

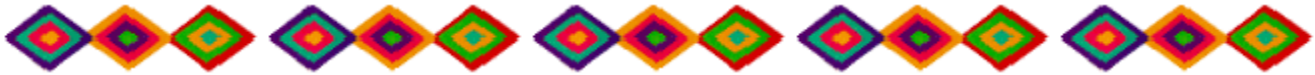


# Progresa

The Guatemala Friends Scholarship/Loan Program

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## Spring Update 2012

### Greetings from Guatemala!

We are all breathing a sigh of relief now that the hectic Easter season is over. The carpets of flowers and colored sawdust are incredibly beautiful and the processions which last for 10 to 14 hours are amazing, but the crowds, traffic jams and closing of almost everything sure complicates everyday life. We now await the coming of the rainy season with mixed feelings. Constant sunshine is wonderful but the plants are beginning to suffer from the lack of rain and the dust increases every day.



### Situation in Guatemala

Some of you have asked about the current political situation in Guatemala and I can only say that I am cautiously optimistic about our new president, General Otto Perez Molina. He has been pushing a number of positive sounding policies and so far there have not been any accusations of corruption. As for his call to discuss the legalization of drugs, I am a.) all for discussion, and b.) convinced that it has been a generally successful political maneuver to get the United States to pay their fair share of the devastating drug war.

Guatemala is not strong enough to stand up to the Mexican drug cartels on its own. We need help or we will be swallowed in drug fueled corruption. Frankly I get more in depth news from the internet than I do from the local papers so many of you may be better informed than I am. The only thing I can add from an in-country perspective is that he is definitely improving the roads. I have never seen road construction move along so quickly during my now more than 20 years in Guatemala.

# Student Support

Meanwhile, here in Parramos we spend most of our time and energy working with the day to day problems of our students. Many have already taken their mid semester exams. A few have had medical problems. One was hospitalized for an emergency appendectomy but is now back at work and school. Nearly 50% have already sent in their proposals for this years' community service projects. Two of our new students have already dropped out. One will continue his studies with family support and the other will work this year in order to save. Finally, we have learned that one new student who never showed up for his first check was accepted for a medical scholarship in Cuba. As usual many of our students are slow to send in their letters to their sponsors but we hope to have these for you by May.

We stay busy but the work is very satisfying. We thank you deeply for trusting us to spend your donations wisely. Speaking of donations, during the past several years Progresas' financing has been strongly impacted by the worldwide economic crisis.

Our donations are definitely down and if it weren't for our conservative approach to saving we would have had to accept fewer students. For now we have been able to maintain our student head count by increasing our income from textiles and tours and spending down some of our reserves. This obviously can't last forever so we watch the economic news with great interest hoping that every new job and increase in the stock market will bring relief to those of you who have suffered the most in these difficult times.



## Community Service

2011 is the third year in which all of our students are required to complete small service projects in their communities, putting into practice the knowledge they have acquired in their studies. In this way the help offered by Progresas is multiplied and reaches hundreds of people through training workshops and other types of services. Here are a few examples of the projects from last year.

### Information about the 2011 electoral process

Third year law student, *Santos David Villatoro*, 22, led a political project. This project took place in a small aldea in the Ixcán, a very remote area of the country located more than 325 kilometers from Guatemala City. The objective of the workshops was to teach the participants about their rights and obligations in respect to the electoral process. They provided information about the different political parties and the differences between their ideologies as well as discussions about the skills required for each elective position (i.e. president, congress person, mayor and member of the municipal council) One of the reasons that Santos offered these discussions is that in the last general >>>



>>> election few of the political parties sent speakers to his aldea which is located more than two hours from the municipality. Furthermore the political parties which did participate gave little information about their plans and ideas, preferring instead to garner votes by giving gifts to the people. According to Santos' investigations, less than 50% of the inhabitants of his aldea ended up actually voting. Among Santos' accomplishments was that 60 people participated in the 12 workshops he offered. Furthermore he managed to involve the Council of Community Development in the workshops (a group which shares local authority) which gave them even greater weight. Finally, Santos succeeded in getting more than 60% of the people to vote even though many of them had to walk more than 30 minutes to get to the polls.

