



John and Adele Swift Development & Enrichment Center (JADE)

"...hard work and education will carry you through the world."

Mrs. Adele Swift

Newsletter for Fall 2021

JADE's Vision

To change lives today for a better tomorrow.

JADE's Mission

To develop partnerships with communities to transform lives now in hope of a better future.

JADE's Partnerships

JADE is a tax-exempt non-profit organization based in Rialto, CA. JADE was created for public and charitable purposes to provide funding in education and humanitarian needs. JADE has developed partnerships in communities within the Inland Empire, Belize City, and rural communities of Belize to provide financial assistance in education, prepare and deliver food boxes to recipients all over Belize, offer free sewing classes, and provide transportation and spiritual support.

From JADE's President – Evadne Swift

'Tis the season to rejoice! We are present (if you are reading this), and most of us have grown one year older since the beginning of 2021. Certainly, it has been a challenging year; however, our focus continues to be 'do what you can and for whom you can, today.'

As I reflect on the happenings at JADE, we have so much to be thankful for despite the challenges inflicted by COVID. In October, the Women's Small groups continued with online Bible Study. In November, we were able to convene once again with in-person Bible Study. With thanksgiving in our hearts, we rejoiced as we met face-to-face again for fellowship.

My sister Margery and I communicated monthly with our sponsored students and their parents via the telephone. The feedback revealed that some of these students were very challenged with sporadic Internet connections during some

of their online class sessions. Consequently, they made up the classes they missed on the weekends.

We continued with monthly in-home food deliveries and dialoged with families. As always, we heard how thankful the families were for the food. As one mom, A.B., told us, "It's a daily struggle to not have a job and trying to make ends meet, so I am really grateful for the food that JADE provides to me on a monthly basis." It should be noted that this young lady has a two-year old baby, and she is the care giver for her 12-year-old brother and bedridden mother.

In addition, more than you will ever know, we are most grateful for your donation, because every single dollar counts. We see firsthand the lives that are being touched by your generosity.

Yes, it is the season to rejoice. "For God so loved the world, that he gave us his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 KJV)

As I look forward to the New Year, I am most thankful for the present and I am blessed to be able to serve here at JADE. From us here at JADE, we send you warmest greetings for a Merry Christmas and the very best in 2022.

God bless us one and all!

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Is. 9:6 NIV**

JADE's First Christmas Play Re-enacting the Birth of Jesus Christ

The ladies in the Bible Study Groups prepared a Christmas play reenacting the birth of the Son of God. They joined their children and/or grandchildren as cast members. They practiced diligently during the months of October and November. Adhering to COVID restrictions, the performance was held outdoors on December 18, with over 60 guests in attendance. God blessed us with great weather, and we rejoiced that all members of the cast were in good health. Everyone performed commendably, all to the glory of God. Amen.



Cast of the Christmas Play

Wrapping up the First Semester

A youth event for the high school students who are sponsored by JADE was held on December 21. Students commented that online schooling was challenging because of the lack of or intermittent Internet services. However, they completed their assignments even if it meant giving up their weekends. They reviewed their goals for success and the steps needed to experience success in school. After the academic tasks were accomplished, they participated in team building activities, including skits and games.



Students finalizing their notes before presentation.



Students earned Certificate for successful participation in the event.

Notes from students following the event:

Isaiah: I would like to let my sponsors know that I will not fail any of my classes. I thank them for everything they do for my family and me.

Jadon: I want to thank JADE for helping me with my education.

Josh: A big thank you to JADE for helping my family and me; hopefully, they can keep this organization going and keep up the good work.

Bethany: JADE has been a good organization that helps kids like me and others. I love the way Ms Eva talks about God and Ms Margie for sharing their childhood stories.

Israel: I would like JADE to keep up the good work and keep putting smiles on our faces.

JADE's Food Pantry



JADE began its food pantry service in August of 2020. Since then, requests for food assistance have been received from all over the country. For the year 2021, 324 food boxes have been prepared and distributed.

