



**SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S ETERNAL RAINFOREST SINCE 2002**

## Update From Costa Rica

*By: Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director - Monteverde Conservation League*



In October 2017, Costa Rica was pounded by Tropical Storm Nate. In Monteverde, more than 25 inches of rain fell in a few days. To put this in perspective, Monteverde received about this same amount of rain during the entire month of September, one of Costa Rica's rainiest months.

By the time Nate hit Monteverde, it had already been raining for more than 2 weeks straight. The storm knocked out power, water, and phone service. As rain continued to fall on already saturated soils, hillsides began to give way. Streams jumped their borders, sweeping away bridges and roads. Several homes in Monteverde were lost, but fortunately no one was hurt during the storm, thanks in great part to the excellent coordination efforts of the local emergency commission.

The Children's Eternal Rainforest was incredibly fortunate in that no buildings were damaged. The MCL had identified increased heavy rainfall and high wind events as the climate change-related threats likely to have the greatest impact on the CER. Thanks to preventative measures - such as improving drainage and trimming trees along roads and near buildings - the damage was much less than it might have been.

The CER sustained the most damage in San Gerardo, where Nate brought hurricane-like winds in addition to heavy rainfall. The road and trails were damaged by flooded streams, landslides, and fallen trees. Heavy machinery was necessary to install culverts and remove multiple landslides. Chain saws and manual labor were crucial in removing tree and branch falls on the road and trails. At one point we had 11 workers and 4 chainsaws operating at the same time! To date, the MCL has invested more than 600 hours of manual labor by our personnel, in addition to the cost of materials and heavy machinery.

We are grateful to our neighbors and members for their support in repairing the road to San Gerardo. Although additional road repairs are still necessary, we are pleased to report that San Gerardo Station is once again up and running!



### THESE GRANTS NEED YOUR HELP!

Whether it's for a much needed protection vehicle or repairing the damage from earthquakes please visit [www.friendsoftherainforest.org/grants](http://www.friendsoftherainforest.org/grants) to find out how you can make a difference!



### WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Do you live in the St Louis Area and have 4-6 hours a week to help? Email us at [info@friendsoftherainforest.org](mailto:info@friendsoftherainforest.org) to find out more about how you can help!

## It's a bird. It's a plane. It's heading to Costa Rica!

By: Kalin Zhag

In Florence Raiche's world, every plane that she spots in the sky is on its way to Costa Rica. When she was just 2 years old, Florence had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica with her family in April of 2017. While she was in Costa Rica, she experienced a vast amount of new things - from spotting birds, visiting waterfalls, and even learning about different animals.

One of Florence's pressing concerns while in Costa Rica was getting to see a waterfall in person. In fact, as soon as the Raiche family landed and were picked up by their tour guide, Florence's mother, Chelsea Raiche, asked the tour guide if they could see a waterfall. On the drive back to their hotel, the tour guide drove them past a huge waterfall that left Florence in awe. Most nights ever since returning from Costa Rica, Florence asks her parents if she can go back the next morning.

While Florence was getting ready to celebrate her 3rd birthday in November, her parents asked her what kind of party she wanted to have, and were not surprised when she wanted it to be Costa Rica themed. When they asked her if she would like to help raise money to benefit the rainforest, Florence was excited and immediately on board. In the morning of Florence's birthday, the Raiche house was transformed into a rainforest - complete with a fabric waterfall, Christmas lights,



Florence Raiche

and a giant tree stretching across the living room.

Through setting up a fundraising page on Everyday Hero, Florence was able to raise \$675.49 to help save the rainforest. The Raiche family plan to continue their new tradition for years to come, and giving back to a certain cause for Florence's birthday each year and celebrate a day of giving back surrounded with friends and family.

A special love for the rainforest runs in the family - Chelsea first visited Costa Rica when she was just 13 years old, and always knew she would return one day. Now, despite being so young, Florence was able to positively impact the rainforest. "While I know she doesn't understand the impact of what she did, I feel it is important while she is young to instill a sense of giving rather than receiving," Chelsea said.

## Friends of the Rainforest

Our mission is to promote a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica and beyond.

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### Friends of the Rainforest

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## Under the Microscope: Your Donations at Work!