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## Support for an Infant Nutritional Center

*Ada Ileana Veliz Juárez*, a 34 year old student in the third year of a professional nursing program focused her project on health care. Ada provided support in the area of infant nutrition to the Nutritional Recuperation Center in San Cristóbal Verapaz as there was not enough personnel to provide adequate care for the patients who suffered from malnutrition. The center tried to provide both medical attention and adequate nutrition in order to save the lives of their young patients. They also tried to involve the parents of the children with discussions of the care needed to aid their recovery. Ada had direct care of nine patients. Most were between 1 and 3 years of age and one was 13 years old.



She supervised their nutrition and monitored their growth. In addition Ada worked with the parents of the children, educating them about food and sanitation as well as providing occupational therapy while they waited in the hospital during visiting hours. Because of Ada, the children and their families received better service.

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## Training for First Responders

This training project was organized by *Erwin Valdizón*, a student in the first year of medicine at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City. Erwin who was born and raised in Cobán realized that the majority of citizens in the surrounding area didn't have access to basic health services. For this reason Erwin decided to share his medical knowledge with the people of the municipality of Tamahu, a small village in the north of the country about a seven hour car ride from the capital. He trained health promoters from the area.

Erwin decided that his class should focus on the following themes: vital signs, traumatic bleeding, burns, and poisonous snake bites. He organized a group of 50 people from the rural area, both men and women, ranging in age from 30 to 50 years.

In order for his project to be successful Erwin needed didactic materials, special equipment and a large space for the various demonstrations. He asked for the help of an NGO called ASECSA (Association of Community Health Services). This group provided an auditorium, food and overnight lodging for the health promoters who participated in the training. Erwin began his work on Monday November, 21<sup>st</sup> and finished on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. In the mornings there were lectures and discussions and then in the afternoons the participants worked on simulated cases. >>>

>>>When we spoke to Erwin in January he told us that many of the health promoters who participated are now working their communities providing medical attention and sharing what they learned in November with others.



## News From Former Students

### María Francisco Francisco

*María* was sponsored by us from 1991 to 1993.

She graduated as a specialist in Rural Health (a secondary school degree).

*María* lives in Barillas, Huehuetenango (close to the Mexican border).

Several weeks ago she wrote to us to let us

know that she is now working for an NGO that provides health services to women and children in the rural areas of her municipality. She reports that many of the women she works with do not speak Spanish, only their native Mayan language. Her work consists mostly in teaching the women about preventative health and sanitation practices. >>>

>>>*María* is now married and has three daughters whom she has managed to send to school. The oldest will graduate from high school this year and, motivated in part by the example of her mother, wants to continue to study the career of medicine. In spite of the fact that *María* is employed, her salary is insufficient to support her daughter's plans. She will have to pay for room and board in order to continue her studies because they live in a very remote village. For this reason she has contacted us to see if it would be possible for her daughter to receive our support in 2013. This case is a good example of how the education of one person has changed the vision of future generations. If *María* hadn't studied, her daughter would never have had such high aspirations. Her daughter has a good chance of being accepted by us when the time comes because her grades are very good and *María* repaid her loan from us many years ago.







**Ana Beatriz Quevedo** is a young woman of 23 who is about to graduate in general medicine. She was supported by our program for six years until the middle of 2011 when she completed all her course work for her degree. Now she is writing her thesis prior to graduation and working in a private hospital in Antigua, Guatemala. Ana's outstanding capability and character is reflected by the fact that in less than a year since she left the program she has begun to repay her loan.

She is also one of the only students we have supported who completed medical school without ever having to repeat a course or a semester and will now be graduating at a very young age. We are confident she will be a very capable doctor who demonstrates a high degree of social responsibility. Ana now hopes to specialize in gynecology or pediatrics and we are sure she will be successful. In a recent letter Ana expressed her thanks, "Thank you again for all the help and confidence you have invested in me during the entire six years of my studies. I believe that without your support I would not have been able to finish my degree."

