

GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT UPDATE: August 2020

As here in the USA, the pandemic has made for many challenges for our sisters in Guatemala, but there are positive developments as well.

Many microloan participants have had their businesses disrupted. Women who rely on public transportation to purchase supplies or to take products to market have been unable to buy and sell. Confinement to homes has limited options for those relying on door to door sales. However, the women are finding creative ways to adapt. Some have changed their focus to sell essential items such as food.



Reyna S. sells vegetables and eggs



Reyna G. raises chickens.

Lety was selling jewelry and took a free class and now makes disinfectant in several scents, printing her own labels. She recently sold 40 gallons to one business. **See right ->**



Vendo
desinfectante,
Citronela
Fresa canela
Manzana
canela
Herbal floral
Bouquet floral
Manzana
verde
Pinabete

Several women in a rural community have taken advantage of the time of year to plant corn, like Marfina and her husband. **See above ^** Women still need additional capital to make changes and develop alternate plans. Your donations go a long way in enabling these women to keep moving forward.

Prayer partners and the Newton Church contributed towards some emergency funds to make available distribution of food this summer. The staff of ADEHGUA purchased in bulk and prepared bags of food for each family depending on size and needs: oats, pinol (nutrition drink), milk, sugar, rice, beans, pasta and cooking oil. Mildre and Flor visited each group and not only delivered food but also educational materials for the women and children. They had the opportunity to talk with the women about their situations and community and were able to share moments that were important and encouraging to all. **(See picture next page)**



Flor, who oversees the formation aspect of the project, continues to look for ways to support the women during this time of quarantine. She created an educational brochure for the whole family, with topics on healthy eating, prevention measures, optimism in times of crisis, family life, and the distribution of tasks at home. She included guides for individual and family exercises, word puzzles, mazes, coloring pages, and stories so the women and families can enjoy, share and learn together.

With the visits, it was possible to verify the business activities of women, and to see again the creativity, struggle, effort and work of women even in crisis. Some not only continue with their usual activities, but have grown and multiplied their business, like Rosita from El Progreso; she had a store with basic supplies, now she has added school supplies and internet and sells food. Leonarda sold prepared food and now also sells vegetables and corn.

In addition, ADEHGUA is partnering with a group of students from a private university to provide psychological support for the women. Another group of University students will be helping families with their vegetable gardens. We give thanks for ways ADEHGUA is adapting to the changing needs and providing help and support.

“Message from participants: We appreciate your great love, constantly manifested by the prayers and support you have given us. You have provided us with one of the best forms of support – decent work, the power to be providers, to meet the needs of our families, to change our way of seeing and acting.”

WHAT CAN YOU DO? SHARE THE NEED and the GOOD NEWS If your PW, Circle or Church would like a Zoom presentation, or a short video for a Minute for Mission in worship, contact Susan Maveety at susan.maveety@gmail.com.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Join the Task Force! We need some new members who can meet (via Zoom currently) on Monday mornings every other month. If you might be interested, join us one time to check us out! Contact Susan Maveety susan.maveety@gmail.com or Mimi Michael mimimichael@charter.net.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Purchase our **Alternative Anyday Cards**, available from Mimi Michael at mimimichael@charter.net with a **\$10 minimum donation**. Send to someone you want to honor or thank as a meaningful greeting/gift, or for Thanksgiving or Christmas greetings.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Undoubtedly there is hardship and struggle, and every bit of help provided is appreciated and needed. Contribute to Guatemala Microloan Project; make checks payable to PW PWNC and send to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? PRAY! As we are in prayer for our sisters in Guatemala, they also are in prayer for us. The prayer support is important to them as they know their sisters in Christ care about them and lift them up.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Follow us on our Facebook page [Guatemala Microloan Project](https://www.facebook.com/GuatemalaMicroloanProject) for regular updates, even videos! And our website is up: www.GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org Check it out.

Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Mission Committee Report

September 2020

The Mission Committee of the Presbytery wishes to submit a brief report during this time of Covid pandemic, a time when most churches are shuttered and services have gone online. Unfortunately, most of our hands-on mission work has been put on hold, although opportunities to help the most vulnerable in our communities are plentiful. Our communities have been shaken to what seems to be their core as most lives have had to pivot because of the pandemic. Families have had to re-arrange priorities, and many have lost jobs and income. Many small and large businesses are closing. Many of our elderly and immune compromised population remain quarantine mode, 6 months after the initial outbreak. And during this time most Americans have witnessed the death of a black man, George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement. Our country is enraged, and many are demanding change to the long-held systems that have become entrenched in our daily living.

We encourage churches to involve their members in whatever work can be done in their local communities to help those most vulnerable...and this just may be the perfect time for congregations to begin work to uphold the tenants of the [Matthew 25](#) initiative: [Building Congregational Vitality, Eradicating Systemic Poverty and Dismantling Structural Racism.](#)



In other news, PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) trips have been cancelled for 2020. It is our hope to help facilitate trips again, in 2021. Stay tuned!



In other news, all YAV (Young Adult Volunteers) programs were cancelled for 2020 with hopes now for a virtual year for young adults to be held in 2021. Our local WNC YAV site – Hands and Feet of Asheville will be participating in the virtual year format. Our prayers are with those young adults who had their year cut short in 2020! Selena Hilemon, the executive director for the Hands and Feet of Asheville program has begun participating in the virtual year working with their site coordinator colleagues at the PCUSA. Specifically; they are working on intense anti-racism and structural work during this time of pandemic.