By: Maggie Eisenberger

*During the fall of 2017, via a generous gift from our Rainforest Friends Chuck & Carol Stocking, Maggie Eisenberger, our outreach-educator-extraordinaire purchased new microscopes to improve the programming that we can offer to local classrooms. Read on to find out more about how this donation was used in a lesson in a Benedicite classroom!*

Our first lesson at Benedicite focused on lepidoptera as well as stick insects and praying mantises. There were 21 kids aged 5 through 12. After we talked about parts and lifestyles we went to the microscopes to look at a butterfly proboscis, wings, antennae, feet - we even had a dead walking stick to check out! The school is very excited to have us as a resource, especially with our new equipment. We will have two more lessons and then do a different kind of sequence in the spring.

What I bought was the Brock Magiscope. It's ideal for children and for biological viewing. It's cast aluminum with a brass tube holding the eyepiece, so it's virtually unbreakable and doesn't tarnish or rust. A fiberoptic tube brings light from the surroundings to the underside of what you are viewing. That means no bulbs and no batteries or electric wires to contend with. We don't need to have

glass slides or make thin slices of our specimens. Since we are currently studying insects, we use it for checking out mouth parts, feet, antennae, eyes, and wings of the various insects. If we were studying plants, we'd be looking at the parts of the flower, roots, leaves, and cross sections of stems. We can look at soils to see the differences in the particles for different types. The group I am working with is 18 students, so having 3 allows everyone time to have a turn, although I'd bought more!



## We Want You!! New Board Members Needed.

**Friends of the Rainforest's Board of Directors is currently seeking new board members. Please submit your cover letter and resume to [info@friendsoftherainforest.org](mailto:info@friendsoftherainforest.org) for consideration.**

Ideal Candidates will have strong interest and experience in one or more of the following: effective participation in Board activities, advising and providing council on legal documentation, necessary tax filings, executive hiring process, personnel policies and salary scale. Exceptional talent in fund raising and/or marketing will be highly valued. These areas involve identifying prospective donors, building relationships with them and developing strategies for their cultivation.

### Board Member Responsibilities Are As Follows

- Regularly prepares for and attends bi-monthly meetings.
- Participates on at least one subcommittee of the Board.
- Works cooperatively with fellow Board Members to complete the Board's work in a timely manner.
- Ensures that her or his participation contributes to the effective operation of the Board and the success of the organization:
  - Focusing exclusively on the best interests of the Board and FOTR rather than on any personal or other agenda.
  - Maintaining objectivity in all deliberations.
  - Supporting all Board decisions once they are made.
  - Participating in honest evaluations of one's own performance and that of the Board.
- Attends Board training workshops.

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— Friends of the —  
**RAINFOREST**<sup>™</sup>  
Monteverde, Costa Rica

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- Provides the Board and FOTR with advice and technical assistance in her or his individual areas of expertise.
  - Acts as an advocate and representative of the FOTR in creating and maintaining relationships with FOTR's community and financial supporters.
  - Acts as liaison to Costa Rican partners through travel to Costa Rica with board at own expense.
  - Has a shared vision for FOTR and the steps required to realize that vision.
  - Understands the distinction between the roles and responsibilities of each person and entity involved.
  - Willingness to volunteer for one or more Board committees and the ability to contribute appropriate time and energy necessary to follow through on assigned tasks.
  - Results-oriented with the ability to work within a team structure.
  - Specific knowledge, experience, and/or interest in at least one element of governance for FOTR.
  - Commitment to a partnership based on mutual trust and respect among the Board, the Executive Director, Staff and volunteers.
- A Board Member Makes The Commitment To Work And Lead With Determination, Integrity And Purpose, And Embodies These Essential Qualities. Friends of the Rainforest Board Member is more than a community volunteer. This person's work supports FOTR's vision to promote a sustainable world.**
- Passionate with an unwavering commitment to FOTR's mission.

Dedicated environmentalists, Rachel and Dwight Crandell were inspired by the example of the Swedish second grade class that took the initiative to support the Children's Eternal Rainforest after a 1989 visit to Costa Rica. The efforts of the Crandells over 15 years ago have inspired thousands of people world wide to take action to support and protect Rainforest land.