**Angela Nathali Moran Chen** studied professional nursing with our support and graduated in 2010. She has always been a good student and in high school she was accepted in a program call Scholarships of Academic Excellence sponsored by the Ministry of Education. These scholarships are given to outstanding students in the public schools. Once they are selected, the students are given the opportunity to attend private schools selected by the ministry for their high quality education. On finishing secondary school Angela began studying at the national school in Cobán to



become a professional nurse. It was there that Progresá helped her with a partial scholarship. Only weeks after she graduated in 2010 Angela received a job offer to become a teacher in the same nursing school from which she graduated. She was hired to teach in their long distance learning program. This year she was promoted to become the teacher/coordinator of the program. In spite of her young age, Angela has demonstrated her academic ability and her vocation for nursing. At the same time Angela is continuing her nursing studies and expects to receive her licenciatura (BS) next year. We are very proud of her and are sure she will continue to have a great deal of success in the future.

## Teaching English

The Teaching English Experience is a soul satisfying week of hard work which brings North American volunteers together with highly motivated Guatemalan students for whom learning English is often a life changing skill. The next workshop will be held at the Belen Convent in Antigua, Guatemala from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. To learn more visit our website at [www.guatemalafriends.org](http://www.guatemalafriends.org) and follow the links to the Teaching English Tour. If you have questions contact Martha Dugan ([marthadugan@gmail.com](mailto:marthadugan@gmail.com)) or Miguel Costop ([progresas3@gmail.com](mailto:progresas3@gmail.com)). The cost of the workshop is \$900 for the week (7 days and 8 nights). The fee includes all meals and transportation except for the cost of your flight to Guatemala City.

# Student Roster 2012 – Guatemala Friends Scholarship/Loan Program

## UNIVERSITY LEVEL

Major / Names	Age	Language
<b>Law (5 years)</b>		
1 Amilcar Arnulfo Lucas Morales	25	Mam
2 Delmy Gumercinda Ical Asig	25	Mopán
3 Deysi Leticia Esquit Miculax	23	Kaqchikel
4 Edgar Benjamín Ramírez Morales	28	Mam
5 Eduardo Jacinto Pablo Francisco	26	Q'anjob'al
6 Ermeregildo Castellanos Caal	31	Q'eqchi'
7 Helen Luisa Montejo Montejo	23	Popti'
8 Hermelinda De la Cruz Hernández	25	K'iche'
9 Jacinto Fernando Bernal López	26	Ixil
10 Pascual Ramírez Morales	27	Mam
11 Paulina Elizabeth Pop Sequec	23	Tz'utujil
12 Sacarías Silitaí Vásquez Jiménez	22	Mam
13 Santos Mendoza Jerónimo	28	Mam
14 Santos David Villatoro Villatoro	23	Español
15 Ticleón Manuel Aguirre	21	Akateko
16 Vilma Angela Chalí Colaj	24	Kaqchikel
<b>Nursing (Professional, RN, 3 years)</b>		
1 Domingo Rafael Caz Cao	21	Q'eqchi'
2 Ana Valeska Mateo Nicolás	26	Q'anjob'al
3 Lidia Esperanza Chutá López	23	Kaqchikel
4 Rosenda Ruby Yoj Barrientos	21	Q'eqchi'
5 Susana Magda Choc Juc	26	Q'eqchi'
6 Ada Ileana Veliz Juarez	35	Español
7 Gricelda Marina Tot Macz	22	Q'eqchi'
8 Juan José Edmundo Bac Soria	20	Q'eqchi'
9 Lilián Lizeth Aquilá Morales	20	Kaqchikel
10 Miguel Angel Tun Pop	22	Q'eqchi'
11 Raul Cac Mó	32	Q'eqchi'
12 Rubidia Matías Ramírez	32	Mam
13 Tito Lorenzo Ramírez Tomás	24	Mam
14 Eligia Natividad Castañeda Herrera	34	Español
<b>Secondary teaching (4 years)</b>		
1 Marcos Francisco Méndoza Sancoy	25	Kaqchikel
2 Joel Anibal Sep Santos	28	Q'eqchi'
3 José Raul Cifuentes Urizar	27	Q'eqchi'
4 Ofelia Paáu Tzi	24	Q'eqchi'
5 Deysi Valeska Perén Perén	24	Kaqchikel
6 Roselia Sisimit López	27	Kaqchikel
7 Elena Yolanda Alvarado Tzul	22	K'iche'
8 Edgar Choc Hernández	26	Q'eqchi'
<b>Social work (5 years)</b>		
1 Amanda Toledo Ramírez	26	Q'anjob'al
2 Angela Elizabeth Tapáz Cojón	22	Kaqchikel
3 Angela Karina Sic López	22	K'iche'
4 Francisco Daniel Mateos Rafael	28	Popti
5 Hermeregildo Cho Caal	28	Q'eqchi'
6 María Josefina Tubac Quill	31	Kaqchikel
<b>Psychology (5 years)</b>		
1 Diego Bernabé López Joj	24	K'iche'
2 Doris Beatriz Martínez Rompich	27	Kaqchikel
3 Obden Aroldo Méndez Ramírez	29	Mam
4 Silvia Rosana Cortéz Solomán	28	Achi
<b>M.A. in Education (5 years)</b>		
1 María Martín López	37	Mam

