Walton Newsletter

WALTON NEWSLETTER

“Celebrate your success and find humor in your failures. Don’t take yourself so seriously. Loosen up and everyone around you will loosen up. Have fun and always show enthusiasm. When all else fails, put on a costume and sing a silly song.”

Sam Walton

Dear Waltons,

It has been several years since we have published a monthly Walton newsletter. The purpose of the Walton monthly newsletter is to provide a mechanism to keep us all informed on happenings within the Walton program. We would really enjoy having your input of special activities or events that will be of interest to other Waltons. We ask that you submit your information to Suyen by the 20th of each month so we have time to place them in the newsletter. Beginning this month we will send them as an attachment and place a copy in your mailbox.

The Loss of a Dear Friend

Dr. Nathan Willits is very near death and will most likely be with the Lord by the time this newsletter is printed. Nathan has been a dear friend of our Int’l students and has assisted the Int’l office for many years in getting host families for our students. I was able to spend time with him this past week and he talked about how much you all mean to him and that he would really enjoy having many of you attend his memorial service. We have lost a great champion and friend but how wonderful that He is united with the Lord Jesus who he served so faithfully in life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walton application deadlines

Guatemala: September 27th
Costa Rica: October 4th
El Salvador: December 20th
Honduras: December 20th
Panama: October 4th
Nicaragua: October 15th

International World Cup
October 1st from 1pm to 6pm at the Intramural Fields.

Trip to Harding University
October 22 and 23th.

Christmas banquet
December 7th if you want to help contact espinozas@jbu.edu

Dr. Willits’ Memorial service
September 29th at 7:00pm

I am writing a book about the Walton program called, “Our Story: The Inside Story of the Walton Scholarship Program”.

My reason for writing this book is to capture the history of this program and document many of the stories and experiences of our JBU Walton scholars over the past 26 years. It is a project that I expect will take me a year to complete but I am excited with the possibility of the opportunity to record in written form “Our Story.” I would appreciate your stories if you have unusual recruitment interview experiences, unique travel experiences when you first traveled here, or stories of initial adjustment (both humorous and serious.) I would love to hear them. Please document them and send them to me.

“It is not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived”

Helen Walton

Walton students seek to help others

Last month John Brown III visited the Walton monthly meeting and he invited us to be part of a volunteer program. Several Waltons became involved in this program. A Walton student who works for the Threefold Advocate at JBU wrote the following article.

What do local teachers, business leaders, and John Brown University’s Central American students have in common? They all participate in a project to encourage dropout students to go back to school. “Reach Out Siloam” is the pilot program to lower high school dropout rates in Northwest Arkansas schools. It was molded after a similar initiative first launched in 2004 in Houston, Texas.

On Sept. 10, Siloam Springs educators and six JBU Walton Scholars visited the houses of local high school students who did not show up to classes this fall. The program seeks to establish contact between volunteers and students, identify the reasons behind their absence and encourage them to return to the classroom.

Seniors Andrea Marroquin, Ana Villanueva, Max Rodriguez, Darryn Castro and Suyen Espinoza; sophomore Jonathan Montero, and freshman Francis Morales volunteered for the training session and visitation day. The training session was held Sept. 7 at the Main Street Academy, an alternative school for Siloam Springs students who have not succeeded in the regular high school, Johnson said. Marroquin said she hoped her experience would encourage dropout students to value the importance of education. “If nobody would have inspired me in the past, I wouldn’t be here,” she said. “There were people who invested in me, so I want to invest in others too. I know the difference a relationship can make.” After the door-to-door event, Walton scholars had the opportunity to visit with some of the students they encouraged, and also meet with other Hispanic youth and serve as mentors.

By Emerson Ayala
This semester, a group of Walton students are sponsoring a Compassion child. Andrea Marroquin, a senior from Guatemala started the idea. We asked her to share more about her idea and here is what she said.

How did you come up with the idea of sponsoring a child?

