

# Between FRIENDS

## President's Message

I think I am getting a hand-knit sweater for Christmas. It's either that or my wife bought enough yarn to make me 17 socks. Last year my daughter gave me a bag of seeds dried from her heirloom cherry tomatoes. My son gave me a donation to the NPH Peru sharing fund. All are awesome and memorable gifts.

As you can see, our family tries to steer away from the material side of Christmas gifting. If you find yourself struggling for ideas for family and friends and are resorting to another candle arrangement or both set from Stuf Mart, then please consider a donation gift from FOTOCAN. This gift honours the person you name and shows unconditional love for the child in need that you have never met.

**BONUS FEATURES:** FOTOCAN gifts earn you a refund from the tax people and FOTOCAN gifts fit easily into your regular Christmas card envelopes. No wrapping or shipping costs.

Merry Christmas  
Andy Ross



NUESTROS PEQUEÑOS HERMANOS



Friends of the Orphans  
CANADA

## Joy's Jots

Another newsletter already? The summer of 2019 seems too quickly faded into memory. Here at FOTOCAN, we have had two board meetings already with our newly-elected board members from our 2019 AGM, Traci and Brandon. You will find Traci's bio here in this issue as well as Steve Travale, who joined our board in the spring of 2017. In our forth-coming spring issue, we will feature Brandon and Ginger. We said goodbye to Lawrence Russo who served on our board for four years. His contribution and time with our board is very much appreciated and he will continue to assist us with our work in Dominican Republic.

We are also looking forward to our return to Nicaragua this coming spring after waiting for some political drama to settle down. Our contacts there have assured us that it is now safe to return and they tell us the children have missed us! Our February team to Nicaragua will complete the final year of a three year commitment to assist them with their agricultural practices .

We have other projects coming up this winter in Peru and possibly a second project in South Africa in September. Check our web-site for the latest projects and call our office if you wish to join us for any of our projects.

On behalf of all our board members, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a safe holiday season and thank you again for your continued support with sponsorship, projects and all donations!

## FROM OUR OFFICE

2019 has been a very productive year here in our office. Barbara, Susan and Arlene as well as many other volunteers have helped us to move forward in many areas.

### – DONATIONS / FINANCES

- As we faced the challenges of meeting the needs of the children in our NPH homes and the organization as a whole, we were once again amazed and thankful for those of you who are a part of helping the work. We always experience a rollercoaster in our financial area, and when it looks darkest, is always when we see those of you with such a heart for others, come forward to help. We can't thank you enough.

### – COMPUTERS

- A new computer server and computer upgrades were donated to our office by Central Canadian Glass and we are so very thankful to be able to have equipment that allows us to be much more efficient with our time every day.

### – NEWSLETTER

- With this current newsletter, we are now moving further into the digital age and are undertaking to send this newsletter out by email to those donors who have provided email addresses for us to use. You will also receive a printed copy of this particular issue. Our aim is to supply a digital copy only of our next newsletter to those donors who have provided an email address.
- If we do not have your email address on file, you might have already received a call from our office to ask if you could help us with this project. We want to be able to use technology where possible and thus have the cost-saving benefits. **It is important that we assure our valued donors that your email address will be used only to send the two newsletters we produce in March and October each year. Your email address will never be shared with anyone else and will never be used for any other mailing purposes.** If you have not previously provided your email address, we would ask that you consider doing so. It helps us to reduce costs and allows you to receive the newsletter in an environmentally-friendly manner.
- For those who still prefer to receive a printed copy we are more than happy to continue to provide the newsletter to you by regular mail.

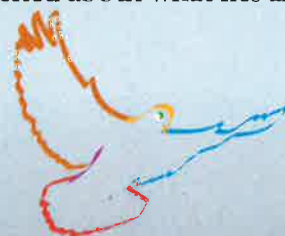
This email project has been one that has taken many months and we cannot thank the staff enough for all of the work they have done to help in this area.

