

GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT UPDATE: August 2025

Participant Profile

Marlin makes beautiful cakes for birthdays, baptisms, and weddings. She puts a lot of energy and enthusiasm into each project, ensuring her customers' satisfaction. She loves decorating because every detail and color brings joy and tranquility, helping her strengthen her ideas and abilities. Marlin's wish is to take a gastronomy course at the Technical Training Institute. Marlin has made cakes for the delegates when we visit, and we can attest that they are delicious!



Formation Report

The goal of the formation workshops is to contribute to the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of women. Games are an important way to develop and strengthen their capacities while providing laughter, fun, and enjoyment. Flor plans the formation activities based on the needs of each group.

In Morelia, Flor led an activity using visualization. The women were asked to visualize themselves achieving their goals, then to imagine the strategies needed to achieve those goals. They wrote these down and shared them with their group.



Olivia – My goal is to improve where I have my pigs (it is dedicated to pig farming.) I posted the sale of pigs on Facebook and sold more. My strategy is to continue posting on Facebook.



Gloria – I used to sell secondhand clothing, but I have competition; there are more people selling clothing and I haven't sold much. Now I'm going to sell ceviche since no one sells that anymore. I'm going to make a sign, so people know.



Maria Micaela – My goal is to buy a cylinder for the stove, buy more products to stock up, and make a vinyl advertising sign.

Aide (a nurse) – My goal is to see more patients and to buy more medicine because sometimes people look for it and I don't have it.

Loan Cycle Changes

Morelia Cycle 6 began with 53,000.00 quetzales distributed to 14 women who will be working in various activities such as agriculture, raising livestock, daily supply stores, used clothing sales, tortilla making, and food sales.

Working through challenges - There was a difficult situation in Nuevo Amanecer due to the delayed loan repayment of one woman. Thanks to some careful handling by Reyna, the loan was repaid, and a new loan cycle began with two additional participants: one new and one returning. The group wrote new agreements to address issues and decided to increase their savings goal from 30 quetzales per month to 50 quetzales per month.

Future Generations Influenced by Group Activities

When mothers participate in the Microloan Project, their children benefit in direct and indirect ways. Children participate with their mothers in some of the group activities as shown below.



Childcare workers provide valuable learning experiences while mothers are in group sessions. During a mid-year school vacation in June, microloan staff provided puzzle sheets and educational games for the children to take home.

Reyna G shared how she uses what she has learned from the workshops to help her son. She said, “When my son is really angry, I tell him to breathe, and yes, he calms down.”

A Participant’s Testimonial

Luz – I thank God for putting you in my path. I’ve learned many things from what you have taught when we come to the workshops. The exercises have helped me a lot. I take 10-20 minutes at home to do what you’re teaching us. If we sit down, we feel that in that time we take to rest, we’d make more progress at work, but work will be there for a lifetime, and we get stressed from thinking so much.



Organizational Update

Flor and Reyna continue to administer the microloan project while also working to meet the legal requirements in Guatemala to form a foundation. They have identified individuals willing to serve on their board of directors and are submitting the required paperwork. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Flor and Reyna decided to take continuing education courses based on their areas of work. Flor is taking a course on Naturopathy because it will allow her to provide natural alternatives for women's conditions and can also help women's business activities. Reyna is studying for a diploma in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship which will give her knowledge and skills to help women strengthen their businesses.

Value of Prayer Partners

Mónica thanks her prayer sister, who she feels is a source of strength in her life. She feels she is not alone, but rather that there is someone else who accompanies her in her prayers to God. Prayer is a valuable way to support the Microloan Project. To serve as a prayer partner contact Sharon Meares at shmeares@hotmail.com.

Delegation Trip

The Microloan Task Force is planning its next delegation trip to Guatemala in January. Trip participants will spend time with the microloan staff and visit microloan groups and some of their businesses. The group will also spend time learning about Guatemalan history, culture, and geography. The cost is \$1,800 per person which includes accommodations, transportation, airfare, and meals. It does not cover personal preparation expenses, such as passports and immunizations. Past participants of our delegation trips found the experience both meaningful and inspiring. The visits are also incredibly uplifting for the Microloan staff and participants, who deeply appreciate our support. If you are interested but the dates or costs don't work for you, or if you have any questions, contact Susan Maveety at susan.maveety@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina PW Fall Gathering will take place on October 25th at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, NC. This is an inspiring and enjoyable event with meaningful workshops planned and will include updates on the Microloan Project. Alternative Giving cards and note cards will be available for individual use or to take to share with your church or PW group. For more information on the Fall Gathering contact Corise Gambrell at corisegambrell@gmail.com.

Ways You Can Provide Support!

Help spread the word - Arrange a program for your group or church so others can learn about the project! Contact Susan Maveety at susan.maveety@gmail.com to reserve your date/time.

Donate online through our website at GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org or send checks payable to PW PWNC to Amy Yenderusiak, 604 7th St NE, Conover NC 28613.

There is so much more! Follow our "Guatemala Microloan Project" Facebook page to stay up to date.