



Spring Update

April 2007

Guatemala Friends Scholarship/Loan Program (Progresar)

Of Redwood Forest Friends Monthly Meeting and Guatemala Monthly Meeting
email: progresar@hughes.net or lacelle@conexion.com.gt website: <http://guatemalafriends.org>

The Scholarship Office Without Loren by Martha Dugan

Many of you have wondered and worried how the scholarship program would fare without Loren's presence in Guatemala. The answer is that we miss him but are doing well. Until this year Loren kept up all of our contact with our donors and this is the area where we miss him the most. Luckily with the help of frequent e-mails we are able to keep in regular touch with him in California and he has continued to guide us along. Meme Romero has taken on the responsibility of getting the thank you and tax receipt letters out to all of our donors and I have helped by actually writing the letters (a daunting task when English is a second language). Miguel and I have both kept track of the miscellaneous correspondence that we receive from donors, visiting Quakers, tour participants and others who have heard about the program. Sometimes we have referred old friends to Loren but mostly we have enjoyed beginning to form new bonds with old and new donors.

Actually working with the students the program without Loren has not been a problem since he had resigned as program director back in 2003. Since that time Martha Dugan served as program director for three years and then Miguel Costop took over this responsibility at the beginning of 2006. Our systems for the selection of students, counseling and delivering checks, keeping track of our income and expenses, home visits, and tracking down ex-students were mostly in place before Loren left and have served us well in his absence. Of course we miss his input but once again find that we are able to use e-mail to consult him when we need to.

Meanwhile, Loren is continuing to recover from his minor stroke at his home in California. He reports that he is looking forward to returning this summer and that he misses Guatemala, the office staff and the meeting very much.

Sponsored Students

Paying full tuition plus room and board and miscellaneous expenses for a college student can cost up to \$1000 per year which is more than many of our donors can afford so most of you simply send what you can and we combine your donations to support our students. However, we have always had a few donors who wished to sponsor a specific student, pay all of his or her expenses, and maintain a more personal contact with the student. In the past few years a couple of meetings and several individuals have maintained contact with students in this way.



Family of Veda Rebeca Suy, one of the newly sponsored students

Last year 8 of our 138 students were supported by individual sponsors or Quaker meetings. This year we are happy to report that we have a new sponsor. A small U.S. NGO named Through Women has decided to use our program to support five women university students. An additional young woman is being sponsored by a North American long term resident of Guatemala. This brings our number of sponsored students up to 14 (almost 10% of the total 146). Although keeping track of monies sent for sponsored students and getting letters and photos back to their sponsors is more work for us, we are happy to do it because sponsorship means a lot to the students. One

reason is that sponsored students always receive scholarships instead of loans which is especially important to our university level students. Although the program approaches repayment with a soft hand and we never take our students to court or attempt to coerce them to repay their loans, receiving a scholarship rather than incurring a debt removes a lot of pressure from their lives.

The process of selecting five additional women for sponsorship was a pleasure for us. Rather than give this opportunity only to new students we included two returning students who we were sure would benefit from this extra support. One of them, Rosalinda Garcia, is featured on our website. You can read a little about her by going to <http://guatemalafriends.org> and then following the links to the scholarship program and “meet our students”.



David with his new sponsee Elvira Ramírez

New Students-by Martha Dugan and Miguel Costop



Mopan Student Studying Law One of our new students this year, Delmy Gumercinda Ical Asig, is of particular interest because she belongs to the Maya Mopan ethnic group, one of the smallest Mayan ethnic/linguistic groups in

Guatemala. No one knows exactly how many Maya Mopans still exist but experts suggest that there are somewhere between 5,000 and 8,000 people left in Guatemala who speak Mopan as a

first language. This would be about 2/10's of 1% of the total Mayan population. Delmy's family lives in the department of the Peten but she has now moved to Antigua Guatemala in order to study law at the Mariano Galvez University. According to Delmy there are currently no lawyers who speak Mopan (at least in her community) and one is greatly needed to represent the interests of the Mopan people. Law school is a major undertaking for Delmy since it involves five years of classes and then two or three more of internships and exams. She has a long road ahead of her but we believe she has the capacity to succeed.