This summer I did my internship at Compassion Intl Guatemala. I have worked on and off with them for around five years (HS internship, other internships, translation services, etc.) These past years I have seen how they work and the impact they have in the lives of many children.

One of the last weeks of summer, I had the chance to go as a translator in a sponsored tour with Compassion. There I saw God working in many different ways. But what impacted me the most was to listen different stories from the kids and their parents, and to see that what they cared about the most was the relationship between their sponsor and them.

It was not about the money and the things they received, but about the encouragement and support they felt from somebody who is far away. I realized that we, as Waltons, have so much to give back to our people... Our stories and experiences could benefit somebody else to never give up their dreams.

I thought that it would be amazing for us, as a group, to have somebody with whom we could create a strong relationship and in whom we could pour out. So the idea came to me 😊 I prayed and talked about it... and the interest from others encouraged me to continue. Mr. J was a great supporter of the idea :)

Continued...
Why was the kid chosen from Guatemala?

We chose Guatemala because we already have contacts with the staff from the office over there. Specifically we know Nadia Soberanis, a JBU Walton alumna currently working for Compassion Guatemala. She knows about our sponsorship and I think just having those contacts will help us to be well informed about him and his needs. Also when we go back we can visit him.

Currently there are 26 Waltons involved in this amazing project. Last week the team met and chose the kid. His name is Allan and he is eight years old. A vital part of the sponsorship is exchanging letters with the kid; there will be people designated to do that. Since Marroquin is a senior, she is looking for someone to take the lead next year. Don’t let the fire be extinguished! Let’s share with others the blessings we have.

If you would like to help us sponsor Alan please contact Andrea at marroquina@jbu.edu. We’ll really appreciate it. And we’re sure Alan will, too.

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MEET THE NEW FRESHMAN “CLASS OF 2015”

Andres Sanchez Cortazar

Hi everybody, my name is Andres, I am from Mexico and I am 21 years old. I am majoring in Marketing and I really like it. I am the youngest of three brothers, and the only one that remains single 😊 I have one beautiful niece and a very handsome nephew. I live with my dad back in Mexico and love my family. I’m here because I want to finish my studies and help people with my skills; when I finish college I’d like to have my own business and employ young people. I consider myself a friendly guy but, I don’t really know; what I know is that God gave me another family and home here at JBU. Blessings, guys.

Mario Castillejo Jimenez

My name is Mario Luis Castillejo Jiménez, I’m from Mexico and I’m 19 years old. I live with my mother, my father and two brothers, I am the middle one. One of my biggest dreams in life is to help my parents; I know what they have done for my brothers and me, and I want to reward them for their effort. For my oldest brother and me it is our responsibility to help our nine-year-old brother to get a good education so he can be a good citizen.
Reach out Siloam Springs was a great opportunity to serve the Hispanic community in Siloam. I've been able to serve at the local middle school for the past two years through the community service that the Walton program offers. Ever since I had the chance to interact with the Hispanic youth in Siloam, I felt convicted to serve and support them. I believe that education is the key to success, and I believe that it is my responsibility to share with these students the value of education. The Walton program has changed my life by giving me the opportunity of quality, well-rounded education. It is now the time for me to give back and impact the community where I am. The Saturday walk with the Reach out Siloam program was a great way to connect with educators who are committed and passionate. It was also a great way to get to know young students. I had the honor to meet Abraham at this walk. He dropped out of school due to financial issues, and now works full time to help pay bills at home. He is four credits away from graduation. He wishes he could finish school, but he feels incapable. Through this program, I was able to encourage him and to give him that little push he needed to get back to school. He is now attending Main Street Academy through an independent studies program. And he will enroll as a regular student in October. I want to continue to be part of stories like this. I want students, like Abraham, to understand that education will define their future.

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things."

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Ana Paredes September 6th
Paola Ardon September 6th
Gabo Ruiz September 11th
Mario Castillejo September 17th
Julio Briones September 18th
Marcel Guadron September 18th
Mauricio Gonzalez September 19th
Jose Hidalgo September 26th

This article was written as a feedback of the Reach Out program that John Brown III started.