



2nd Quarter April - June 2020

**BSF NEWSLETTER:  
YOUR QUARTERLY CONNECTION TO THE BSF  
STUDENTS AND THE STORIES, EVENTS AND IDEAS  
THAT MATTER TO THE BSF COMMUNITY AND BEYOND!**

**This quarter has been challenging to say the least while the world struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic, but as you will see there are still reasons to celebrate, and inspiring stories about our students, sponsors and Board members to be shared.**



Sometimes you get lucky and wonderful people come into your life. That's what happened when Joanna Wood moved to Rosarito. And, it got even better when she and Bill discovered the Baja Scholarship Foundation. Both became active Board Members, as they are today, and gave their hearts to the organization.

What stands out most for many of us though, is Joanna's decision and dedication to renew and refresh the outdated (and long stilled) BSF Newsletter. And, when Joanna decides to do something .... move over!!

Joanna brought verve, sparkle and love to the Newsletter immediately, to say nothing of a hugely increased readership. Her ideas were boundless and her energy showed through in every article.

When Joanna stepped down at the end of the last quarter (after all, EVEN JOANNA can tire out!) we knew it would never be the same.

THANK YOU Joanna for all you give and have given to the Baja Scholarship Foundation!!!!

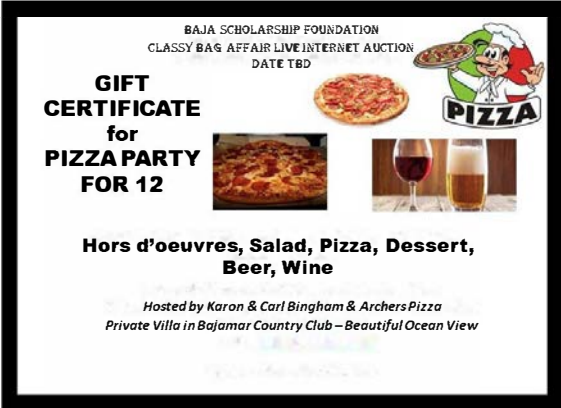
In the interest of doing our part in the war against COVID-19, the Board made the difficult decisions to cancel the Fiesta this year, and luncheons at Susanna's until later in the year when it will hopefully be safe to gather again. Planning for other future events has been put on hold as well due to the uncertainties we face.

It was also a disappointment to have to cancel this year's Classy Bag Affair ... just days before it was to occur ... and miss out on all of the dancing, singing, drinking champagne and buying fabulous items, often joining each other to outbid your neighbors. We were loaded with great items, and excitement was high. But, the virus forced all of us to make changes we didn't want, so we simply asked you to stand by and look to the future, and you did donating your Classy Bag Affair ticket price to the foundation rather than asking for a refund. **THANK YOU!!!**

We're excited to tell you that it is our intent to have a fabulous Live Internet Auction! The process is a bit complicated and with all of the COVID-19 uncertainties we still face, we will wait to give you instructions and a date, but it is designed to allow you to have fun bidding and even getting together with your friends to once again bid up exciting packages to use yourselves, or give as Christmas gifts, or ???, all for the benefit of the foundation. Stay tuned.



**EXAMPLE GIFT CERTIFICATES**



**Daycare in San Quintin:** The director, Abril, one of our graduates you might remember as an emcee with Perla at Fiestas in years past, had to close the Daycare due to the pandemic. The people are still working in the fields but they are selling everything in Mexico since they can't export anything to the US (the prices of the food went up so much), and all the restaurants and coffee shops are making everything for people to take home. The staff that lives on the daycare campus can't leave the property.





## **Concern for Our Students and Their Families**

During these difficult times when many of the parents of our students and many of the students and graduates themselves are not working or working minimal hours due to the Stay at Home and Lockdown due to COVID-19, the BSF Board opted to utilize some of the BSF funds to provide a \$100 gift to each of the families for the past couple of months. This was to help with food, rent, electricity and whatever needs they might have.