Two new students from Chiquimula

Those of you who attended the FWCC conference in Chiquimula last year know that this part of the country tends to be hot and dry. Drought has been a problem and rural poverty is sometimes severe. Even though this is the area of the country where most of the Guatemalan Quakers live, we have been sorry that in the past years we have had only two students from this department. This year we are pleased to have accepted two young boys in secondary school. When Bruno Recinos Carranza and Daniel Aldana Avalos appeared at our interviews in Coban they had very little information about schools in their area and had applied to attend the Adolfo B. Hall academy. They knew nothing about the school except that it was located an hour away from their homes. Not only were the costs of this school very high, we also knew that it was a military school.



Bruno Recinos and Daniel Aldana

With our counseling they were happy to find and register in a more appropriate secondary school

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STUDENT ROSTER, MARCH 2007

SECONDARY LEVEL			
<i>Careers</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Language</i>
Computers			
	Mónica Azucena Patzán Muñoz	25	Kaqchikel
	Edwin Estuardo Ralios Quixán	19	K'iche'
	Nancy Beatriz Solano Calí	17	Kaqchikel
Physical Education			
	Juan Carlos Ujpán Juárez	16	Tz'utujil
	Julio César Cac Cuz	21	Poqomchi'
Nursing (Vocational, 1 year)			
	Ana Vilma Quej Sipac	19	Kaqchikel
	Valerio Maquin Yat	19	Q'eqchi'
Education for the home (4 years)			
	Claudia Susana Siguenza Méndez	19	K'iche'
	Erika Janeth Cojtí Serech	21	Kaqchikel
Pre-primary Bilingual Teaching			
	Julia Victoria Canto	19	K'iche'
	Marcelina Chum Cortez	23	K'iche'
	Micaela Ernesto Tzaj Cotiy	27	K'iche'
Primary Teaching			
	Diana Patricia Ramírez Calderón	18	Mam
	Elmer Lisardi Montejó Camposeco	16	Jakalteko
	Hermelinda de la Cruz Hernández	20	K'iche'
	Juana Martina Chutá Santelel	19	Kaqchikel
	Rosa Virginia Simón Cuxil	22	Kaqchikel
	Rubelsi Eduardo Montejó López	16	Popti'
Primary Bilingual Teaching			
	Albertina Sanic Chipix	21	Kaqchikel
	Ana Catarina Sarat Bach	19	K'iche'
	Ana Elizabeth Sirín Maxía	16	Kaqchikel
	Abaceta Mendoza Carrillo	20	Mam
	Antonio Geovani Joj Chití	20	K'iche'
	Arturo Figueroa Chub	21	Q'eqchi'
	Benjamín Jiménez Martín	21	Mam
	Braulio Mardoqueo Méndez Juárez	21	Mam
	Elida Araceli Puac Cholotío	18	Tz'utujil
	Felix Miguel Chic Joj	22	K'iche'
	Francisca Natalia Quixán Pérez	17	K'iche'
	Gloria Marina Enriquez Lara	18	Español
	Hugo René Cuc Coc	22	Q'eqchi'
	Irma Elvira Pérez Ramos	19	K'iche'
	Isidora Sebastiana Sic Sic	25	K'iche'
	Joaquín Tomás Morente Hernández	20	K'iche'
	Joel Anibal Sep Santos	23	Q'eqchi'
	Juan Ignacio Joj Tzoy	20	K'iche'
	Marcos Chub Ical	22	Q'eqchi'
	Medardo Rax Tzul	23	Q'eqchi'
	Oscar Leopoldo Cuc Sub	23	Q'eqchi'
	Pedro Francisco Nicolás Pedro	19	Q'anjob'al
	Rigoberto Joj Carrillo	20	K'iche'
	Rosa Caz	43	Q'eqchi'
	Silverio Cac Cac	23	Poqomchi'
	Soila Coc Klahr	22	Q'eqchi'
	Sotero Gerónimo Pérez	19	Mam
	Victoriano Catún Coc	35	Q'eqchi'
	Williams Alexander Osorio Chávez	19	K'iche'

