

Supporting and Celebrating Educators in the Classroom in DFW



[Craig Norton](#), *President CEO, [Beyond the Known International](#)*

Craig is the President of Beyond the Known International, an organization that exists to develop and support relational training systems that empower local leaders to eradicate poverty, expand childhood education, stimulate economic development, and support job training. He is passionate about engaging, equipping, and empowering individuals through relationships for lasting change.

Project Description:

Educators have the unique opportunity and responsibility to spend more in person time with the students they teach than any other sector of our community. The opportunity to interact, educate and shape the lives of the next generation of leaders is unique and weighty. They often lead educators to places of isolation, loneliness, fear, and discouragement, directly impacting their influence and effectiveness in the classroom.

This initiative will intentionally facilitate relational opportunities between educators and community volunteers which allows teachers to be **known, valued, and loved**. Fostering an environment that is encouraging, supportive and honoring that helps educators thrive in their calling in turn improving the educational opportunity for every student in every classroom.

Project Goals:

- Develop and support relational connections between educators and community members for the purpose of encouraging, resourcing and adding value to the lives and careers of educators. Beyond the Known International will facilitate this through a Match a Partner Program for teachers.
- Pray for individual educators intentionally and personally each week of school year.
- Send encouraging emails weekly letting the educator know they have been prayed for and include the Beyond The Known International Value of the Week statement.
- Be attentive to identify opportunities to serve the educator in ways that help eliminate barriers encountered by the educator that impact results in the classroom. These barriers could be the very triggers that many times lead the educator to the place of isolation, loneliness, fear, or discouragement.

Project Metrics:

Defining the Win – A relationship developed that encourages, supports, and resources the educator in the classroom and empowers them to greater educational opportunities that impact the students and families they serve.

Who is involved? Who else needs to be involved?

Beyond the Known, Keller ISD, community partners. Need additional partners.

Developing a Sustainable Model for Food and Agriculture Production, Education, and Feeding the Poor



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Project Description:

Beyond the Known has been feeding hundreds of hungry children in the region of Guanacaste, Northern Costa Rica over the recent years. In their efforts to become self-sustaining as well as provide high nutrient and fresh vegetables and produce, they have explored ways to locally and sustainably farm aquaponic fruits and vegetables. In addition, they have also researched other forms of agriculture including tilapia farming, hog farming, etc. In a new and exciting development, they have gained the support of local leaders including the regional mayor and the head of the local high school.

As part of this, Beyond the Known has struck an agreement in the form of a long term lease to help develop and operate land owned by the high school. They will partner with the high school to educate and train young people and prepare them for careers in agriculture and food production as well as other related technical fields. Yields from these farming efforts will be utilized in part to expand operations to meet the nutritional needs of the impoverished youth in the region and a portion of the proceeds and the food stuff will be donated back to the high school for their own use. This model has proved popular among regional development and shows promise to scale to other regions in Costa Rica and other countries in Latin America.

Project Goals:

1. To galvanize others to partner with Beyond the Know and recruit other leaders to come alongside and develop a clearly defined, replicatable, and scalable model for this multi-faceted operation.
2. In addition, this group would help develop the strategy into deployment for other regions.
3. The initiative would help to promote and share success stories, human impact stories, and impact to raise funds to enable growth.

Project Metrics:

Number of people helped and scalability.

Who is involved? Who else needs to be involved?

Beyond the Known, Fortuna High School, Regional Mayor, donors, and partners.