The students and their parents who stopped by to collect the money the past couple months have been so appreciative. It has been a wonderful opportunity for those of us Board Members who have been at the Gift giving, to touch base with them to determine how difficult things really are for them, and to offer support and encouragement.

Social Distancing was practiced and respected, masks and gloves worn and an effort was made to supply each student with a mask, sanitizing gel and Clorox for their household. Some of our Board members delivered funds to different locations in the outlying areas to make it easier for the students so we thank them for those efforts. Two of our Board members had to stay the night in Ensenada because of a highway closure due to an accident preventing them from getting home after one such delivery.

We thank our Sponsors, outside donations, our Corporate Sponsor Funko, and Judie Kesson from her birthday money drive for providing the funds to make this gesture to the Students and their families possible. We hope to make at least one more monetary gift to the students but we may not be able to stop there because at this writing most operations around Rosarito are still shut down.

## First Round of Gifts, March 28-29, 2020



## Second Round of Gifts, April 25-26, 2020

In addition to funds we gave Clorox, spray bottles, sanitizing gel and face masks that were kindly hand made and donated by Micaela Stump.



## A Cheery Tidbit From Our Alumni Flor

Flor's Mother had a horrific toothache, no money and no place that they called was open or willing to see her. So, Flor contacted her fellow BSF alumni, Angelica, Dentista!

Angelica went to their house, cleaned the area around the bad tooth and made arrangements to stop by the next day. She came and pulled the tooth!!!! All gratis! All at home as sterile as she could make it.

# Wonderful reasons to celebrate!!



Aaron



Andrea



Aneth



Diana



Jazmin



Johan



Karla



Lupita



Luis



Nahomi

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY!

# From Our Current and Former Students

(unedited)

**Lupita** - She is in her second year at University of the Californias International (UDCI) studying accounting

Hello, my school canceled classes for two weeks ago but I am having classes online. It is being a little difficult to adapt to be taking the classes this way.

The English school I am also having online classes where they leave us activities to reinforce what we have learned in class.

I have been in my house all these days, hoping that this will be resolved soon and that everything will return to normal. My father continues to work on a regular basis. My brothers are here at home doing school work from home.

In our free time, we try to train ourselves with board games, with a movie or series or some activity inside the house in order to avoid going out and being safe.



**Esmeralda** - She is in her last year of High school.

Hello! I hope you and your family are ok. Thank God my family and I are doing well. My dad is in Guadalajara waiting for medical treatment, but my mom and I are staying at home.



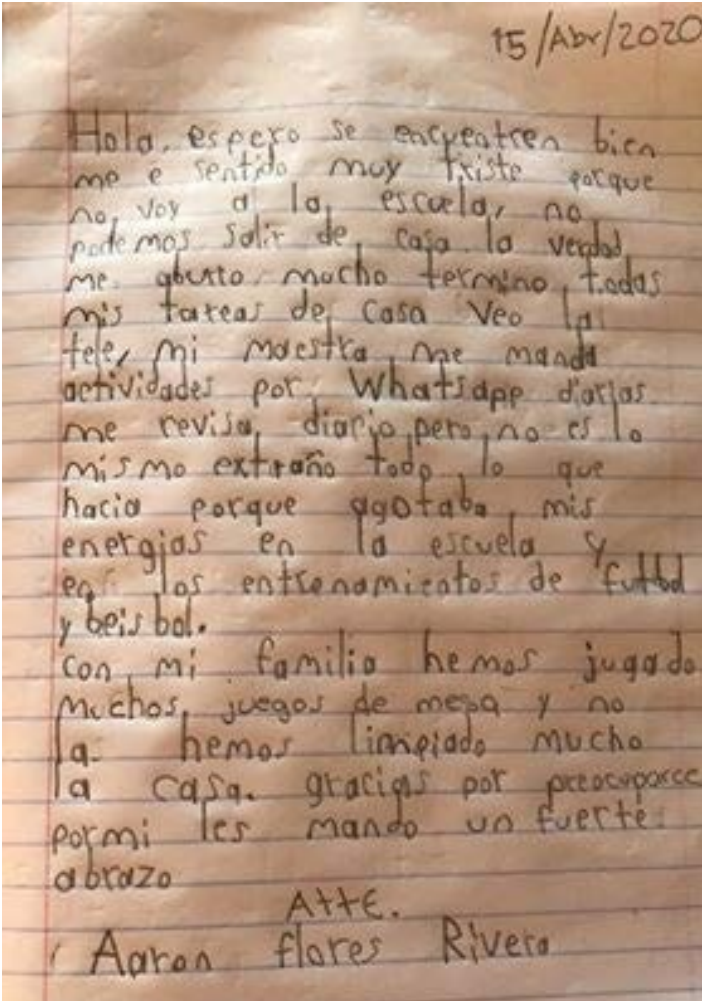
I am having online classes at the moment and the truth is quite tough because teachers leave a lot of homework. In my free time I use to draw or paint, in the last days my mom and I like to go out to the garden and plant flowers or fruits. I miss my friends a lot but I hope this happens soon.

