

GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT UPDATE: February 2025

Special Year End Events:

During December, the microloan groups enjoyed get-togethers where recreational, educational and group activities were carried out. For the first time in the project, two trips were organized.

El Progreso Microloan Group

Think of a favorite place that is a two-hour car ride away from your home. How would you feel if you heard about it all your life and finally got to see it? That's exactly what happened to some of the women and their family members who had never seen the Pacific Ocean! Elsa commented: "I had never been to the sea, it is the first time I have come. I am scared, because I feel like the water is going to pull me and take me away. I hardly ever leave the house. that is why I feel like this, but when I come more often, I'll get used to it. But it is very nice to go out for a walk, it feels good."



Sintaná Microloan Group

Since June, the group had wanted to travel to Tak'alik Ab'aj National Park, an important Mayan archeological site. On December 6th the women and their families enjoyed a tour of the park, where they expanded their knowledge of Mayan culture. Most of the women had never been to this park, despite it being only 90 minutes from their community.



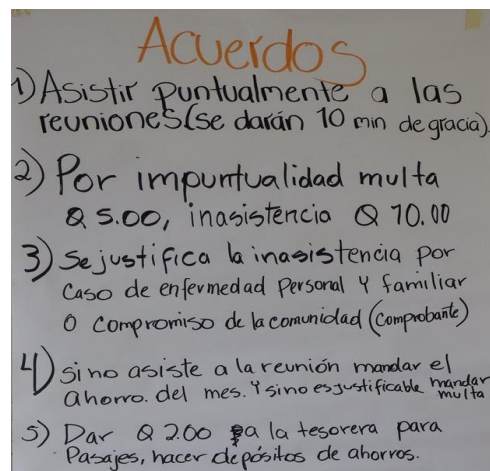
Morelia Microloan Group – Christmas party



The participants enjoyed a special lunch and gift exchange. Each woman had previously drawn a name and, before presenting her gift, shared positive qualities about the recipient. Thanks were given to God for what they experienced during the year, the project and the time they shared.

Nuevo Amanecer Microloan Group – Change of cycle

On December 2nd, a cycle change took place in Nuevo Amanecer. The women were happy that after more than 2 months of waiting, the recapitalization could be carried out. Two new women joined for a total of 12 participants, new group leaders were elected, and group agreements were made. The team proposed a get-together; however, the group considered it best to wait, hoping to make a trip at the end of 2025.



The group established the following acuerdos (agreements):

1. Attend meetings punctually (10 minutes grace period will be given).
2. Fine of Q5 for being late, Q10 for not showing up.
3. Non-attendance is justified in the case of personal illness or that of a family member or due to commitment to the community. The group must be notified and proof must be sent.
4. In case of non-attendance, send savings and fine (if applicable).
5. Give Q2 monthly to the treasurer for tickets to make the savings deposit.

Report from Flor and Reyna

We made some changes to promote group dynamics and strengthen the project. Among them, the establishment of agreements, where women were the protagonists of their construction, analyzing what they needed to improve group dynamics.

During these months, participation in the workshops has increased, punctuality has improved, and the incorporation of fines has improved group responsibility and commitment.

The fact that 2 groups made trips outside the municipality and that it was a proposal from the women themselves is an achievement, which shows the strengthening and organization of the group. These trips were very important for them and their families. Several said that they do not go out for a walk, only when they work or go out to sell. They enjoyed the trip and the socializing very much. Without a doubt this experience contributed to their well-being.



Reyna and Flor

The groups expressed their total gratitude to all the people who make the project possible. Emphasizing that it is a project that goes beyond economic strengthening, they have repeatedly said “they care about us, that we are well, thank you very much.”

To read Flor’s full report and see more photos of the year end activities visit our website: GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org.

Your Support Makes this Work Possible! Here Are Ways You Can Be Involved.

Pray – Prayer is essential and a primary way to provide support. To serve as a prayer partner for a microloan participant, contact Sharon Meares at shmeares@hotmail.com.

Travel - Do you have The Right Stuff? (Like a sense of adventure, an interest in women’s education and empowerment, a desire to spread goodwill?) Have you thought about supporting the Guatemalan Microloan Program by visiting it? The Task Force is planning a delegation trip in late October or early November; please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Questions? Contact Susan Maveety at susan.maveety@gmail.com.

We have a program for you! The Guatemala Microloan Task Force has an interesting program to share with your group. Learn more about the program than can be included in a newsletter. Contact Susan Maveety at the email address above to reserve your date/time.

Donate online through our website [here](#) or by sending checks payable to PW PWNC to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

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