



*Equipping Women  
Empowering Change  
Overcoming Poverty*

— in —  
**Guatemala**



*Teresa Regina de Leon Maton and her proud family at graduation ceremonies. Teresa was one of the first young women from the Ixil Triangle to graduate from University .*

**Women's Enterprises International (WEI) Philosophy:**

We work to transform lives and communities by reaching across cultures equipping women living in poverty to achieve their God-given potential. We dream and work *with* the women, not for them. We envision and work towards sustainable change. Our work is done through leaders born, raised and working in Guatemala.

**Program:**

- Education

**Issues:**

With over 56% of the population living beneath the poverty line, Guatemalan society is sharply divided between the very rich and the very poor. One of the most impoverished regions in the country is called the Ixil Triangle, a very remote area in the Guatemalan highlands. Before 2003, no girl from the Ixil Triangle had ever attended high school. The people earn a living by subsistence farming and weaving.

**In-Country Coordinator:**

All WEI programs recruit the assistance of a local woman leader to handle the organization and implementation of programs. Our in-country coordinator for Guatemala is Helen Diaz Marroquin, whose tireless commitment and overflowing heart for these young women helps make this scholarship program possible.

**WEI's Accomplishments:**

In 2003, WEI gave scholarships to the four best performing female students in that year's primary school graduating class. These scholarships provided the girls with four more years of schooling: two years of high school and two years of university. Without WEI's assistance, these girls would have had no opportunity to get any education beyond primary school. In November of 2007, the 4 girls graduated with degrees in Agro-forestry and Ecotourism and WEI sponsors were there to celebrate with them. Three of the young women are now employed

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by Fundacion Agros Guatemala and are working in and around their home villages. It is a great thrill to know that these women are investing their education back in their communities. The fourth student is pursuing additional education.

- In November of 2008, WEI supporters attended the second graduation ceremonies for four additional sponsored women students, who also graduated in Eco-Tourism and Agro Forestry.

***Opportunities for Involvement:***

- For our 2008 program WEI has committed to providing scholarships for 11 extraordinary young girls who are extremely excited to be attending high school. As of right now, WEI unfortunately only has the funds to pay for the education of nine of them. The tuition for one girl for one year of high school is \$2,700. Sponsorship can be full or partial.
- For 2009-2011, we are currently committed to sending two additional young women to university. The cost in 2008 dollars is \$2,710 per student which covers tuition, room and board, school fees and transportation.
- WEI plans another trip to graduation ceremonies in 2009. Generally, graduation is held right before Thanksgiving. If you are interested in joining this amazing trip, please contact the WEI Office at 206-214-5991.

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Women's Enterprises is a 501(c)3 organization, eligible for employer sponsored matching programs. Our Federal Tax ID number is 91-2153830.

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