I hope you and your family are well. Stay safe





**Aaron** - He is 8 years old and in the third grade



(Translated by Perla)

Hello,

I hope everyone is fine. I have felt very sad because I can't go to school and I can't leave the house. I get very bored. I finish all my home activities and watch Tv.

My teacher sends me activities through WhatsApp every day. She checks my activities every day, but it's not the same.

I miss everything that I used to do because I would use all of my energy at school and at football and baseball training.

With my family, we have been playing lots of board games and we haven't cleaned the house too much.

Thank you for worrying for me, I sent a strong hug.

Atte. Aaron

## Aaron's Mother

Hello, good morning. We have been doing lots of cleaning in the house because I'm not working, we have a lot of free time and we've invented new cooking recipes. We have stayed at home. We're waiting for things to get better so we can retour to our normal activities. Thank you all for worrying.



**Karla** - She is in high school, she plays the violin and is studying a music career.

Good morning.

Until now we have good stability with the food and all the indispensable things. My dad and brother continue working, that's why we're still fine. My mother, my brother and I have stayed at home. Since I have lots of free time, I clean the house with my mother and brother. At the end I practice the violin or play volleyball (I have a ball at my house). I try to practice the stuff that I'm not perfect in both music and sports.

About my classes, we're on vacations (Holy week is the spring break in Mexico) and we will continue online classes on Monday. At my music class professors continue to send homework and talking about doing lives as a form of communication. We're fine with the internet and right now it's a necessity because all my classes are online, high school, music school and even English.

I've been looking for books and things like that to improve my vocabulary in English, because after coming back we're probably continue with our "graduation" test at Cambridge.



## Juan

Hello everyone, I hope you are good! These are difficult times but we must resist and go forward.

I have finished my studies and I am Electromechanical Engineer now. I am on process of titulation only, but for this situation of COVID-19 everything is being more late.

During this quarantine I have been studying a lot because I like to do it and we never should to stop learning. I've applied for several jobs and I have been accepted...but are not good for me at all for the money and distance where I live. However, I am waiting for two more jobs that are very good for me in a lot of aspects.

This situation is difficult too. There is not job in the music unless for three or four months more... and if I get a new job of engineering I think it would be the end.

In the other hand my family and I are good. Difficult moments without money but with good health still.

My trip to Italia has not receive changes still...but obviously it is clear that will be in other better situation while this epidemic finish. I hope to get a good job soon, and be health if the trip is after this contingence to be ready to travel and be working too.

I hope you are with your family, with health and in calm. This situation will be better; I don't have dude but we all need to be patient. Have a good day!



## Edgar

Hi foundation me and my family are OK and healthy I wish you are to we have food and spend a lot of time together

I cant visit my grandmother or my aunts so we miss them a lot. I wish this can be over soon So i can go play with my cousins. I miss my school friends too.

