




Diving For A Cause





Diving For A Cause
Your Vision, Your baby is
growing!

Colleen Gallagher

Founder

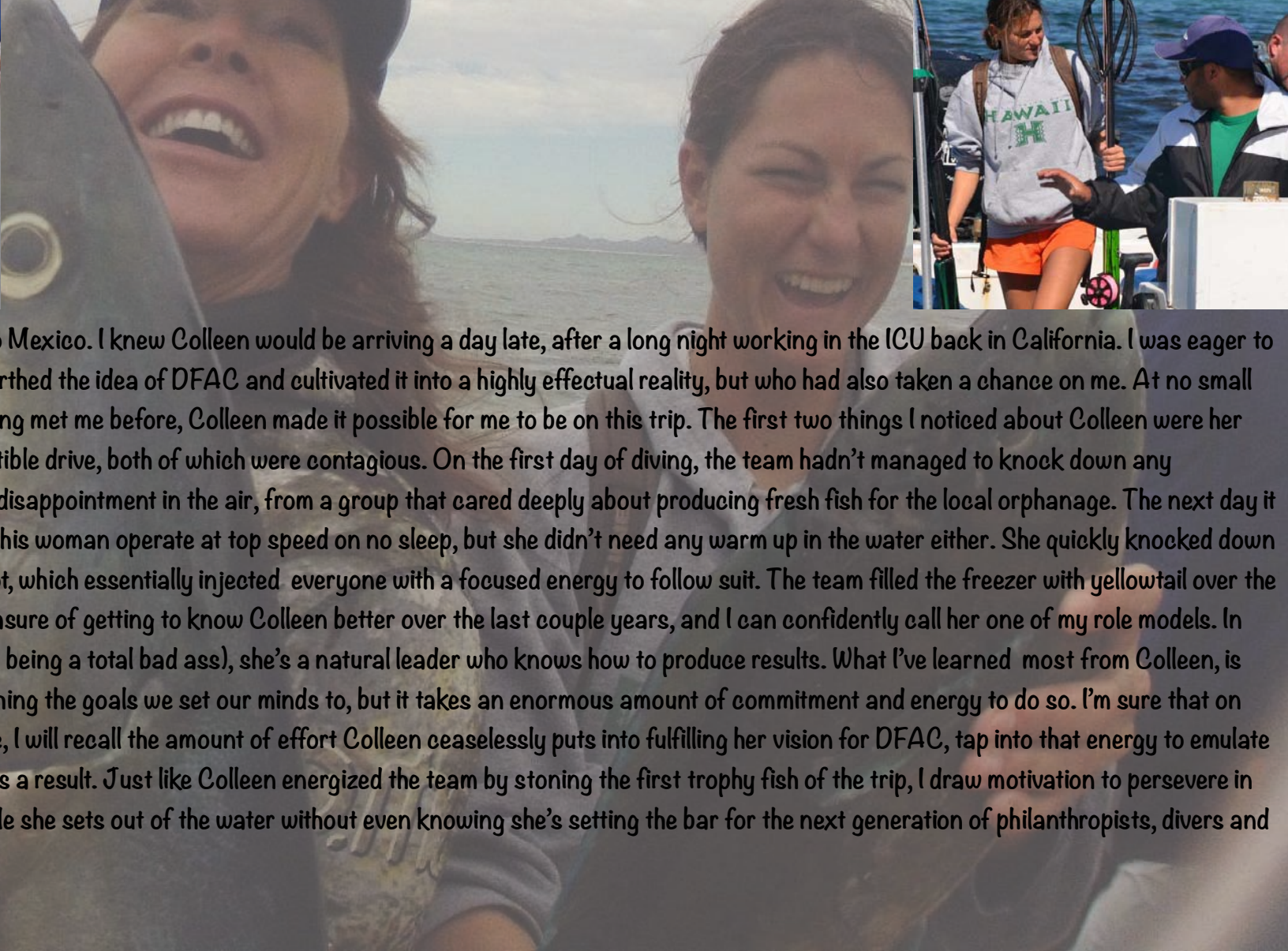
Dear Colleen

We all just wanted to share a little piece of our hearts and our experiences from our trips with Diving For A Cause.

