



**SCHOOL**  
THE WORLD

**2018**

ANNUAL REPORT



# THE EDUCATION CRISIS & OUR MISSION

**It's simple. Education has the power to make the world a better place.**

It's a fact that children who learn to read, write and count will provide better futures for their families and countries. With a quality education, so many other significant areas of life are positively affected.

## THE PROBLEM

**617**  
MILLION

in school children & adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics

**400**  
MILLION

children complete four years of school and only learn the basics

**262**  
MILLION

school-aged children are not in school

**61**  
MILLION

lower secondary school-aged children are not in school

**64**  
MILLION

primary school-aged children are not in school

## OUR SOLUTION

**MISSION:** School the World is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to solving extreme poverty through the power of education.

**STRATEGY:** We work at the grassroots level to organize communities around education from early childhood through adolescence. On our journey to create a more just world, our Global Citizenship Program amplifies our impact at home and abroad.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe all children love to learn, want to learn and are capable of learning. We believe all parents want a better life for their children and all teachers prefer motivation & achievement to apathy & failure. Nevertheless, we recognize that the complexities behind generational poverty require us to be innovative and often disruptive to change the status quo.

## OUR VALUES

COMMUNITY. LEARNING. EMPOWERMENT. TRANSPARENCY. ACCOUNTABILITY.

# LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER & BOARD CHAIR

## Now more than ever the importance of our mission is clear and urgent.

This past year was filled with news about the crises in Central America and at our border. The headlines grabbing our attention scream violence and crime, but we know a different truth.

The vast majority of migrants name poverty and lack of opportunity as the primary reason they fled their country. Like all of us, they want a better life for their children. They understand that education is the path to a better life, but they have lost hope in their own governments' ability to provide even this basic right.

By believing in and supporting our work, you have been providing hope to 75 communities and 5,635 families in Central America. New schools – simple concrete buildings with floors and windows and electricity – are an important sign of progress to communities.

When we fill classrooms with books, properly train the teachers and show the parents how they can help, the children actually begin to learn. And when children come to know the joy of learning, they want to stay in school and their parents support them.

We watch as the school becomes the engine of development for the entire community. Communities start to advocate for themselves and we see the arrival of electricity, water and small businesses. We have even seen extremely poor communities grow with new families moving in because they heard about a good school!

As we approach our 10th year we are proud of our accomplishments but we know that there is much more work to do. We hope you stay on our journey with us as we help more and more Central American families stay in the countries they love with the hope and opportunity that only education can provide.



Founder & CEO



Chair, Board of Directors

# 9 YEARS AT A GLANCE

WITH YOUR HELP ...

75 Schools Built

323 Teachers Trained

349 Libraries Created

5,268 Parents Empowered

8,654 Children Educated

595 World Changers Inspired



# OUR PROGRAMS

Because of **YOU**, we brought education to **25** more communities, educating **1,952** more children and empowering **975** more parents through our Primary School Program. We also expanded our Service Learning Program and made big plans for our future!

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Through a partnership with the government and communities we build safe and inviting learning environments and playgrounds.

## PARENTS

In order to create sustainable change, it is critical to empower the parents in each community to be their child's first educator. Through Parent Trainings, our local staff works with the parents to understand their child's rights and to hold the teachers accountable.

## TEACHERS

Quality learning comes from quality teaching. That is why our Teacher Trainings show the teachers in each school how they can best help children learn.

## BOOKS

Children cannot learn to read without books! Through a partnership with the parents, we stock and restock classroom libraries with beautiful books that inspire children to dream beyond the classroom.

## SERVICE LEARNING

Through our Service Learning Program, high school and college students fundraise for a school and travel to Guatemala to finish the school build. Along the way they make new connections, friends and life-long memories and return home inspired to continue creating change.



# SCHOOLS & PLAYGROUNDS



Schools Built

2018: 25

Total: 75



*Rick & Renee Dellar with their two children on Halloween*



## Rick Dellar

*When & How did you first get involved with School the World?*

My wife and I saw Kate Curran speak at a seminar and were truly inspired by her story, how a series of personal losses changed her life view, drove her to leave her corporate job and dedicate herself to helping poor children. Kate's story motivated me to sponsor a school for \$10,000 right on the spot. We did it as a match, challenging the audience to give first, and we ended up funding two schools!