Every day I clean my bedroom and help mom with breakfast or dishes she just got a new job so I help her take care of my brother.

I don't like the fact we can't go out, the first thing I want to do when it's over it's go to the beach with our dog Lola (she is staying with grandma)

My life change a lot this past months but my mom says it's for us to learn to appreciate more what we have and be happy and thankful for our health

I hope we meet again soon



**Analy** - I'm 23 years old next July I'm 24.

I graduated in 2018 from the Bachelor's Degree in Physical Activity and Sports at UABC. Thank to BSF for making it possible, without your help to me it would have been very difficult.

I'm a chocolate lover, I enjoy a good meal and I love spending time with my family. When I was 14 years old, I was part of a "Rondalla." The rondalla is an ensemble of stringed instruments played with the plectrum or pick and generally known as plectrum instruments.

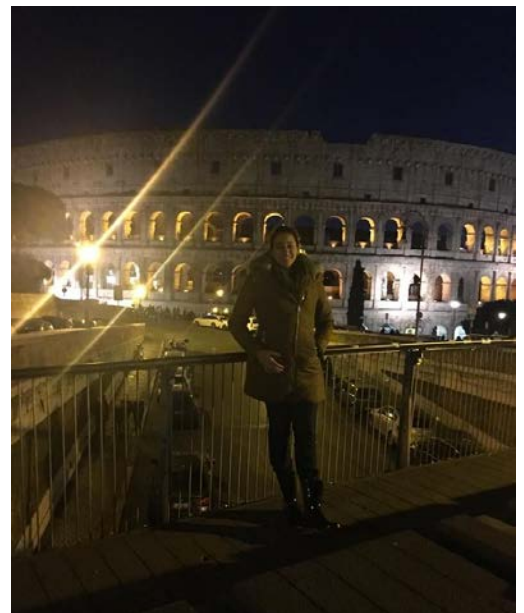
In January 2018 I had the opportunity to travel to Europe which has been the best trip of my life. I was in Paris France, Rome, Venice and Napoli Italy. I got to know world icons like the Eiffel tower, the Roman Colosseum, and the Trevi Fountain. I tried delicious food. When I first saw the Eiffel tower it was like a dream, I would stay in shock for a few seconds, the eleven-hour flight was worth it.

Now that we are quarantined because of the situation that's affecting the whole world, like a lot of other people I we are currently quarantined because of the situation where everyone is, I'm not working, I try to be safe in my house going out just for the essential things. I miss my family a lot but I know it's safer not to go visit them and listen to the recommendations of the authorities.

Hoping that all this will happen soon and things can be returned to normal, back to our jobs and meet the people we love. I say goodbye to you wishing you are well, take care.



Thank you.



## **Edigardo (Edd)**

(partially edited)



*A Little Background From Judie - We took Edd on when he was in fourth grade. He was at the little Francisco Madera school in El Descanso, barely spoke Spanish as the family had moved up from Oaxaca area, and he didn't have shoes which is why the Maestre said we "have to take him on. I know you both told me no. But that is impossible." Edd is one of 7 kids and his youngest sister Valery is now one of our students too. He's now bilingual and working with ReMax at Punto Piedra.*

My name is Edigardo, I am 27 years old, I was born in Nayarit and lived 5 years at Guerreo Mexico. I have lived in Playas de Rosarito since 1999, when I was around 6 years old. I have had the fortune to know BSF since 2006, precisely at the graduation of the Basic level of Elementary School, through my teacher Silvestre Huertero (RIP). I remember very well this day, when I have met Judie & Ken, and some more of the Board of Directors.

In December 2016 I have completed my education and received the Bachelors degree in Business Administration, from the Autonomous University of Baja California in the city of Tijuana, by the way with an Honorable mention in my Professional Graduate Exam, very happy about it.

I am currently developing a Real Estate Career in Playas de Rosarito with the Remax Company since May 2018, in which I have had the opportunity to meet wonderful people and colleagues who have contributed me a lot of knowledge about this magnificent work.