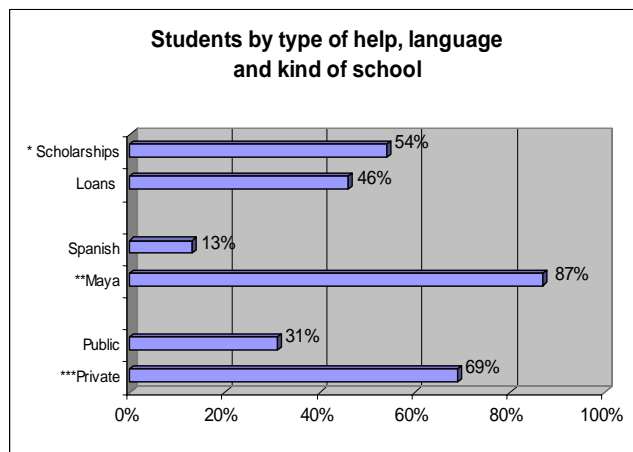
<i>Careers</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Language</i>
Music Teacher			
	María Estefany Muñoz Ajquí	19	Español
Agriculture			
	Gabriel Vidal López Díaz	20	Jakalteko
	José Humberto Esquivel y Esquivel	24	Español
	Roberto Bulux Cojtí	19	Kaqchikel
	Rodny Amilcar Vielman	18	Español
	Juan Miguel Bartolomé	19	Mam
	Avilio Gregorio Tum	20	K'iche'
	Bruno Recinos Carranza	17	Español
	Daniel Aldana Avalos	19	Español
	Vinamarby García Ordóñez	16	Mam
Bookkeeping			
	José Anibal Escobar Portelo	18	Kaqchikel
	María Deyssi Zurelly Jiménez Quisque	17	
	Nohelia Crucidalia Cún Apén	16	Kaqchikel
	Ruth Griselda Muñoz Raymundo	17	Kaqchikel
Drafting			
	Luis Pedro Díaz	20	Español
	Rigoberto Noé Ujpán Vásquez	20	Tz'utujil
Mechanic			
	Luis Clemente Gómez López	16	Kaqchikel
Primary (Young students under special memorial fund)			
	Baltazar Leobardo López García	12	Kaqchikel
	Isabel López García	10	Kaqchikel
	Margarita Stephanie López García	8	Kaqchikel
	Pedro Daniel López García	11	Kaqchikel
UNIVERSITY LEVEL			
<i>Careers</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Language</i>
Business Administration (5 years)			
	Catarina Lorenzo Antonio	26	Q'anjob'al
	Juan Manuel Cholotío Mendoza	20	Tz'utujil
Political Science (5 years)			
	Alejandro Ramiro Chan Saquic	22	K'iche'
Law (5 years)			
	Ana Flor Cotzojay Yoc	25	Kaqchikel
	Angelico Leonel Oztzoy Sajbochol	31	Kaqchikel
	Delmy Gumercinda Ical Asig	20	Mopán
	Edgar René Cún Són	23	Kaqchikel
	Edras Noe Ajpop Cárdenas	20	Kaqchikel
	Eduardo Jacinto Pablo Francisco	21	Q'anjob'al
	Elisea Patricia López Castañeda	26	Q'anjob'al
	Eulalia Nallely Simón López	22	Q'anjob'al
	Jairo Benjamín Ajiataz Martínez	25	K'iche'
	José María García Vásquez	25	K'iche'
	Jubinal Carrillo Funes	31	Mam
	Martha Jiménez Felipe	35	Akateko
	Nicolás Rivera Velasco	31	Ixil
	Santos Mendoza Jerónimo	23	Mam
	Silvia Patricia Orozco Juárez	30	Español
	Veda Rebeca Suy Sanic	23	Kaqchikel
	Vilma Angela Chalí Colaj	19	Kaqchikel
Economics (5 years)			
	Domínguez Chicaj Coj	48	K'iche'

