



## STAFF FEATURE

Hi, my name is Hannah Breuker. You may have seen me at last year's celebration event or spoken with me through email or over the phone during the last year. I currently serve as Jubilee's Development Assistant working out of West Michigan. I started with Jubilee in February 2018, and I have been truly blessed by the community that surrounds Jubilee! I coordinate communications such as newsletters and mailings, support event planning, and send donation thank-yous and receipts, among a number of other things. If you ever have questions about donations, receipts, or ways you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [hbreuker@jubileehn.org](mailto:hbreuker@jubileehn.org) or by phone at 616-422-6335.

I was fortunate that my schooling started with a Christian education at Holland Christian Schools. Thanks to my work with Jubilee, I am grateful for the

opportunity to help another generation of children start with the same foundation I was given. I grew up in my home church of Park Christian Reformed Church in Holland where I currently attend. I graduated from Central Michigan University in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations.

In addition to working with Jubilee, I also work as the Lead Operations Supervisor for Holland Community Aquatic Center. I love spending time at the beach and kayaking on the rivers in Michigan. I have visited seven different countries over the last ten years, and I am excited to add Honduras to that list this July when I join the mission trip. I am also currently trying to learn Spanish, so when you see me in person please help me learn a few words!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Johana! She is 8 years old and is in third grade. Johana has been part of Jubilee since she was in kindergarten in 2016. Both of her siblings, Jeeremy and Anthonela, are also students at Jubilee. Her older brother is in fifth grade, and her twin sister is in third grade with her! Johana's favorite subject is English. She enjoys playing with her friends at recess. When her teacher was asked what she excelled in inside the classroom, she responded, "Johana is very collaborative and always willing to help others. She is a student that I never have problems with, especially in the area of helping her friends and classmates." Johana likes to swim and she is part of a swim team in Tegucigalpa, The Sharks. When she grows up, she wants to be a swim teacher just like her dad.

She lives right here in the community of La Era with her family. She enjoys playing dolls with her sister and likes to wrestle with her brother. Johana has a dog named Chestnut, who she likes to take on walks. Johana's favorite Bible story is Noah's Ark, and her favorite Bible verse is Nehemiah 8:10. She would like prayers for her family and her grandmother who is sick. Johana and her siblings are part of our Child Sponsorship program and still need sponsors. If you are interested, please go to our website: [jubileehn.org/sponsor-a-child](http://jubileehn.org/sponsor-a-child) or contact our Sponsorship Coordinator Emily Brown at [ebrown@jubileehn.org](mailto:ebrown@jubileehn.org)



Johana, Jeeremy, Anthonela



# THE Jubilee JOURNAL

## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

### DEAR FRIENDS OF JUBILEE,

We pray this update finds you well. We have had a very good start to the 2019 school year, which marks our 10th anniversary! This year we have 245 preschool through sixth grade students, and 32 of our graduates participate in our middle school support program.

As we look back to the beginning of Jubilee, we can't believe it has been 10 years! How did a decade go so quickly? Ten years ago, just as Jubilee was coming into legal existence as a non-profit organization, our oldest son Anthony was about to be born. Two life-changing "births" happened within one month of each other in March and April of 2009! Little did we know how both births would dramatically change our lives and all the surprises and blessings God would have in store!

As we remember and share stories, we are overwhelmed by the boundless grace and mercy our Savior has had upon us and all of Jubilee this first decade! On our wedding invitations in 2006 we wrote the verse, "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3). This verse has become so deeply rooted in our lives as we have seen His "great things" showered on Jubilee everywhere we look.

When we moved back to Honduras in 2009, we dreamed of beginning Jubilee's education with middle school and high school focusing on at-risk youth, but the Lord had other plans. Upon arriving, we visited an NGO in La Era, and to our surprise, just outside the office, we ran into Claudia Velasquez, one of David's former high school and college classmates. As we began to talk, she told us that she was a kindergarten teacher for a program that had previously been run by World Vision; she indicated this program would be closing due to the project's expiration.

We shared with Claudia our desire to begin a ministry and that the Lord was calling us to La Era. As we continued to talk, we couldn't help but feel that this "accidental" encounter was a divine appointment of God's grace and His direction as to how and where to begin. Many prayers and conversations later, it was decided that Jubilee would begin by taking on the funding and direction of these preschool and kindergarten classes. Jubilee's school began with the smallest students, not with middle school as we had anticipated! The Lord certainly knows best. Claudia continues to be an important teacher at the school, still in the kindergarten program, and she has been with us longer than any other teacher! Enjoy this issue with some of the highlights from throughout our first decade!