So I know that there are many things to learn, many challenges to achieve, and of course to could have the possibility in the near future to inspire helping others as this lovely foundation and family have done for us.

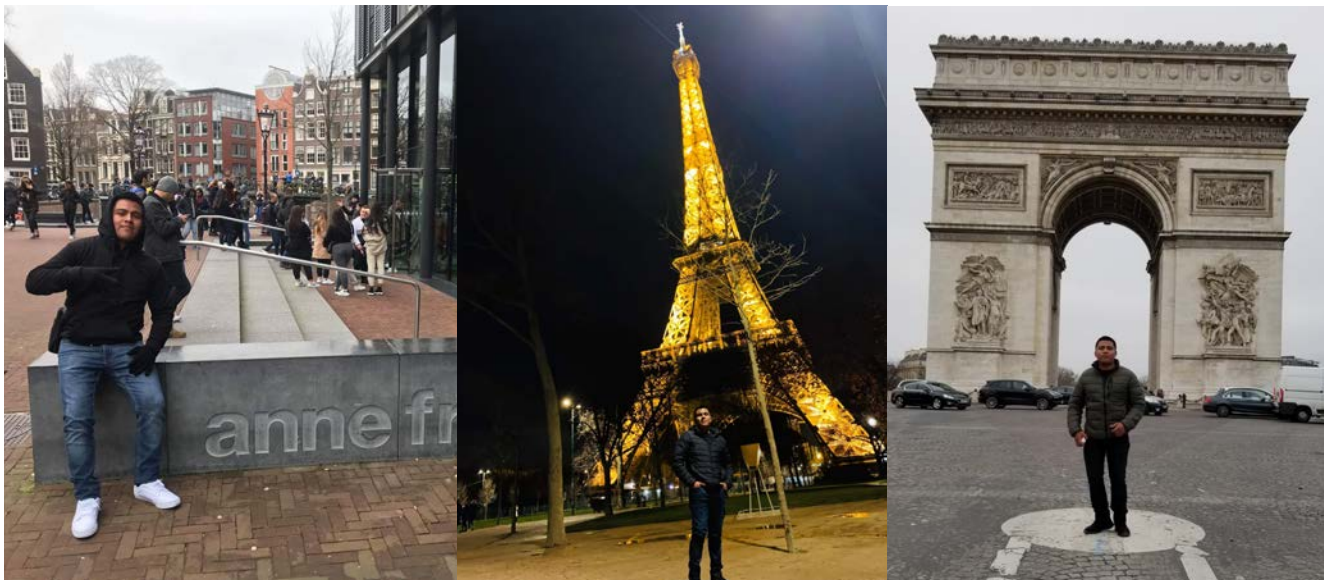
Thank you for read this, Blessings all, Love dear Judie!

## **Edd's recent travels to Europe, an opportunity of a lifetime**

it was a short trip of only 10 days in which I was able to visit Amsterdam, France and Portugal. Around 10 hours of flight. When arriving in Amsterdam the cold weather and beautiful landscapes, the center, It was look like a well-elaborated landscape, its streets, the order, hot chocolate was enjoyed when walking through the beautiful streets of this place, have been several exciting moments, the other was when we arrived in Paris, around 8 at night, and when we found the hotel, we decided that we had to see the Eiffel Tower at that time, so we walked a lot, because from afar it looked so close, but We finally arrived, exciting, the lights on and a bright light show at night, it was incredible.