2 Benita Luc Cun	28	Kaqchikel
3 María Luisa Chalí Chalí	22	Kaqchikel

### Medicine (6 years)

1 Erwin Gustavo Valdizón Caal	19	Q'eqchi'
2 Robson Federico López Castro	23	K'iche'
3 Victor Manuel Yacón Pichol	20	Kiche'

### Sociology (5 years)

1 Ana Matías Felipe	24	Popti
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### Engineering (5 years)

1 Santos Eulalio Sirín Sirín	24	Kaqchikel
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### Systems engineering (5 years)

1 Joel Abdulio Arana Martínez	35	Español
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## SECONDARY LEVEL

Major / Names	Age	Language
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### Primary bilingual teaching (3 years)

1 Alexandra Ruby Perez Escum	17	Tz'utujil
2 Amalia Mucú Caal	27	Q'eqchi'
3 Antonio Carrillo Puac	22	K'iche'
4 Aurelio Rodríguez Sajché	20	Kaqchikel
5 Carlos Humberto Moran Moran	21	Poqomchi'
6 Diego Lux Tzoy 2do.	22	K'iche'
7 Dolores Ical Jóm	17	Poqomchi'
8 Emanuel Teletor Chén	18	Q'eqchi'
9 Erika Roxana Ixcotoyac Uz	17	K'iche'
10 Eulalia Pablo Jerónimo	18	Mam
11 Francisca Filomena Chutá Pérez	17	Kaqchikel
12 Hageo Joel Jiménez Martín	20	Mam
13 José Amilcar Chuy	19	Kaqchikel
14 Lilian Marina Tzaj Bóc	18	Kaqchikel
15 Marvin Celso Són Icú	17	Kaqchikel
16 Milga Teresa Velásquez Roblero	17	Español
17 Rafaela Jóm Ical	19	Poqomchi'
18 Rut Noemy Calí Tzey	20	Kaqchikel
19 Sergio Silverio Maxía Sirín	18	Kaqchikel
20 Teresa Cún Són	18	Kaqchikel

### Agriculture(3 years)

1 Sergio Octaviano Tut Xol	17	Q'eqchi'
2 José Martín Hernández Cruz	18	Mam
3 Jesús Aniceto Velásquez López	20	Español
4 Gilberto Ralios López	19	K'iche'
5 Jaime Santiago Morán Morán	22	Poqomchi'
6 Lauriano Cú Cac	22	Q'eqchi'
7 Miguel Angel Bulux Cojtí	20	Kaqchikel