### SPONSORSHIP

We have worked diligently in 2019 to try to keep our godparents aware of the challenges facing our N.P.H. homes. 2020 is predicted by N.P.H. International to be a year where economic hardship is more than ever the largest struggle. As we look around at the blessings we have in this country, may we continue to contemplate the plight of those who are in such great need, especially at this time of year. We thank each of you for your special part in the work of Friends of the Orphans Canada and are excited about what lies ahead in the coming year. May God bless you.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas.

*Margaret C. Blair*  
Margaret C. Blair. Executive Director.



**Within the past two years, we have welcomed four new board members to our FOTOCAN panel. Let's get to know more about them.**

**Traci Blair** is from Chatsworth, ON. She is a property and casualty insurance broker with a very supportive husband and two children, Josh and Katie, who have both joined her on adventures at NPH Peru. She enjoys reading, jogging, hiking, camping, spending time with friends and family, and getting lost in a good movie or TV show after a long day at work. She has been to NPH Peru four times in five years, and is planning many more in the years to come as well as hoping to visit the other NPH homes in the future. Her family sponsors a child from Casa Santa Rosa, and helps facilitate and cultivate their local Sunday school sponsorship with their God child in Peru, and liaise between FOTOCAN, the "Peru Crew", and their "small but mighty church community".



"Through the FOTOCAN board, I hope to learn everything about the homes, the ins and outs of this unique style of children's homes, how they run, and how I can help do my part to make them sustainable and safe, and help spread the word and cultivate more support from our local community. I knew I wanted to help more than just going to work and play for a couple of weeks each year. I wanted a way to feel connected to the children behind the scenes, even while here on Canadian soil. I hope to coordinate some groups down the way, and maybe, just maybe get my husband down to the casahs to meet these kids who have stolen a bit of my heart"

**Steven Travale** joined the FOTOCAN Board of Directors in the spring of 2018. He comes from Huron-Kinloss, south of Kincardine, Ontario and is currently wrapping up his final year of political science at the University of Ottawa. He enjoys being involved in politics, golfing, learning languages and travelling.

While in Grade 11 at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, he went on his first trip to the NPH home in Nicaragua with a bunch of classmates, and teacher-chaperone Joy King. He returned a year later on a medical mission, and again for a personal visit the following year.



"I knew after my first trip that I wanted to stay involved with the work being done by FOTOCAN as an extension of the support that NPH provides to young people in Central America. After making several visits, it seemed like the right fit to get involved with the board here in Canada. The board's transparency, and full commitment to supporting children in need make them an outstanding group to be involved with. As well, I've been wanting to take a team down to one of the homes so that more people can get involved with supporting our mission. Hopefully once I finish my degree, that'll be on the agenda!"

# Between FRIENDS

Autumn 2019 NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Orphans Canada kicked off another decade of service this past May with our 41st annual meeting of our membership. As always, our wonderful supporters joined us for a sumptuous Mexican meal, made popular by last year's attendees, a silent auction featuring many items from Latin America and guest speakers from near and far.

We added two new board members to our roster and were updated on the projects from the winter of 2019. Here are some of the highlights in photos.



*Eric Bolan is a former pequeño at NPH Guatemala and is staying in Canada with FOTOCAN friends. He tells us what his life was like at the home and what he's been up to lately.*



*Our fearless leader - **President Andy Ross** - opens with a greeting*



*Toni VanHaeren speaks about recent activities with the St. Luke Foundation in Haiti.*



*Projects leaders **Terry Donaghy** and **Martha Good** give their work reports for their respective countries, Guatemala and Haiti.*



*Our intimate group listens intently to the presentations and are rewarded with a buffet style meal, complete with tacos, Mexican rice and chicken and dessert squares.*



***Jerry Wilson**, a member of the union for electricians, reports on his time spent in Guatemala this past winter on a special project involving several Canadian electricians.*

## IMPORTANT:

Canada Revenue Agency had made a change to the requirements for Charitable Receipting.

**RECEIPTS MUST NOW INCLUDE THE DONOR'S MIDDLE INITIAL**

When you make your next donation please provide this information or email us at

[info@fotocan.org](mailto:info@fotocan.org)