<u>Careers</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Language</u>
Jorge Leonel Vega Barrondo		31	Español
Juan Octaviano López Castro		35	K'iche'
Justo Miguel Zacarías Cabrera		29	K'iche'
María Elizabet Hernández		27	Español
Natanael Urizar Ramón		29	Español
M.A. in Bilingual Education (5 years)			
Daniel Esteban Francisco		35	Q'anjob'al
Agronomy (5 years)			
Carlos Mateu Jerónimo Morales		25	Achi
Félix Brito de León		29	Ixil
Oscar Antonio Guerra García		21	Español
Romaldo Panjoj Quino		25	K'iche'
Angélica Melissa De la Cruz Méndez		20	
Engineering (5 years)			
Francisco Alejandro Shapín Puac		19	Q'anjob'al
Marco Antonio Rafael Loarca		26	Q'anjob'al
Linguistics (5 years)			
Marina Magdalena Cruz Ajcac		37	Tz'utujil
Medicine (6 years)			
Ana Beatriz Quevedo Galindo		19	Español
Ernesto Estrada Atz		31	Kaqchikel
Eulalia Santiago Paiz		30	Popti'
María Teresa Ajxup Itzep		21	K'iche'
Yacklyn Marilen Turcios		27	Español
M.A. in Education (5 years)			
Benjamín Carlos García Barreno		30	K'iche'
Germán Isaías Zárate Ralac		36	K'iche'
Psychology (5 years)			
Rosaura Noemí Caal Caal		22	Q'eqchi'
Dora Marina Tepaz Tomas		37	Kaqchikel
Silvia Rosana Cortéz Solomán		23	Achi
Valentín Fidel Ríos López		25	Español
Biology (5 years)			
Rosa Delfina Sunum Orellana		20	K'iche'
Social Work (5 years)			
María Josefina Tubac Quill		26	Kaqchikel
Miguel Brito Cobo		23	Ixil
Wendy Waleska Pérez Xajpot		21	Kaqchikel
Nursing (Professional, RN, 3 years)			
Adela Marisol Co Tot		23	Q'eqchi'
Carlos Enrique Butz Caal		23	Q'eqchi'
Carmelitana de Jesús Mendoza		24	Popti'
Deysy Alicia Alvarez Pérez		21	Español
German Lux Us		35	K'iche'
Juan José Bernal de León		29	Ixil
Marly Yohana Pitán Och		26	Poqomchi'
Marta Luvia Col		30	Q'eqchi'
Mélida Manuel Martín		21	Achi
Oscar Heriberto Pá Chó		22	Q'eqchi'
Paola Madaí Lavagnino del Valle		21	Español
Rogelio Gómez Hernández		28	Mam
Rosalinda García Flores		22	Español
Teresa Tot Paau		30	Q'eqchi'
Teaching (Secondary level, 4 years)			
Benigno Matías Mejía		30	Mam
Gabriel Estepán Cux		28	Kaqchikel
Lidia Maribel Calí		21	Kaqchikel
Fermina Juárez Reynoso		27	Mam

<u>Careers</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Language</u>
Elvira Ramírez Mejía		20	Mam
Sergio Francisco Mejía Chivalán		29	K'iche'
Andrés Eulogio Cac Muz		25	K'iche'
Enrique Jom Lem		31	Poqomchi'
Juan Efraín Tzic Mendoza		41	K'iche'
Victor Manuel Ixim Colorado		35	Poqomchi'
Radiology (1.5 years)			
Juan Feliciano Chuy Alvarado		24	Achi
Agricultural Technician (3.5 years)			
Celso Teodoro Cún Caná		18	Kaqchikel
Laboratory (1 year)			
Cristina Araceli Díaz López		22	Popti'
	Español		

Some statistics about our group of students.

Student population by sex and level						
	Women		Men		Totals	
University	33	15%	44	30%	77	53%
Secondary	29	20%	39	27%	68	47%
Totals	62	43%	83	57%	145	100%



Notes: *All of our secondary students and 11 of our university students receive scholarships rather than loans. **Over 1/5th of our students who identify themselves as Maya are not able to speak their indigenous language. ***We would prefer to have more of our students study at the public university but the majority are only able to pursue the weekend study plans which are offered by the private colleges.

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located in nearby Jocotán. Both are majoring in natural resources. Since they are located so far away we will not see them in person again until they attend the annual conference at the end of April, but according to their monthly telephone calls they are doing well in their new school.

Roberto Bulux Cojti is a young man who was born and raised in the small village of Vista Bella outside of the town of Tecpan in the department of Chimaltenango. He has three brothers, two older and one younger. His life has been difficult for the last 10 years since his father, a farmer and the sole provider for the family, died.