### Vocational nursing (1 year)

1 Baldemar Berdúo Ortíz	19	Español
2 Oscar Caal Tení	18	Q'eqchi'

### Electronics (3 years)

1 Edvin Escalante Berdúo	20	Español
2 Domingo Caál Jiménez	18	Q'eqchi'
3 Lodwin Alfonso Morales Corado	18	Español

### Administration (3 years)

1 Vilma Odilia Morales Asijtuj	20	Kaqchikel
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### Bookkeeping (3 years)

1 Marielena Gómez López	19	Español
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### Computers (3 years)

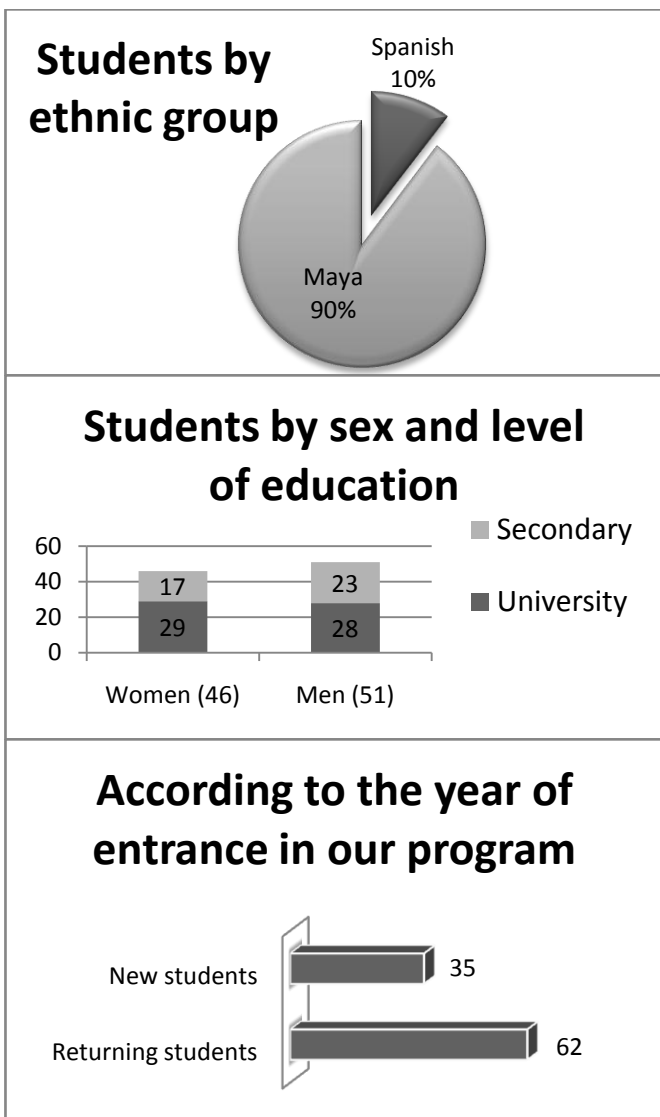
1 María Roxana Chub García	17	Kaqchikel
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### Young students under special memorial fund

1	Baltazar Leobardo López García	17	Kaqchikel
2	Pedro Daniel López García	16	Kaqchikel
3	Jasmin Mishel López García	10	Kaqchikel
4	Isabel López García	15	Kaqchikel
5	Margarita S. López García	13	Kaqchikel

### Our Students in 2012

This year we have a total of **97** students, a smaller group than last year, caused in part by the drop in our donations. In spite of this fact, we are very happy with the students we have selected for this year, knowing that they will do their best effort to succeed in the different majors. As you could see in our 2012 Roster, the most popular majors at the university level are: Law, nursing and secondary teaching. At the secondary level, primary teaching and agriculture are the most common careers. Other interesting information is shown with the following graphs.



### Our Graduates in 2011

We are so happy to share with you that in 2011, our program helped 34 students to graduate in different majors. Now, these students have better chances to improve their lives and the lives of their families and communities. The following table shows the names and majors of the graduates. Thanks to all of you for helping them to achieve their dreams and goals!