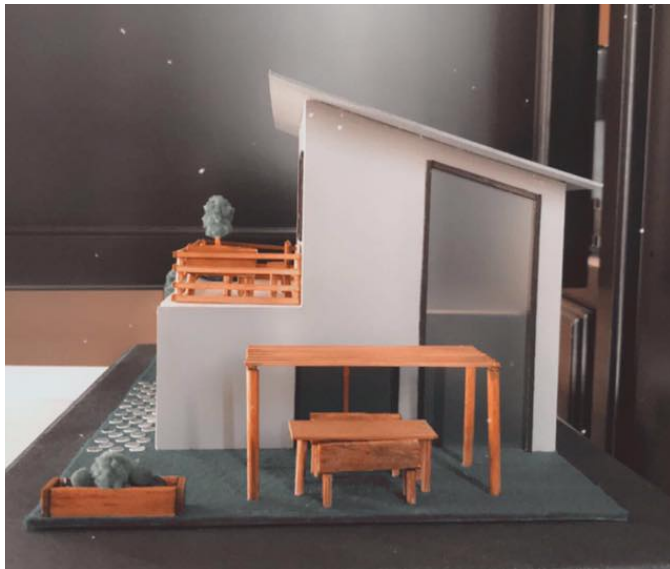
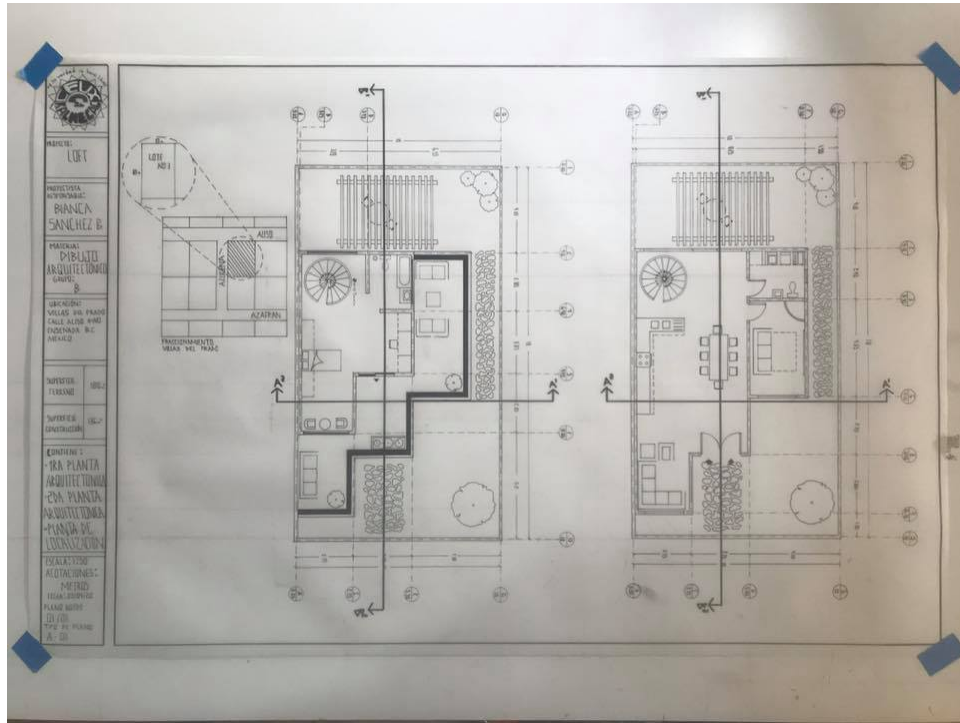
We spent a few more days, touring the streets, bridges, parks, and so on, of course due to the emergency, flights to other cities such as Italy and Venice were canceled, so we had to return to Barcelona for a couple of days and then return home.

I don't want to overwhelm much, but it's sensational, now I understand how nice it is to visit other places, they really change your way of thinking and are inspiration to create bigger goals every time.



# Bianca's Project

This work was a final University project of Bianca's. She received a special grant from us. We are so proud of our students!





## **From Andres ("Woody" to his family and friends)**

*Editor's note: Andres graduated from BSF and college in 2014 as a RN but has stayed in touch with several of our current students, other graduates, and sponsors over the years.*

Hello everyone.

