lynch Kindergarten student now attends Southwestern College in San Diego

One of my students at Southwestern College where I have been an adjunct professor for 30 years is a former David Lynch Kindergarten graduate. I found out the 2nd class when she asked me if I owned the David Lynch Kindergarten in Tijuana that she attended. I was left speechless.

I asked her to share her story with the class and this is what she said: "I am from Colonia Fausto Gonzalez, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Tijuana. The government didn't and still doesn't provide kindergarten education in the area so our teacher built and operates one for the neighborhood and I attended it."

I didn't add any information such as the school was for the families who scavenge the Tijuana municipal dump for survival or that in 1991, Mother Theresa called these people "the poorest of the poor" as she stood on top of a cliff looking down at the scavengers at work.

How astounded I was to have a former kindergarten student whose family still lives in the neighborhood right across the street from the Responsibility school attending my college class.

If only I could locate the person/family who sponsored her education to tell them. Imagine how they would feel to hear about Paulina's success today. (Paulina was in one of the first graduating classes. She attended the school from August 1993 through June 1995. At that time, the neighborhood was only for families who scavenged the dump. Back then, entire families worked together searching for whatever was worth a penny, or edible, or wearable.

I received this email after that class from Paulina

...” I told my mom about us meeting (at SWC) and me being in your class and she wants me to say THANK YOU for all that you have done for the community. I also want to say THANK YOU, too, for not forgetting about us (the kids that live in a dumpster (that is her word.) and helping us ♥)”

I asked Paulina to write a short autobiography.

I was born on June 28, 1989, in Sylmar, California, of undocumented parents. We returned to Jalisco, Mexico, (southern Mexico) when I was 2 years old and live there for two years. (One of my 2 brothers was born there.) Then we moved to Tijuana because my Dad knew he could work in the Tijuana municipal dump as a “pepenador” (scavenger.) Here is where my youngest brother was born.

Growing up, my mom was a housewife. I went to the David Lynch Kindergarten and Professor Felipe was my first preschool teacher. Professor Dora and Professor Martha were my kindergarten teachers. I graduated in the year 1995 and then attended the primary school in my neighborhood. I graduated elementary school in 2001. In 2004, I graduated with honors from junior high school; and in 2007, I graduated from high school.

My plan was to attend medical school but my father lost his job (the garbage dump closed) and I was forced to leave school and work to help support the family. At 19 years old, I found work in a cafeteria not too far from home and worked there for 2 years. I signed up to study nursing in the red cross, but the schedules did not allow me to study and work, so I just had to put my dream of studying on hold and continue working.

I am now married and we have a 6 year old daughter. Both my husband and I can legally live and work in the United States, but we choose to live in Mexico close to our family and friends. We are both studying English. I also work in Kmart which is right at the border crossing. My plans are to improve my English and then pursue a degree in nursing here at Southwestern College.

(Pictures: Left to right. Paulina in preschool, Paulina's graduation from Kindergarten, Paulina attending Southwestern College with Professor David Lynch, and the last picture is of the garbage dump. This is where her Dad worked and why the family moved to Tijuana. Her dad is not in this picture. It was taken last week.)



Responsibility's Income and distribution of funds in 2017

Income

Cash	\$307,677
Stock Transfer Donation into Endowment Acct.	\$22,800
In-kind donations	\$34,945
Wells Fargo Account Increase in value	\$248,000
Total	<u>\$613,422</u>

Distribution of Funds

Medical Coverage	\$20,164	3%
Fund Raising	\$32,308	5%
Tijuana Project	\$102,926	17%
US Education Program	\$32,308	3%
Nicaragua Project	\$46,377	8%
Christmas Project Tijuana/Nicaragua	\$57,018	9%
Retirement 401K	\$29,500	5%
IRS, Tax filling/Registration	\$10,275	2%
Responsibility endowment fund (direct donation)	\$22,800	4% (remained in investment accounts)
Wells Fargo Account Increase in 2017	\$248,000	40% (remained in investment accounts)
Bank Account balance into 2018	\$10,747	2% (carried over to 2018)



(Our Tijuana Teachers)

Over the years, Responsibility has been the recipient of many people's generosity through their wills and estates. These large donations, plus others, have been placed in our professionally managed investment portfolio with Michael Jennings, Senior Financial Advisor at Wells Fargo Advisors. As of December 31, 2017, the total value was \$3,148,000. We will be using the interest earned for our various programs in the future.

Thank you

Once again, thank you for your support over the past 38 years.

Gratefully,

David Lynch, the Board of Directors, the Mexican Staff, the Nicaraguan Staff, and all of our students.

Responsibility, Inc., is a 501 (C)3 nonprofit organizations. Donations are tax deductible. EIN: 33-0437290