JADE's Partnership with Hand in Hand

Hand in Hand is a 501(c)(3) organization operating in Belize. It's the only organization in Belize that provides for children with AIDS. It has been difficult to obtain the needed vitamins and iron for the children. JADE was asked to help.



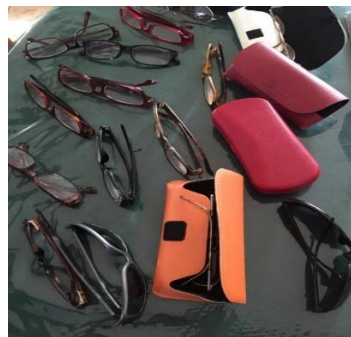
Knowledge is Power



JADE provided tuition assistance to 14 students in high school and six in primary school.

Eyeglasses

JADE continues to collect and distribute eyeglasses in Belize to those who cannot afford to visit the optometrist.



JADE is at Work with its Partners providing:

- financial support to 20 primary and high school students in the form of tuition payments,
- monthly food baskets to villagers within an 80-mile radii,
- transporting women to and from small groups ministry,
- outreach and counseling to villagers,
- multivitamins with iron to children with aids, and
- daily acts of kindness based on human needs.

Heartfelt Thank You to Directors Sonia Hicks and Alma Edison

Sonia and Alma continue their daily acts of kindness to the homeless from Bakersfield to the Inland Empire. They distribute an average of 18 care bags per month. They shop and pack the bags which include toiletries, a blanket, umbrella, water, face masks, sanitary wipes, hand sanitizers, pamphlets on how to be saved, food items and snacks including crackers and cheese. Vanessa S. donates Vienna sausages for the care bags. The ladies keep the food items in their cars and when they see a need, they stop, and help.

"We know where most of the homeless hang out and we stop and give them a care bag," said Alma. "Then we ask the recipient if he or she would like us to pray with him or her. The answer is usually 'yes.' If we encounter someone outside a grocery store asking for food, we buy warm food from inside the store and hand it to the person on our way out."

Early one morning, Sonia was driving down the street. "I noticed a woman lying on a bus bench. She was partially clothed. I stopped the car, jumped out with a blanket, and covered her."

Sometimes Sonia and Alma see a person on a park bench or at a bus stop. Once they determine that the person needs assistance, they go to the nearest food store, purchase food, even pizza, and bring it back to the person. The person is given a care bag and if the recipient needs prayers, the women pray with him or her.

Alma and Sonia commented, "We thank God for the opportunity to do what we do. It is not about us. It is about God directing us and providing us with the opportunity to assist the homeless."

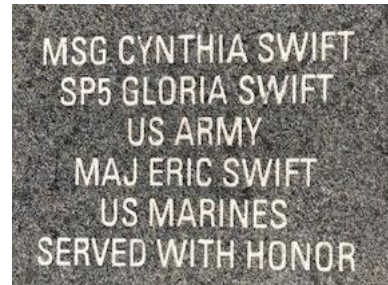
Thank you, ladies for your kindness to others.

Prov 14:21b (NIV) "but blessed is he who is kind to the needy."

Gentle reminder: JADE's newsletter is being published quarterly effective Fall 2021.

Veterans' Day – November 11

According to the Veterans Administration, veterans day "is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good." We thank you for your service and encourage you to continue telling your story. Thanks to members of the JADE family who have served with honor.



JADE's Board of Directors

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| Earl Allen, Alma Edison, Raquel Gonzales, Sonia Hicks, Cheryl Russell, Gloria Swift, Jerusha Verma, and Vanessa Stanton (guest) | |

Donations

Your generous donation, which is tax-deductible within the limits prescribed by law, will enable us to feed the hungry and provide scholarships to students.

You can donate now to
PAYPAL.ME/JADEBZE.

JADE is also accepting donations at

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Inquiries can be sent to
swiftsgardens@gmail.com.
JADE's next meeting via Zoom TBD.