#### Secondary Level

1	Alvaro Túm Samayoa	Elementary teaching
2	Bonifacio Cac Cac	Elementary teaching
3	Lidia Juárez Sey	Elementary teaching
4	Luciana Telón Chutá	Elementary teaching
5	Ines Pacheco Hernández	Agriculture
6	Pablo Vargas Ramirez	Agriculture
7	Wilson René Aldana López	Agriculture
8	Esgar Vicente Sontay	Computers
9	Edwin Morales Palencia	Computers
10	Juan Mejía Gramajo	Computers
11	Marcos Quiná Yojero	Physical education
12	Elena Reanda Quejú	Bookkeeping

#### University Level

1	Juan Antonio Hernández	Secondary teaching
2	Elías Pop Pop	Secondary teaching
3	Miriam Nazaria Sirín Lúç	Secondary teaching
4	Hector Leonel Cutzal Calí	Secondary teaching
5	Mónica Patzán Muñoz	Secondary teaching
6	Eulalia Simón López	Law
7	Jairo Ajiataz Martínez	Law
8	José García Vásquez	Law
9	Karisol Ajanel Abac	Law
10	Silvia Orozco Juárez	Law
11	Antonio Pacheco Hernández	Nursing
12	Astrid Graciela García Sí	Nursing
13	Hermelindo García Gomez	Nursing
14	Karina Arana Morales	Nursing
15	Liliana Aldana de García	Nursing
16	Ana Quevedo Galindo	Medicine
17	Ernesto Estrada Atz	Medicine
18	Andrés Eulogio Cac Muz	M.A. in Education
19	Benjamín García Barreno	M.A. in Education
20	Yuri López Tecú	Psychology
21	Rosario Vicente Mendoza	Social work
22	Víctor Manuel Choy Choc	Engineering

# Sponsorship: a form of direct and personal support

As most of you know, the majority of our donors contribute to our general fund which we then use to provide scholarships and loans. However, some donors have opted to sponsor specific students rather than make a “generic” donation. In recent years the number of donors who choose “sponsorship” has increased and this year 22% of our students have specific sponsors. The advantage of sponsorship is that it allows for a more personal relationship with a student. Sponsors not only receive reports from us regarding their student’s progress, they receive photos and letters from the students providing details about their families and their academic successes and challenges.



In order to become a sponsor, you should begin by e-mailing us and telling us about your intent and if you have any special requirements regarding the type of student you would like to support (i.e. male, female, specific major, single parent) and how much you would be able to pay.

The average cost of sponsoring one of our students is \$700 per year but the expenses vary depending on the major and specific circumstances so costs can range from \$500 to \$1,300 per year. We know that paying the entire amount for sponsorship is beyond the means of many of our donors so we want to share with you some of the various options that are currently being used by our sponsors in case you would like to participate in this program but can’t manage it alone. **1.) Shared Sponsorship:** you can sponsor a student together with a group of friends, family members, others from your meeting or religious group, classmates or club.

**2.) Partial Sponsorship:** In this case you provide what money you can and we combine your contribution with that of another sponsor. **3.) Fund Raising Events for sponsorship:** Several of our sponsors raise money at special dinners, garage sales or other events and use these funds to sponsor a student. **4.) Sponsorship by other NGOs:** In a handful of cases we have received money from other NGOs who wish to send a specific student to university but don’t have a presence in Guatemala to supervise this scholarship. When their student meets our general requirements we have provided the bridge for this type of sponsorship.

These are some of the ways in which you or your group could sponsor one or more of our students. If you have a new idea or proposal please write us and we will listen to your ideas. If you want to know more about our program and how you can help, please visit our web site: <http://www.guatemalafriends.org/program>.

**Without your help this would not be possible.**

Donations are made to: **Redwood Forest Friends Meeting**

Attn: Guatemala Scholarship Loan Program

P.O. BOX 1831

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Contact: Harriet Lewis at [hlewis@sonic.net](mailto:hlewis@sonic.net) or + (707) 526.1066

**All donations are fully tax deductible in the U.S.**