*What inspires you about School the World's mission?*

Education has always been of critical importance to both Renee and me. Renee has dedicated herself to learning about education in all forms over the last decade and it always begins with parents believing in their child and their future.

Funding schools, in my opinion, is actually quite easy. The tougher job is creating partnerships with the government and local leaders and making sure these funds actually do what they're supposed to do.

What Kate, her Board and her employees have done has been absolutely fantastic. They are not

Providing safe & welcoming learning environments for children to thrive and providing a space to discover, imagine and explore.



## Playgrounds Built

2018: 9  
Total: 41



only changing lives in Guatemala and Honduras; they are providing kids in America, often born into privilege, with the opportunity to serve these very poor countries and connect with children and communities in very profound and meaningful ways.

*What do you hope for the children you are supporting?*

Our hope is that the children obtain both literacy skills and a true love for learning. That is when the world will begin to change. I believe there will be dozens and dozens of inspirational stories on how these children's lives are changed forever by getting a quality education.

"I love watching the children when they're playing on a new playground, watching them build friendship, companionship and respect among each other. I also love seeing how proud parents are to have a nice playground in their community."

**- Ana Joya,  
STW Regional Director**

# PARENTS

*Empowering parents to be their child's first educator.*



**Parents  
Empowered**

**2018: 975  
Total: 5,268**

## Petrona Ramos

Petrona and her 10 children live in the community of Pixtup. Two years ago, Petrona's husband tragically died in a car accident. To feed her 10 children, Petrona works in nearby homes, washing clothes, doing chores and cooking for others. She pulled her children out of school to help her with household chores or go to work to bring home more income.

But then, Petrona began participating in our Parent Training Program. When she learned that education is the key to a higher income and better health, Petrona re-enrolled 7 out of her 10 children in school. She even finds time to be active in the Parent Council, helping to prepare snacks and school lunches. Her dream is to see all of her children graduate school and get sensible jobs so that they have a better place to live. She knows that their father will always be looking down on them smiling, knowing that his children are learning and creating better lives for themselves.



# TEACHERS & BOOKS

*Ensuring children receive life skills and driving the supply of critical learning materials.*



## Teachers Trained

**2018: 68**  
Total: 323



## Books Supplied

**2018: 9,286**  
Total: 24,868



## Libraries Created

**2018: 31**  
Total: 349



This year, parents continued to show great support for our classroom library initiative. We empower parents to begin investing in books by committing to match their annual contributions by 5 in the first year, 4 in the second year, 3 in the third year, 2 in the fourth year and 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!

Meet Osmin (left) and Jose Garcia (Right) from Brisas de Olanchito School in Honduras. When asked why they were happy about the books they said “because books are pretty and fun and we can learn a lot through them!” Brisas is a school that showed a great improvement in 2018. The parents gave over 5 times the amount they gave in 2017. They saw how much their children loved reading the new books and were determined to give their children more this year!

In 2018, we finalized our new teacher training curricula that focus on early grade literacy, classroom management and social and emotional learning.

Over the course of two years teachers participate in group trainings and receive follow up coaching in the classroom.

# SERVICE LEARNING

*Providing U.S. students with the opportunity to create change.*



With the help of an anonymous donor, School the World formed a partnership with the Ron Burton Training Village (RBTV), a youth leadership organization focused on enriching the lives of challenged youth. 12 boys, along with brothers Ron Burton Jr. (President, RBTV) and Phil Burton (Vice President, RBTV), traveled with us to Guatemala in April.

“The week really gives the boys perspective. While their problems are real, the challenges they face don’t come close to what the children and families deal with living in extreme rural poverty.”

**– Phil Burton**



**World Changers**

**2018: 165**  
**Total: 595**

“During this week my eyes have opened immensely. Going on this trip has allowed me to really appreciate everything I have, and I will never take anything for granted again. I wish we could have stayed longer, but we were able to accomplish a lot in just five days. When I return I am going to give my mom a giant hug, because in this community they value family more than anything, so from now on that’s what I will do too.”