Love,
The Divers, Non-divers, Children, & communities all over the World



COLLEEN
GALLAGHER
DIVING FOR A CAUSE

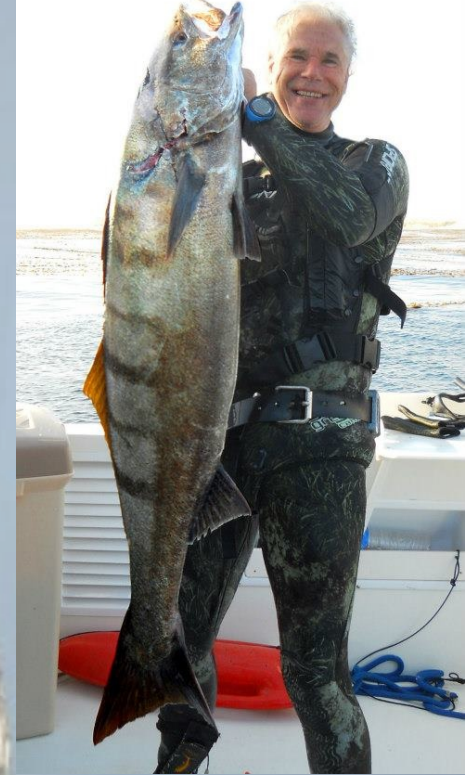


I first met Colleen on a DFAC trip to Mexico. I knew Colleen would be arriving a day late, after a long night working in the ICU back in California. I was eager to meet the woman who had not only birthed the idea of DFAC and cultivated it into a highly effectual reality, but who had also taken a chance on me. At no small personal sacrifice, without ever having met me before, Colleen made it possible for me to be on this trip. The first two things I noticed about Colleen were her warmth and her seemingly inexhaustible drive, both of which were contagious. On the first day of diving, the team hadn't managed to knock down any yellowtail. You could almost feel the disappointment in the air, from a group that cared deeply about producing fresh fish for the local orphanage. The next day it became evident that not only could this woman operate at top speed on no sleep, but she didn't need any warm up in the water either. She quickly knocked down a yellowtail with a lethally placed shot, which essentially injected everyone with a focused energy to follow suit. The team filled the freezer with yellowtail over the next couple of days. I've had the pleasure of getting to know Colleen better over the last couple years, and I can confidently call her one of my role models. In addition to having a huge heart (and being a total bad ass), she's a natural leader who knows how to produce results. What I've learned most from Colleen, is that there are no limits to accomplishing the goals we set our minds to, but it takes an enormous amount of commitment and energy to do so. I'm sure that on more than one occasion in my future, I will recall the amount of effort Colleen ceaselessly puts into fulfilling her vision for DFAC, tap into that energy to emulate her, and accomplish my own goals as a result. Just like Colleen energized the team by stoning the first trophy fish of the trip, I draw motivation to persevere in my own life from the ongoing example she sets out of the water without even knowing she's setting the bar for the next generation of philanthropists, divers and leaders.

Katie Adamson



When I first heard of DFAC, I was intrigued with the idea of diving in world class destinations and spending time dedicated to helping the local communities we visited. The concept has proved very fulfilling and I look forward to assisting on trips. Over the last three years, I have learned more about DFAC's founder Colleen Gallagher, who truly embodies the concept of giving back. Not only is she a respected ICU charge nurse, but she gives more of her resources to the organization she founded. I look forward to more trips, helping others while enjoy the sport I love. Thank you Colleen for your foresight to develop DFAC and for your tenacity to shepherd its growth into an internationally respected charitable institution.



Terry Maas



Our Family

We support you too!





I am so proud of my daughter Colleen in her work for Diving For A Cause. She is a shining example of love and caring to all, young and old. Because of Colleen's leadership, Diving For A Cause has been invited to so many countries. She is respected and loved by her fellow divers. She does endless planning and organizing visits to countries with needy children and orphanages. The team gathers school supplies, books and backpacks for each child and then takes a picture of the child and frames it for them to bring home to their parents. Giving to children is one of the greatest gifts one can ever give in a lifetime.
Love, Mom



Colleen is beyond an inspiration. I've never met anyone so dedicated and passionate about everything that they do, and it's absolutely remarkable.

