



The Library of Dreams

(BDLS = Biblioteca de los Suenos)

Biblioteca de los Suenos El Salvador

- Mission - increase literacy, promote a love of reading for children
- Programs
 - Read-in and lending library
 - 3X weekly read-aloud and story-telling events for children
 - Reading instruction for children
 - Safe place for children to go
 - Educator training, working with local schools
- Conceived and built by Salvadorian author Jorge Argueta
- Support from IBBY, Biblioteca Nacional del Salvador, and MUPI



Jorge Argueta - Founder

- Magnificent reader, promoter, builder & creator of libraries
- El Salvadorian, raised locally, native Nawat speaker
- Highly regarded author of over 20 children's books, recipient of numerous awards
- Returned to El Salvador to help children by promoting reading





BIENVENIDO A STO. DOMINGO DE GUZMAN, EL SALVADOR

Bringing Reading to a Poor Community

- Santa Domingo de Guzman, El Salvador
- Semi-rural
 - About 2 hours from San Salvador, 30 minutes from Sonsonate
- Primarily indigenous local population
- Local area income below national average, well below world average
- Low literacy rate
- Reading is essential skill for advancement



BDLS worked with three schools during 2017

Reading programs for kids

Training school staff in reading promotion

Providing books and materials for school libraries



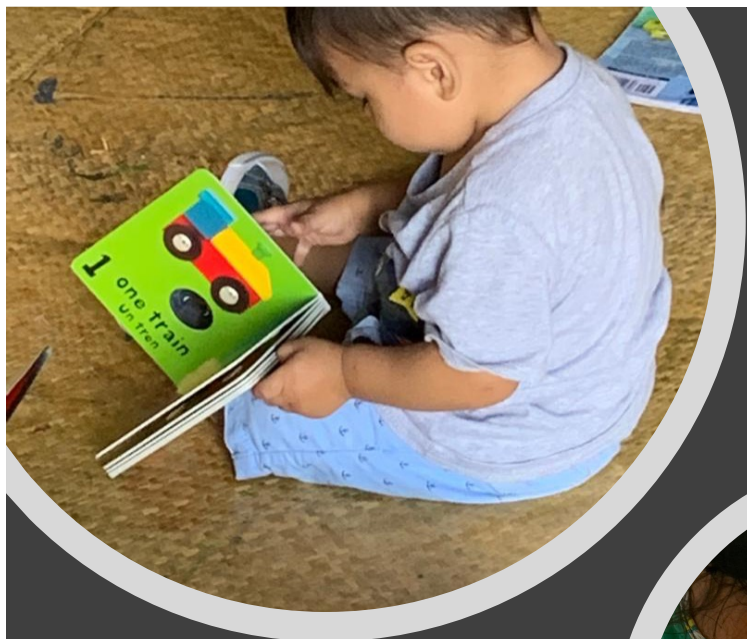
BRINGING READING TO THE CHILDREN!

BDLS brings books to the Saturday market and read stories to the children, children can read and check out books

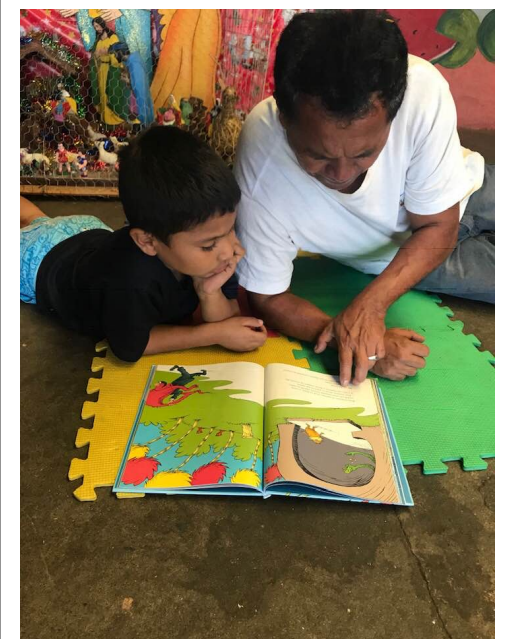
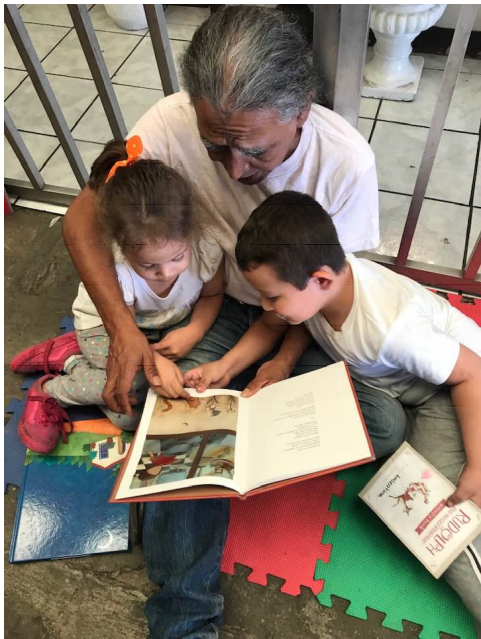