**- Sergy**



# CORPORATE SPONSOR & SERVICE PROGRAM

*Providing companies with the opportunity to inspire their employees & give to education.*

**Companies Participated:** IvyWise,  
Flywire, Envisage International  
**Employees Inspired:** 21  
**Community:** Patzalam Choacaman IV

2018 marked our inaugural corporate service trip with Ivywise, Flywire and Envisage International. Each company provided generous sponsorships and supported creative in-house employee fundraising like hosting office pancake breakfasts, happy hours and even hosting a slime challenge where the CEO got slimed!

The week in Guatemala was filled with hard work, team building, increased employee morale and new business development all while creating lasting relationships with the children and community members.



“Participating in a corporate trip with School the World was far and away the best investment I have made in our team. We’ve seen such positive return on investment not only with employee morale but also with marketing engagement.”

**- Merrily Bodell, COO, IvyWise**



**Before**



**After**



## TALBOTS

Talbots became a Corporate sponsor in 2018. A \$25,000 contribution funded a new school, classroom libraries and training for both teachers and parents!  
**Thank you Talbots!**

# STANDOUT SUPPORTER!



## Maive Scully

Maive Scully is a retired former finance executive with General Electric. She graduated and was a former trustee of Fairfield University and served on the Advisory Board of Dolan Business School.

Maive had recently retired from GE, where she and Kate had worked together, when Kate founded School the World. They met often and Maive became “increasingly convinced Kate was onto a winning formula that set her apart from many other philanthropic endeavors”.

Maive comes from a long line of educators. Her Mom was a Pre-K teacher for many years in Waterbury, CT. Her Mom’s sister was a teacher too. She remembers how her Mom loved seeing her students blossom when they had the opportunity to learn.

Education was truly valued in Maive’s family and extended family. She was raised around books and from a young age, she loved to learn and loved to read. “I can’t imagine a life where I didn’t have ready access to books,” she says.

*What Inspires you the most about School the World’s work?*

“I love the approach School the World has taken. They understand that for education to be sustainable it must involve the whole community starting with the parents. Teachers need to be trained, parents need to be involved and everyone needs to have ‘skin in the game.’”

*How did the schools at Rio Mactzul and Choacaman come about?*

“I was so incredibly proud of my Mom’s dedication to her students. She was such an amazing person. I knew I wanted to remember her in a way that reflected her life’s work. Building a school in her memory in Rio Mactzul seemed natural.

I went to Guatemala with Kate for the dedication to honor my Mom. Years later, when I was helping my Mom’s sister, also a teacher, with her estate planning, she said that she too would like to have a school and made a bequest in her will. I continue to support School the World and both of these schools with annual contributions.

I hope that these schools will provide children living in Guatemala with the opportunity to develop a lifelong love of learning, wherever that leads them.”

# FUNDRAISERS & CHANGEMAKERS

“My husband & I are both first generation college grads & we know too well how important education is, at all levels. It can benefit children & show them how they can change the world. We knew that this was an important mission so we decided to set up a monthly automatic donation so it would never be overlooked or forgotten.”

**- Monica, Our First and Longest Changemaker!**



## Ivan

One of our standout fundraising superstars for 2018 is Ivan. Each year Ivan and his wife pick an organization to fundraise for and they chose School the World because they wanted to help children in a concrete way. It was important for them to actually see the results. Knowing that their fundraising would be making a real impact and that they would receive personalized photo updates of the construction, Ivan and his wife were sold. By hosting events like paint nights and a walkathon, Ivan was able to reach his goal of funding a school in just under a year!



## Ben

Ben decided to fundraise for education for his mitvah project. He wanted to help children who might love to read but don't have books. With a goal of funding one classroom library, Ben decided to host various “Lemonade for Literacy” stands and bake sales and speak to elementary school classes about the importance of literacy. To his surprise, so many people loved his idea that he actually raised enough to fund 6 libraries! Thank you Ben, we know the kids will be glued to their new books!

