



**John and Adele Swift Development & Enrichment Center (JADE)**

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

*Mrs. Adele Swift*

Newsletter for Fall 2022

**JADE's Vision**

To change lives today for a better tomorrow.

**JADE's Mission**

To develop partnerships in 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 for education and humanitarian needs. JADE has developed partnerships in communities within the Inland Empire, Belize City, and rural communities of Belize to provide tuition assistance for education, prepare and deliver food boxes to recipients in Belize, offer free sewing classes, and provide transportation and spiritual support.

**From JADE's President – Evadne Swift**

Greetings Everyone. As the year came to an end, I trust you had made some wonderful memories in 2022.

Here in Belize, the hurricane season is from June to November. Most years, we are blessed with no hurricanes, and that is what I had hoped for as we moved through the hurricane season in 2022. However, in late October, we were warned that Hurricane Lisa was heading to Belize. Hurricanes usually change directions and just maybe, Lisa would stay in the Caribbean Sea and travel north.

But Lisa had other ideas. It made landfall on November 2<sup>nd</sup> as a Category I hurricane. Based on my experiences with hurricanes and having observed the damages, it was a Category II. I stayed in the main house

which is built of stucco and prayed it would outlast Lisa's ferocious winds. Those winds howled for eight hours. It was terrifying.

In the early morning of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, it was very calm. Reluctantly, I ventured outside. Lisa's destruction was obvious. While there were no structural damages to the buildings in our yard, trees were uprooted. Those left standing lost branches and leaves. Part of our fence collapsed as a big tree from the neighbor's yard fell on it. Throughout the country, many homes and businesses were damaged. Those that were not blown off their foundation or received structural damages lost their zinc roofs. In all this, we are grateful that countrywide, no lives were lost. Praise be to God.

**Hurricane Lisa Was Here!**





As family members and workers assessed the damages and cleaned up after Lisa, we identified possible improvements that would better prepare us for the next hurricane, although we do not want to experience another one in this decade.

## Educate-Empower-Engage

Thirty-eight attendees, including high school students and their parents, participated in an informative workshop on October 15, 2022. The Theme was Educate-Empower-Engage. One of the speakers was Mr. Demby York, Educator and Director of National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN). He informed the audience about *Identity, Power, and Vision in achieving success in an uncertain world*. Police Officer Dwight Anthony spoke about *Bullying in School and the Consequences*. President Evadne Swift focused on *Civility, how we can choose to conduct ourselves in a civil way in the home, in school, and in general public*.

## Women's Ministry

The Women's Small Group continues to meet at JADE's facility on Fridays and in October, based on a request, another small group was formed and it meets on Wednesdays. The weekly average is about 20 ladies from various villages in the Belize River Valley. We pray, sing, study the Bible, celebrate birthdays, and plan different events throughout the year.

The group planned its second Christmas Play. Director Margie Swift recruited youths for the cast, and they rehearsed on Saturdays from November 5 to December 17. Even though this was during the flu season and most of the cast members were unable to attend the practice sessions, the Christmas Play which reenacted the story of Jesus's birth, went very well. About 70 people attended the event.

A potluck followed the performance, and everyone enjoyed the tasty foods, including cakes, coconut tarts and bread pudding. Santa Claus arrived. This was a real treat for the children as they were photographed with Santa.

*Jesus is the Reason for the Season.*

## JADE's Food Pantry Ministry



The Food Pantry Ministry which started in August 2020 officially ended on December 31, 2022, due to the high costs of purchasing and shipping food from the United States. This was an essential Ministry as new families arrived for food every day. Since its beginning, JADE provided food for 760 families. The decision to end it was very difficult. Many families lack the financial resources to afford food. We trust that God will direct them to other resources. JADE will only revisit this Ministry if ample donations are received to buy food here in Belize.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”  
Matthew 5:6 NIV



### Gerald Stanton

We are most grateful to Gerald Stanton who served as Vice President for the past three years. Gerald and his wife Vanessa provided financial support, prayers, and encouragement which made it possible for JADE to support many high school students and provide food for many families. Thank you, Gerald and Vanessa and may God continue to bless you in your service to Him.

## Welcome JADE's New Vice President

Effective January 1, 2023, Johnnel Cole will serve as JADE's Vice President for the next three years. Over the past 6 months while serving as Director, Johnnel was actively promoting JADE. We know Johnnel will do a great job in his new role, as we focus on JADE's Mission, “To develop partnerships with communities to transfer lives now in hope of a better future.”

## JADE's Partnership with Hand in Hand

Hand-in-Hand is a 501(c)(3) organization operating in Belize. It is the only organization in Belize that provides for children with HIV/AIDS. Hand-in-Hand has partnered with JADE to provide vitamin and iron supplements for the children.





## Daily Acts of Kindness



Director Gloria Swift prepares food for the homeless then drives around the neighboring cities and distributes the food bags to the homeless on the streets. Director Alma Edison continues to distribute care packages to the homeless.



### JADE is at Work with its Partners providing:

- financial support to 24 primary and high school students in the form of tuition payments to schools,
- monthly food bags to villagers within an 80-mile radii,
- transportation for women to and from small groups ministry,
- outreach and counseling to villagers,
- multivitamins and iron supplements to children with HIV/aids, and
- daily acts of kindness based on human needs.



### From President Evadne Swift

I look forward to what God has in store for us. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV). Our vision continues to

be, "To change lives today for a better tomorrow." Happy New Year, to one and all!

### JADE's Board of Directors

Evadne Swift	President
Johnnel Cole	Vice President
Cheryl Russell	Secretary
Margery Swift	Treasurer
Earl Allen, Alma Edison, Sonia Hicks, and Gloria Swift	

## *You are invited*



We invite missionary groups to visit us in Belize. Please visit JADE's website [landingessentials.org](http://landingessentials.org).

### Donations

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

You can donate now to **PAYPAL.ME/JADEBZE** or Zelle to **(909)576-1180**.

**JADE is also accepting donations at**

**John and Adele Swift Development and Enrichment Center (JADE)**  
P.O. Box 2285, Rialto, CA 92377  
(909) 873-9434

**Inquiries can be sent to**  
[swiftsgardens@gmail.com](mailto:swiftsgardens@gmail.com) and  
[landingessentials.org](http://landingessentials.org)

**JADE's next meeting, February 10, 2023,  
7 P.M. PST via WhatsApp**