I hope and you are all very well at home, taking care of each other. I know that I have been very distant from all of you and I offer you a great apology, Perla, has long told me that I made a letter in which I explained how I am today with the pandemic and my work and let me tell you that # STAY AT HOME. this is out of control, you who know me know what I love my job, how dedicated I am but for the first time I had and am afraid every weekend that I have to go to my hospital to work, my hospital is a sentinel hospital, This means that it is exclusive to COVID-19 and I am in the emergency area, I am the first contact with this type of patient. Believe me, it is very exhausting to see more infected people arrive at my hospital every day. It is very frustrating. Moment when for the first time I thought about studying nursing? and they know why I thought about it, because I go out every weekend to give my best and when I leave my shift I see how the population ignores the recommendations they don't take care of themselves, they continue going out into the street as if nothing was happening, they make their parties, family gatherings and when they arrive at the emergency room demanding attention because they can't breathe or they bring me their dead father, mother, grandfather or grandmother So if they yell at me, they want to hit me, threatening to kill me and this is where I get angry and I would like to be able to tell them, do they not remember their meetings, parties, their mockery of "nothing happens" now because they blame me? They were themselves to blame for everything that is happening to them. Then I think that because of this pandemic I have been unable to see my son for 4 months, since I am a danger to him for being in a hospital with covid-19 patients, that I can only speak to him by phone or video call and that when we speak my son cries and he reproaches me that because I am not going to see him, that because I cannot go for him, that he misses me and begins to cry and that breaks my soul and fills me with rage when I see that people do not see or understand that the medical staff and nursing and other work teams we are giving everything of ourselves and our families, that we are even more exposed than them, but that they will never understand it and it will be easier to say that we are the ones who kill their relatives.

I had never really been through something like this, or was when the influenza AH1N1 appeared it so chaotic. I really ask you to take good care of yourselves, to take care of your families, heed the recommendations made to you, # STAY HOME, BECAUSE I CAN'T. I will always continue to give my best to give quality, human attention and always looking for my patients to recover, but on this occasion you really are the only owners of your destiny and we really cannot help if it gets worse.

I really want this to end because I want to stop being a danger to my family and be able to see my son, hug him, kiss him, be with him, I wish I could get home and not have to take off my clothes outside my house, bathe in sanitizing gel, running into the bathroom, taking a bath and feeling how irritated my skin is, that my wife and daughter can hug me and not be afraid that I can infect them, I really do not ask for much I just want to be completely with my family, to be able to go see my parents, brothers.

Maybe this letter is not very nice but really this is what I am experiencing, what my colleagues and I are living in our second house, I really hope and you and your families are very well God bless you always, thank you for all the support I received and continue to receive from you. I really never forget or will forget each one of you.

I send you a big hug and from my two families (my wife and children and all emergencies) God bless you always.

#STAY AT HOME, BECAUSE I CAN'T.

Andres



# A Closing Thought Until Next Quarter

## I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THIS...HAVE YOU?

(From the President and Founder, Judie Kesson)

Recently the BSF Board renewed its dedication to taking a look at the financial future of the organization and decided to do some budget forecasting. Quickly the discussion got to the fact that an important portion of our budget / income comes from our loyal supporters, like you, especially those who Sponsor a student.

Student sponsorship pays for about half of a student's expenses throughout their academic career. Some of our sponsors send more than the suggested amount and it is rare that a sponsor drops out. But, it does happen.

The question then, how do we predict the financial future of the organization, which is also dependent on other factors like golf tournaments and luncheons and our limited corporate sponsor, Funko?

My late husband, Ken, and I sponsored a student. Well, that's a funny story as we always said we would be sponsors for ALL of the students, and then life happened! So, we sponsor Nahomi and it has been a joy.

But, when I thought about what would happen if I died, it was easy to add Nahomi to the list of "things to be taken care of!"

I found it so easy to protect my commitment to the BSF and Nahomi. It only required a hand written addendum to my Will, stating that I had made a promise to see Nahomi through University. After 7 years of our relationship, I can now see her graduating in just 7 more years. I was able to outline that in my Addendum, advise my Executors of my wishes, and voila! BSF can count on my contribution as they look to the future.