All of the DFAC trips she's put together have been a huge success, and we're all proud of her for that. However, this business doesn't run by itself. I've had the opportunity to be behind the scenes of Diving For A Cause this year and I've never seen someone work so hard to make sure that everything is perfect for everyone else; it's not just the school or diver coordination that takes work. She takes the time to accommodate for anything and everyone to make sure their DFAC trip experience is the trip of a lifetime that they can get the most out of.

As an ICU nurse, she works several night shifts in a row immediately after getting off the plane; sometimes she doesn't even have time to stop at home. She wakes up the next day to put a few more hours into DFAC, finishes chores and errands that need to be done, finds time to put together an amazing dinner for her family, and then heads off to work again before she gets on another plane to wherever the next destination is.

Her son David and I were talking about her trips, and what we think exactly the purpose is. Diving is a huge part of it (all the fish is donated back to the community), but the end result is giving the children around the world opportunities that would have never been possible otherwise. She wants each one of them to grow and succeed and the diving is what brings everyone together to make it happen. David's final comment is the perfect conclusion, "She is the best kind of diver in the world," and there are countless people around the globe who certainly agree.

Love,

"The Kids" David, Chris, & Shelly



Diving For A Cause has really opened our eyes to the great meaning of life. Our first trip free diving and getting in the water to spearfish became an addiction as soon as we entered the water. At first it was just a hobby and something we tried to base personal vacations around. Once we met with Colleen and got surrounded by her enthusiasm and passion for combining a fun new sport, spearfishing, with the passion of giving back to the local community, we were intrigued. At first, we were excited about opening up the idea of spearfishing as a new water sport, but it was Colleen who really opened our eyes to the true vision she was trying to create, the vision of diving for a purpose, and now Diving For A Cause. Immediately Mike was on the Board of DFAC and so excited about the amazing opportunity to join the team of DFAC. Colleen's personality, drive and passion was enthralling and addicting; and we knew we had to be apart of it. Colleen has always held the vision when others couldn't, and has created DFAC into an internationally recognized Non-Profit. Our last trip to the Bahamas with DFAC really brought all the meanings of Colleen's vision together. Spending time with Chris who has Cystic Fibrosis, spearfishing, donating fish, cleaning and painting at the school and providing school supplies to the two local schools; the vision of what DFAC was about was undeniable. Looking around the room with our team, it felt like family. Sharing the same passions with others and giving back to the communities that play a huge part to the success of our trips, is phenomenal and breathtaking. You leave these trips feeling like this was why you were put on this earth. Without Colleen's drive, handwork and love for DFAC it wouldn't be possible. She's a great role model who reminds us that an attitude of gratitude goes a long way in life and with mother nature. We are so grateful for you Colleen and the sacrifices you make for this love of Ours.