*Interested in fundraising for your birthday, books or just want to get your friends and family involved in our mission? Go to [schooltheworld.org](http://schooltheworld.org) for more information on how you can be a School the World fundraising superstar!*

# MEET CINDY CLEMSON

## BOARD CHAIR

*How did you first hear about School the World and what made you want to get involved?*

I first heard about School the World when my daughter Haley was interested in going on the trip. We both felt that this program would be a different experience than some of the more travel-related volunteer opportunities and the chance to spend the whole week at one community and really make a difference was incredibly important. Once we found out that I could also go and chaperone the trip we were both hooked!

*What have been the biggest takeaways from your experience as a chaperone?*

I have actually chaperoned three times and feel fortunate to have experienced this with both of my daughters over 4 years. It was incredible to see Haley and Dana's reactions in real time as we visited the homes in the communities. I loved watching Dana paint a mural with the children and seeing Haley's face light up when a child remembered her from the year prior! I couldn't possibly miss the changes taking hold in all of the student volunteers as they started to appreciate the power of and importance of education and how fortunate they all were.

*What continues to impress you about School the World and why do you continue to support this organization?*

After my first week building the school, playing with the children, visiting homes and teaching in the classroom, School the World's vision really started to hit home. If you empower entire communities by bringing them together to support and educate their children you can change lives for generations to come. The School the World model creates sustainable change because after building the school they train the teachers and help parents understand why it's so important to keep their kids in school. They empower parents and communities to demand access to quality basic education and from that comes the ability to advocate for other needs.

*I continue to support School the World because their powerful model works.*



## Summary of Financial Activities

	2018	2017
REVENUE	\$1,383,915	\$1,155,275
EXPENSES	\$1,299,147	\$1,146,841
NET SURPLUS	\$84,768	\$8,434

## Summary of Financial Position

	2018	2017
ASSETS	\$379,263	\$254,435
LIABILITIES	\$244,500	\$184,440
NET ASSETS	\$137,763	\$ 69,995

## 2018 Functional Expenses



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Merrily Bodell

Chief Operating Officer, Ivywise

### Cindy Clemson

Co-Director of Municipal Investments  
Eaton Vance, Chair & Executive Committee

### Kate Curran

Founder & CEO, School the World

### Keith Clausen

CEO, Envisage International Corporation

### Vickie Costa

Senior Vice President of Global Sourcing,  
Talbots

### Joseph Cronin

Founder & President, International  
Insurance Group, Inc.  
Secretary & Executive Committee

### Cynthia del Aguila

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

### Lin Delaney

Partner & Attorney, Delaney McKinney LLP

### Claudia Pinto

Retired, Portugal Foreign Service

### Nicole Sahin

CEO, Globalization Partners

### Ellen McDonnell Stevens

Executive Editor (Retired), NPR

### Andy Sears

Investor

### Geoffrey Willison

CEO, Continuum Innovation

## ADVISORY BOARD

### Nicole Arnold

### Bruno Mercenari

Co-President, Ino

### Alberto Musalem

CEO, Co-CIO & Co-Founder, Evince Asset  
Management LP

### Carmen Scarpa

Partner, Spring Lake Equity Partners

### Emmanuel Smadja

CEO & Co-Founder, MPOWER Financing

### Rafael Urbina

CEO & Founder, Batanga Network, Inc.

# The Future: 10 Years

We have 3 anniversary goals to reach by our 10th Anniversary in September 2019:

1

ENTER A 3RD COUNTRY

2

REACH 100 SCHOOLS

3

EXPAND PROGRAMMING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ALL THE WAY TO LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL - READING - WRITING - MATH - DIGITAL LITERACY

## YOU CAN HELP!

Learn more at [schooltheworld.org](http://schooltheworld.org)

Whether it's volunteering or fundraising for your birthday this year, you can make a difference in the lives of children living in extreme poverty. **Ways to get involved:**

- A. DO SOMETHING CRAZY & FUNDRAISE FOR EDUCATION
- B. VOLUNTEER WITH US
- C. HOST A SIP & LEARN IN YOUR HOME WITH A SCHOOL THE WORLD SPEAKER
- D. SPREAD THE WORD & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
- E. BECOME A CHANGEMAKER & INVEST MONTHLY IN EDUCATION

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