GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT NEWS: August 2026

Reflections on the Guatemala Microloan Project by Ellen Dozier



Some 20 years ago, when I was serving as a Mission Co-worker with the women in Guatemala, you would often find me riding on one of the many "chicken buses" or in the back of a pick-up truck with several Guatemalan women. We traveled to churches in the mountains and on the shore, often down steep roads or into dusty pastures or mud caked paths. We were visiting as many of the women's groups in the National Presbyterian Church as we could. Sometimes we would offer a workshop on women's health, self-esteem, or a Bible study. However, the most important part of our visit was being present, letting the women know they were beloved daughters of God.

I was blessed to do this work, to be with the women, to learn from them. But there were so many groups all over the country, and we usually could only meet for 3-4 hours. I knew that repeated visits were needed on a regular basis to bring about meaningful changes in women's lives.

Now as part of the Microloan Project, where groups meet monthly over several years, I have a special joy as I see the lives of women and their families being changed. I see growth in their understanding of what it means to be a daughter, wife, or mother; I see groups of women learning how to be together in ways that are beneficial for everyone; I see women who know they have a voice in decisions made in their families and communities; I see women learning the importance of caring for themselves; I see women who are learning financial skills to improve their businesses. In the microloan groups there is time and skilled leadership to address the emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual life of each woman.

I remember with joy my travels and visits with the women of Guatemala. I know that the format of the Microloan Project is the step needed to enable women to understand themselves as valued and important members of their church and larger community. I see signs that this project is truly bringing "life, love and light" to all the participants - women in the groups, leaders of the project, members of the Task Force, donors, and sisters in prayer.

Upcoming Name Changes to the Microloan Project

To better reflect the vision and purpose of the Microloan Project, several program names are being updated to reflect the project's holistic approach emphasizing well-being, learning, growth, and hope.

Guatemala Microloan Project → Weaving Well-Being for Women Entrepreneurs
Microloans → Seeds of Hope
Entrepreneur Loans → Sprouts of Hope
Process of Formation → Knowledge that Transforms
Prayer Partners → Sisters in Prayer

To learn more about the meaning behind these changes, plan to attend the **Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering** featured in this newsletter, or watch for more details in our November 2026 newsletter.

Come See the Microloan Project in Action - February 2027

One of the best ways to understand the impact of the Guatemala Microloan Project is to experience it firsthand. You are invited to join our **Guatemala Microloan Delegation Trip; tentative dates that may shift slightly are February 17-24, 2027.** This is much more than a sightseeing trip—it is an opportunity to meet the remarkable women whose determination, hard work, and faith are transforming their families and communities through the Microloan Project. You'll hear their stories, learn about their challenges, and see the businesses that they have been able to start or expand, that provide income and hope for their families. Trip delegates consistently describe meeting the microloan participants and witnessing their creativity, determination, resilience, and gratitude as inspiring.

Whether you have supported the Microloan Project for years or are simply interested in learning more, we encourage you to consider joining us. For more information about the trip contact Susan Maveety at susanmaveety@gmail.com. We hope you'll prayerfully consider being part of this memorable experience.



Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina have played a vital role in beginning and sustaining the Guatemala Microloan Project. They will hold their **Fall Gathering** on **Saturday, September 26**, at **Tryon Presbyterian Church**. The Microloan Project will be hosting a workshop entitled, *What's in a Name? Upcoming Changes to the Microloan Project*. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information or to register, contact Corise Gambrell at corisegambrell@gmail.com.

Your Support Makes This Work Possible!

Pray – Prayer is essential and a primary way to provide support.

Financial Support enables us to continue. Donate by sending checks payable to PW PWNC with Guatemala Microloan Project on the memo line to Amy Yenderusiak, 604 7th St NE, Conover NC 28613, or visit our website, GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org.

Share - Like our "Guatemala Microloan Project" Facebook page and share our posts so others can learn about this project.