Library Gets Temporary Home in Santo Domingo
Open 3 Days Per Week

Children Come by Foot or by Truck to Experience Reading



- Serves over 100 children weekly
- Many returning readers, many new readers
- For many this is the only exposure to reading
- For many this is the first exposure to literature
- Volunteers help bring kids from community to get to the library



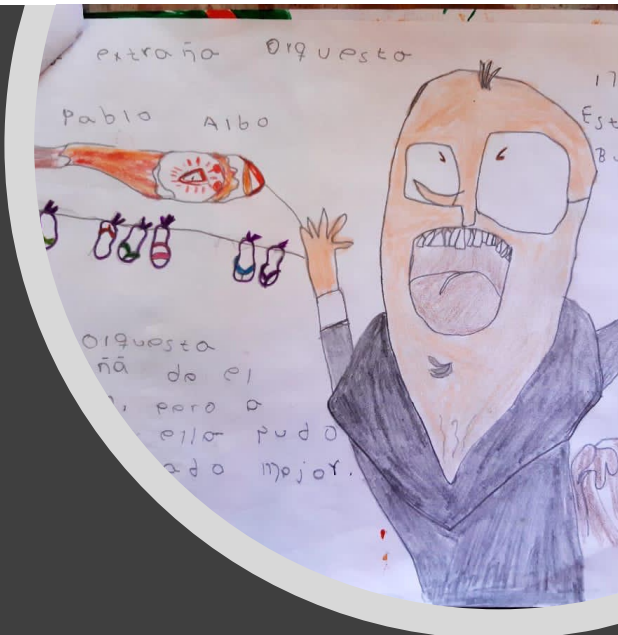
Fostering a Community United in Reading!

Covid Changes ... Becomes a Lending Library



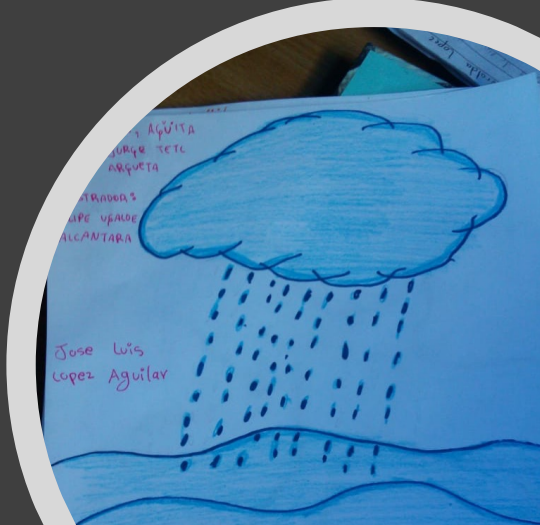


Stories Read Aloud to Children
Every Week from Loudspeakers in
the Mango Tree and the Church!



From Reading ...

Children start Writing



Challenge – Limitations of Rented Location

- No long term lease
- Too small - many children come to read and have to stay outside
- Hard to keep covid safe
- Landlord not allowing improvements to property



Opportunity – Build a Permanent Library

Land adjacent to the school available for sale

Permanent home for BDLS & reading materials

Safe place for children to read & learn & play

Expand current program offering – more teachers, more days

Facilitate collaboration with the local school

Funding Requirement

Total budget \$50,000

Use of funds: Land acquisition, phase 1 library buildout, books, supplies, & 2 years of operations

Total raised to date: \$15,000, \$35,000 remaining

Existing funds include \$2,000 from government that must be spent by 10/31/21

Project completion by 4/30/22, local vendors selected, library programs to begin immediately outside of heavy construction days in temporary facility