Roberto's grandmother and cousins

Shortly after his father's death Roberto's mother remarried and left her children in the care of their maternal grandmother. From then on Roberto and his brothers have had to struggle to survive. The elderly grandmother could not provide anything more than food (and a little attention). Since Roberto wanted to study he has had to work afternoons and weekends in order to pay his school expenses. He has also been responsible for the expenses of his younger brother who is still in primary school. As a consequence, at the age of 18 when most students are finishing secondary school, Roberto is just ready to begin. He tells us that for many years he has had the dream of studying agriculture but because of his economic situation never thought

it would really be possible. Thanks to the help of an aunt who was once a student in our program he learned of our existence and came to the office to fill out an application. We accepted him into the program without hesitation and he is now very happy to "have a chance to fulfill my dream."

Getting to Know Our Graduates- by Meme Romero and Martha Dugan

Vincenta Mejia Paxtor was born in the community of San Jose Chicalquix, a small outlying village of San Carlos Sija in the department of Quetzaltenango. She and her husband were both supported by the program in the decade of the 1990's; after finishing their university studies they chose to remain in their village.

Vincenta studied social work and obtained the level of "tecnico" from the extension of the San Carlos University located in Quezaltenango. In addition to her regular social work courses, she also acquired a specialization in Human Rights. Since her graduation she has worked on a variety of community projects and has helped to sponsor a series of workshops focusing on the development of local power. She also worked to bring potable water to the village and currently serves as president of the local committee. She now works as a teacher to help support her family, but feels that her training in social work has been important in preparing her for her work in the community.

The visit with Vincenta was really enjoyable because of her open personality, interesting ideas and good intentions. She is currently back in school studying Mayan Spirituality and according to her these studies have had an important influence on her attitude toward life and her dealings with other people. During our visit we were not able to meet her husband, Lino Mejia, but we did learn that he graduated in agronomy and is currently working in the Peten. He is able to return to visit the family every two weeks.

If you would be interested in receiving more frequent updates and pictures of our students via e-mail, please send your request to progresar@hughes.net or lacelle@conexion.com.gt
Send your request from the e-mail address you would like us to use.

Dolores Montejo Cota entered our program in 1995. She came to us from the very remote village of Jacaltenango located on the other side of the Cuchumatanes Mountains in the department of Huehuetenango. In 1997 she graduated from the professional nursing school located in Huehuetenango and immediately moved to Guatemala City to work at the national hospital, San Juan de Dios. Since then she has continued working and studying. In 2001 she graduated with a “licenciatura” in nursing and a specialization in epidemiology from the Rafael Landivar University. Currently she has received a scholarship from the hospital in order to study for her master’s degree in Public Health. She is currently an epidemiology nurse at the hospital. She is also married and has two children.

We are very proud of Dolores and are happy that we were able to help her begin her nursing career. She comes from a very simple family with limited economic resources but her determination and clear goals have helped her to expand her horizons far beyond her, or our, initial expectations. When we asked her about her contributions to her community of origin she acknowledged that because of the distance she has not been able to do much, but she still dreams of returning one day and working in the development of community health projects.

Community Service Requirement

As we considered ways in which our ex-students might re-pay their loans via community service projects, we began to think that such a requirement might be a good idea even for our

high school students who receive scholarships. So this year we began asking all 31 of our newly graduating high school students to “repay” the help they received from us by doing a minimum of 100 hours of service in their communities. Seven have already completed their 100 hours of service. Several were teachers who fulfilled their service work by volunteering in their local schools.



Volunteer Francisca Chuta Sanic with her class in the elementary school of Caserío Pacul

Graduates in 2006

In 2006 the Program supported 139 students, 47 of whom graduated or succeeded in finishing their class work for their degrees and are near graduation. Of the 47 total, 33 (70%) graduated from secondary school, 6 (13%) graduated from the technical level of the university and 8 (17%) finished their work for the “licenciado” degree.

Many thanks to our faithful donors who make all this possible.
All contributions are made to:
Redwood Forest Friends Meeting
and are mailed to:
Guatemala Scholarship Program, PO
Box 1831 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