Michael and Randee Brookins





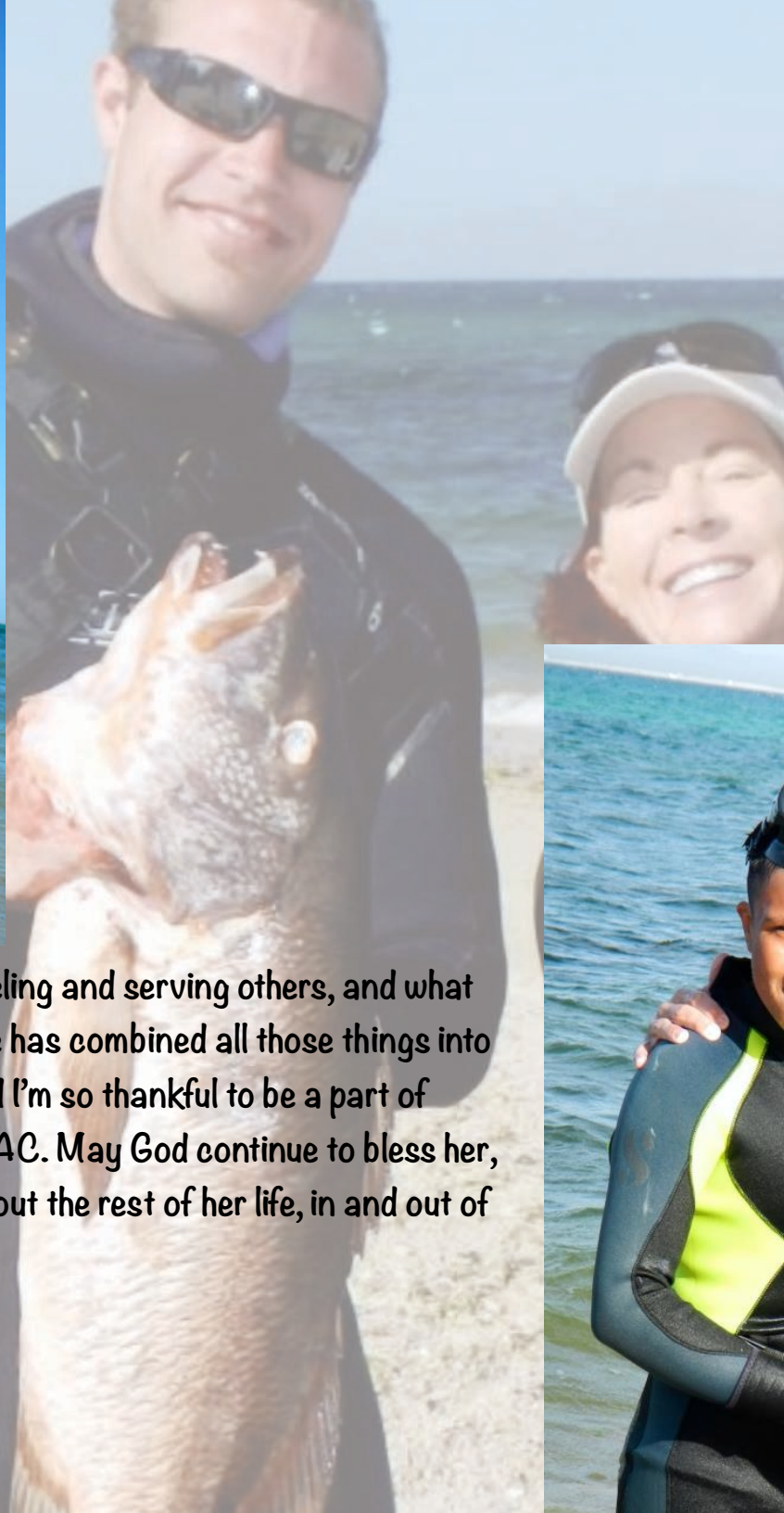
My first time diving with Colleen was off the coast of North Carolina. I was treading water with a good dive buddy, Brian Kiddy, and we both agreed that there were no fish around and it was time to try another spot. Just then, Colleen swims up to us and calmly says, "Hey guys, I got one". Brian and I can immediately see her struggling as she is being pulled under, so we looked down into the water to see a large AJ on her spear. I am sure Colleen could have fought that fish on her own, but it was a lot of fun to be there to help her. And to do it with my other very good dive buddy, Brian Kiddy made it even more enjoyable. For the next 5 minutes, the 3 of us enjoyed a moment together that I will always remember. Thanks Colleen for a wonderful dive. I am sure Brian enjoyed it too!

