



## **Thank you for joining the Belize Education Project as a Sponsor!**

Your generosity will change the life of someone you may never meet, and with whom you may have nothing in common except your humanity. We look forward to working with you to support high school education for students in Belize. Following is helpful information about the BEP Scholarship Program and your sponsorship.

***Selection of student scholars:*** We have developed a fair and rigorous process to ensure selection of students who demonstrate financial need, leadership, and a likelihood of success in high school. Every application is reviewed and scored by at least two Board members and members of the scholarship committee. The number of scholarships available is dependent on the number of financial donors/sponsors each year. The selection process ensures that every primary school we work with in Belize has at least one student scholar per year.

***What your donation covers:*** When you sponsor a student, your donation covers tuition, fees, books and uniforms. It does not cover transportation to or from school. Students and families have strict instructions not to ask sponsors for additional money for any purpose – doing so will result in the loss of their scholarship. Please do not offer any additional financial support to your student or family. Our hope is that you commit to sponsoring your student for the full four years of their high school education. The BEP Board welcomes input related to your donation.

The sponsorship fee is \$800 per year for each student that you sponsor. We would like to have the first half (\$400) of your donation prior to the start of the school year in September, and the remainder by November. Of course you may pay all at once or if needed make monthly payments. The money is sent directly to Eden High School, it is not dispersed to the students or their families. Please send your check, made out to Belize Education Project, to Donna Duffy, 2437 Reed Street, Lakewood CO 80214. You will receive a receipt for your donation(s) in December for income tax purposes.

***Communication with students:*** We try to get an email address or Facebook contact for all students. We encourage you to establish communication with your student and offer encouragement, support and congratulations for their accomplishments. Students are expected to communicate with sponsors at least twice a year. Some students do not have an electronic contact method and will write letters instead.

Every student receives a welcome packet from BEP at the beginning of the school year. The packet includes general guidance for students and specific expectations as a BEP scholarship recipient. As part of this packet, we include a short “bio” from the student’s sponsor. The bio

should be brief, just a few paragraphs and a photo. We also collect a couple of additional photos of sponsors to include in a slideshow for students, families and school staff. Please send your bio and photos to Donna Duffy, [bepscholarships@yahoo.com](mailto:bepscholarships@yahoo.com) . If you would like to see a sample bio, or need assistance putting yours together, please contact Donna.

### ***Sponsor Opportunities***

- Travel to Belize in May/June for the Eden High School graduation. This trip is family-friendly and includes attendance at the graduation ceremony, dinner with the graduates, tours of Eden High School and a primary school supported by BEP, and time to explore the culture of Belize. You will receive additional information related to the cost and itinerary several months before the trip.
- Teacher trip in October to work at Belizean schools with their teachers, distribute school supplies and kick off the school year. The BEP Board vets potential travelers, as this is more of a working trip.
- There will be additional opportunities during the year to collect and pack school supplies, participate in fundraisers, and meet visiting teachers from Belize. Feel free to help us recruit new sponsors!

***The BEP website***, [www.belizeeducationproject.org](http://www.belizeeducationproject.org), is undergoing a major update. In the interim, you can still refer to it for information about Belize and the Cayo district, BEP background, mission and focus, Board members, and photos of past trips. We welcome your input in all phases of the Belize Education Project.

For scholarship questions, please contact Donna Duffy or Rebecca Knight, [bepscholarships@yahoo.com](mailto:bepscholarships@yahoo.com), or visit our separate website, [www.bepscholarships.org](http://www.bepscholarships.org), designed specifically for BEP Sponsorship Program.

For general questions about BEP, please contact Jean Kirshner, Board President, [jean.kirshner@dcsk12.org](mailto:jean.kirshner@dcsk12.org).

**Welcome to BEP!**