In Christ's Love,

*Emily and David Romero*



The Romeros with Claudia Velasquez



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## PLANTED, WATERED, ROOTED, GROWING, BLOOMING

Written by JCI  
Board Member  
Amy Haroff

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God  
has been making it grow. 1 Cor. 3:6*

As we reflect back over Jubilee's ten year history, we can't help but liken God's presence to that of a gardener. How many of you in the fall have planted tulip bulbs into the dry, hardened ground and then waited throughout the long, cold winter anticipating, trusting, and hoping that they would sprout forth roots and leaves and eventually bloom into beautiful flowers come springtime? The history of Jubilee has been like that in so very many ways!

Even as David and Emily themselves were teenagers, God was already preparing the soil and planting in them the desire to serve His people through community outreach, education, and evangelism. The bulbs were planted, but it would take years of patiently waiting before any

growth would appear above the surface. Behind the scenes, however, various people were coming alongside the Romeros bringing life-giving water, and roots were wriggling deeper and deeper into the fertile soil to create a strong foundation. Through a web of intricate circumstances that only God could orchestrate, He brought David and Emily together to work toward the common goal of starting Jubilee Centers International. The timeline below highlights the very many examples of how the Gardener's hands have been tending to and caring for the ministry of Jubilee over the past ten years, ensuring that all of its needs are met in His perfect timing:

■ 2009: David and Emily were living in California while Emily finished her graduate degree. One night after church, their car wouldn't start, and the church member who gave them a ride home just happened to be experienced in helping missionaries legally incorporate their ministries. He helped them with all of the legal paperwork to establish Jubilee's non-profit status free of charge.

■ 2010: Jubilee officially launched its ministry in the community of La Era serving 85 students in preschool and kindergarten!



Second Graders, 2013

■ 2011: Jubilee was able to partner with a large, local church, Cántico Nuevo to rent classrooms. Jubilee opened 1st grade with the plan to continue opening one grade level each year.

■ 2012: This was the year when the Gardener sent His rains of blessing that prepared the ministry for future growth. Through a number of miraculous steps, the Lord opened the door for Jubilee to purchase property in the heart of La Era. He brought partners and new donors together to help raise a total of \$85,000 to pay for the property that would allow Jubilee to fully bloom in due time.

■ 2013: Jubilee's church took root and really started to grow through Sunday worship services and weekly Bible studies at the request of students and their parents. Jubilee also hosted its first mission teams.

■ 2014: It's always darkest before the dawn, and such was the case at the start of this school year with preschool through fourth graders stretching the limited space at Cántico Nuevo. The new property sat untouched, and the Romeros were told that they would have to look for another place to house Jubilee. The faithful Gardener soon showed up in a miraculous way as He worked through friends of Jubilee to raise money to build on the property. By the end of 2014, the campaign had raised more than the original goal! By October, construction of the new Jubilee school building was underway spear-headed by David's father, Saul Romero.



Construction of Building, 2015

■ 2015: This was a year of firsts for Jubilee. It was the first year having a year long missionary (Amy Haroff), the first year having a school library, and the first year having a music program. As all of these new shoots sprang forth and grew, up the road a ways, the new school building was also steadily taking shape, sinking its roots five stories deep and reaching its walls three stories high.



■ 2016: In February--the new school building being completed just days prior--Jubilee gave an open-armed welcome to over 250 PreK to 6th grade students. Weeks later, the new school principal, Ms. Gabriela Casco, helped lead an official inauguration event at the new school to thank God and everyone who made the building possible. From a lifeless bulb, to roots and leaves, at long last glorious flowers began bursting forth!

■ 2017: As if having a whole room for a library weren't exciting enough, this year Jubilee received funding for the opening of a computer lab and also started its after school music academy, *Niños Adorando*. Young musicians began leading worship as a fragrant offering to the Lord.



Some of Jubilee's 2016 - 2018 6th grade graduates

■ 2018: This was definitely a year of growing and blooming as Jubilee started its support program for its graduates now attending area middle schools; the music program put on a high quality, Christ-centered concert; long term missionary, Emily Brown, launched Jubilee's own child sponsorship program; and Jubilee's church continued to expand its ministries sharing the gospel with throughout La Era.



Freshly Finished School Building, 2016

■ 2019: Only time will tell what blessings this 10th anniversary year holds, but the prayer and plan is to launch a campaign to open Middle School in 2020! Jubilee is ready to see just what might spring forth and bloom in the years ahead as we continue to trust in the Gardener's hand of care.



Mrs. Claudia, Romeros, and Kindergarteners, 2010