Dive Safe,
Dano Krahlng



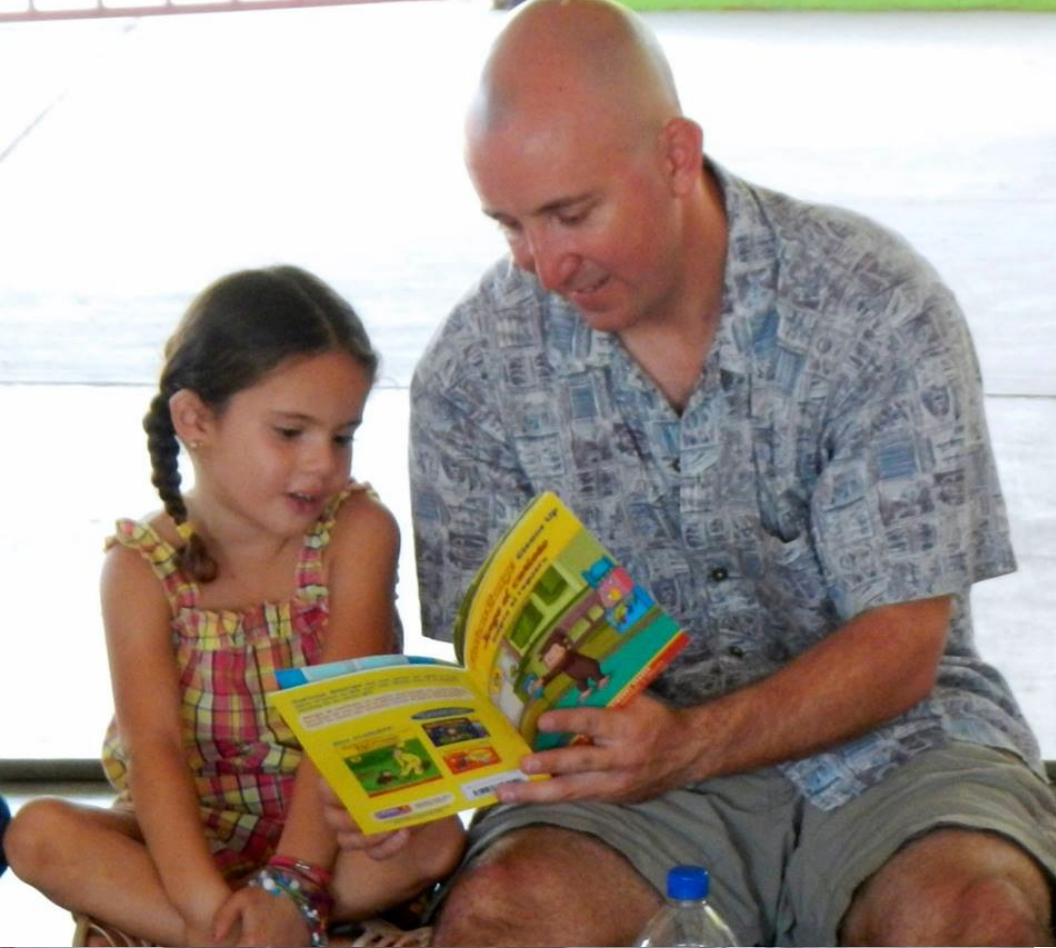
Colleen-Thank you for allowing me to be a part of such a wonderful organization. The work that you do is amazing, and your efforts are appreciated all over the world. In addition to giving us the opportunity to participate in such fulfilling community service projects, you are providing divers with experiences that they may not have otherwise had. The different cultures that I've seen and the local people that I have interacted with will never be forgotten. I also thank you and DFAC for introducing me to so many incredible like-minded individuals, with whom I will have lifelong friendships. Keep doing what you're doing!

Bobby Kim



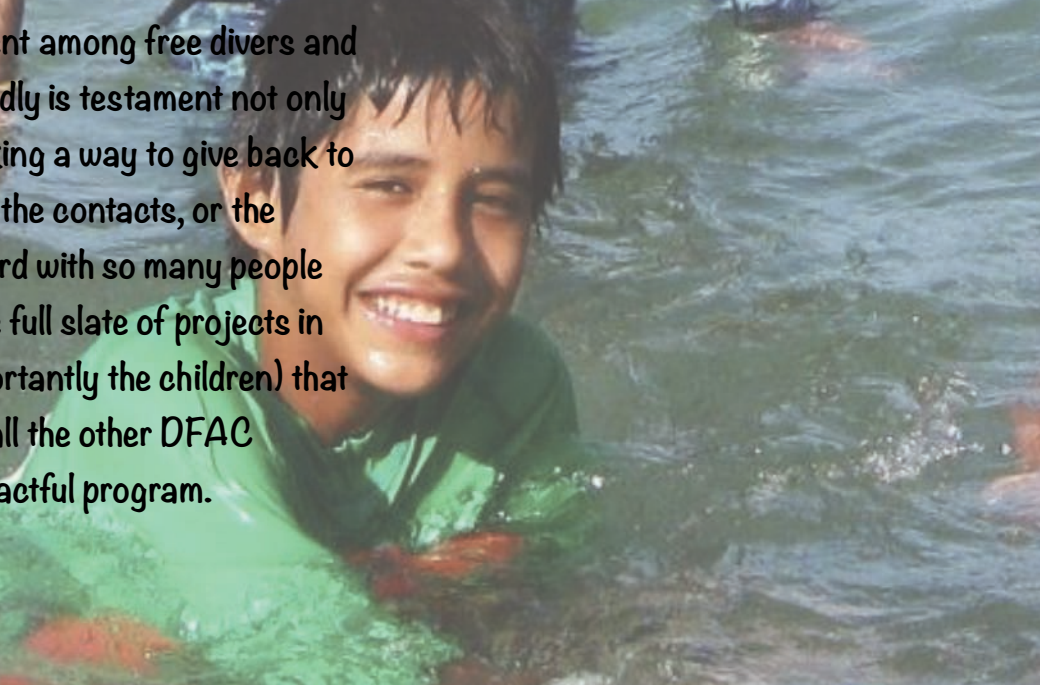
I find joy in free diving, spearfishing, traveling and serving others, and what Colleen has done with Diving For A Cause has combined all those things into one. Her heart for people is pure gold, and I'm so thankful to be a part of something so productive and fun, with DFAC. May God continue to bless her, and the people she interacts with, throughout the rest of her life, in and out of the water.

Brandon Zeek



It is amazing how such a small idea has turned into such a huge movement among free divers and spear fishermen . The fact that it caught on so quickly and grew so rapidly is testament not only to Colleen's vision but also the fact that many of these divers were seeking a way to give back to the communities that they were visiting during dive trips but didn't have the contacts, or the language skills, to know where to begin. Having struck this service chord with so many people and the scope of the projects that have already been completed and the full slate of projects in the future will have a lasting impact on the communities (and more importantly the children) that she (and we) as DFAC get the honor to serve. Cheers to Colleen and all the other DFAC participants for their services and the dedication to such a fun and impactful program.

Cheers,
Eric Smail





The deepest blue and the deepest love. I'm so happy I found both things in DFAC trips and I'm proud to be a friend of Colleen because she's such a special person. She makes the magic happen and everyone can feel that energy when talking to her, when looking in her eyes. Even if I live in a far away country, I joined the cause and I know this link will never break.

Nicola Manfredi





My experience with DFAC has been life changing. Meeting Colleen and the Diving For A Cause team has brought so much light into my eyes. I never knew before how much a simple good deed could go...so far! Seeing the look on the children's faces as we provided them with the fish and school supplies was unforgettable. The energy that Colleen gives, and the passion for helping others is truly an inspiration. To actually enjoy going out of her way to do community service and to provide the less fortunate with much needed supplies takes an enormous heart. I am very thankful that I got associated with DFAC and became personal friends with all of the team. Colleen makes us feel like a family and I look forward to every time I get to see them. Even when not on a trip with DFAC I have stayed in very close contact with the other divers and have actually traveled overseas to visit and hang out with a friend I met on the DFAC LaPaz Trip. Colleen has recruited a fun, happy, well organized group that I cannot be more thankful to be a part of.

Charlie Slattery

Colleen and DFAC organization gave me a reason to come all the way from Bulgaria...to free dive and spearfish with them in Mexico and now my life has changed from good to awesome!

Thanks Colleen and DFAC

Regards Stan (Stanislav Mihaylov)



Colleen accomplishes something unique and amazing with every Diving For A Cause Trip: joining together participants from an individual sport into an effective team of humanitarians. Despite having a full time job and organizing almost a dozen trips per year, Colleen is still always smiling with enough happiness and energy to set a continuous example for the team. Amazing!

Steven Snyder



Colleen is one of the most giving people I've ever met, and has a true gift for bringing people together for the common good. Her passion and hard work have helped touch the lives of thousands of children, and she is an inspiration to all of us to get out there and make a difference in the world. She is one of a kind!

David Nelson



Colleen reached out to us to start DFAC-She has been coming back year after year after year and adding trips on the pacific side with us too. The result is a long term one-repeated visits to help with projects at our local schools and giving school supply donations-Now our community looks forward to the divers coming and can't wait till their next trip-She has helped give spearfishing and tourism a great name here in La Ventana and surrounding communities-Plus Colleen knows how to have fun!! We look forward to diving with her and hangin out again and again-Whether its shooting yellowtail, wahoo, goats, big grouper, or just kicking soccer balls around with kids-DFAC and Colleen ROCK!!

Tim Hatler
Palapas Ventana