



Progresa

Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program

PROGRESA's Impact on the Lives of Our Students

We decided to write this Update in a different way. Instead of us, the administration, telling you about what is happening, we have asked the students to share their thoughts and feelings about the things we do for them. We have divided their responses into four categories: financial aid, training workshops, community service and the English course. We hope their words make you feel proud of how your donations are making this possible.

Importance of the financial aid (and general support) of Progresa

"PROGRESA came into my life like a lamp to illuminate my path through life. Before PROGRESA, there were elements that stopped me: fear, limited beliefs and doubts. Because of the program I decided to study social work. The program helps me economically and that help has made my dream a reality. On this path I have known people who have motivated me to fight to obtain all that I have proposed in life. In my family there have also been changes through the program and I have shared my experiences within the family. When we suffered the loss of our mother, my little sisters said that life made no sense. But now I realize that life goes on and each one of us must force ourselves to live life as we wish. You must look for opportunities and take advantage of them".



Consuelo Carrillo Sánchez.
Social worker.



Elgar Dionel López López.
Professional nurse

"I am a student in the fourth semester of Professional Nursing. For me, being able to count on the support of PROGRESA has been a blessing, allowing me to pursue my goals through study. A lack of money prohibited me from continuing my studies, but having your help has allowed me to continue and concentrate on my studies. I have not neglected my studies because of financial worries. My admission to the university has been far from easy. I have fought to accomplish my dreams. During the process of teaching/learning I have acquired a knowledge of nursing which allows me to offer quality, caring humane attention to people in need.

PROGRESA is not just an institution that provides me economic assistance, it is part of my family and part of my development as a future professional. Since I have been in the Program, I have met health care professionals who have helped me and offered support to put into practice my new learnings".

"The only thing I can say is that PROGRESA is my family, because many things have happened in my life and PROGRESA was always aware of everything. Thanks to this institution, I am where I am now. I am sure that if I had not entered the program my dream of educating myself would not have been possible. Thanks to my university preparation, I have a job and I carry out my profession with great passion.

Thanks to the six years of support they have given me now, I am so close to my goal. My heart is full of joy. PROGRESA and the people who cooperate to make it work are changing lives of people like me. Supporters of PROGRESA are changing families and that is why I say: Thank You!".



Elsa Ofelia Yojero Estepán
Education



Kevin Francisco Sánchez.
Chemistry and pharmacy

"I want to tell you that I am very happy and excited because I am studying Chemistry and Pharmacy, something that I always liked. It has not been easy with so much demand but with the help of God and PROGRESA I have been able to excel in the classes. The scholarship for me is a great help. Because of the scholarship, I have been able to sustain my studies throughout the year. Since I have been in the program I have known how to value the opportunity to study and I am aware that many of the young people of the country do not have the possibility of accessing education. Many young people are left without hope for a better life.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to belong to the program that has formed my character as a citizen. You, supporters of PROGRESA, have impacted my life and I thank you, I hope to be in touch with you always. Thank you".

Training Workshops

"The topics addressed in the different workshops are of the utmost importance. "Planning my Future" served to show that as young people we see situations straight and that we focus on one thing but sometimes we neglect other aspects of life (cultural aspects), family, social, spiritual. These aspects are connected to each other and have a lot of value in the formation of a person. Many difficulties can arise, but everything can be resolved when it is clear what is to be achieved.

In "Life project" I realized the importance of a vision, mission and goals to achieve in the short, medium and long term. The human being sometimes exists to exist but does not live, does not dream and is satisfied with what he has. This workshop helped me to focus on what I want to be in the future and for that I had to write my vision and mission of life. We can all change the direction of our life still keeping in mind what we want to be".



Piana Imelda Pérez Brito.
Professional nursing

"I am Osman Alarcón, originally from Ipala, Chiquimula and this is my first year as a PROGRESA scholar, therefore, meetings, interviews and workshops are all a new experience for me. The first training I had was an unforgettable experience about making new friends and keeping in communication. I enjoy the workshops that PROGRESA promotes, especially the workshop that dealt with our Life Project and how to involve our career in personal, family and community development. We created guidelines for our life project, working on a vision and a mission of our person based on who we are and what we want to be as well as drawing short, medium and long term goals in our life. I can say that it has been a good experience, unforgettable and productive".



Osman Alarcón Berganza
Political sciences



Hermelinda Concepción Miguel.
Special education

"It is a privilege to participate in the training workshops organized by PROGRESA. It was useful to have worked on topics such as: life project and planning my future. The activities were enriching and constructive. The workshops gave me the tools to project my life in the future, allowing me to visualize the obstacles and barriers I face in order to be independent. I have been able to learn how to plan my future according to my ability and my own rhythm, growing professionally and working to support my community and special needs children. I thank our dear donors and sponsors abroad for sharing their vision and investing in the students of Guatemala".

The community service program

"I am currently in my second semester of engineering in agronomy. This year I have done community service in the village El Suj, Aguacatán, Huehuetenango, where I was born. My project was about raising awareness among the community about the conservation of the natural resources of the Village. The exchange of knowledge that was maintained with the community where I perform my community service was important for the life of each of the participating women. I learned and taught so much and not only in the university but also in the community. The people and the context give me a new perspective and an appreciation of our culture, our traditions and above all our values. The connection that I generated is one of the best investments in my life. Thanks to the PROGRESA scholarship I can have this opportunity. Support and interest from the organization is essential to complete my goals. The financial support from the scholarship allowed me to cover a large part of my costs at the university".



Marta Lidia López Hernández.
Agronomy

Are you reading this Update in black and white? You can receive it in colors if you choose to get it by email. Just write us at progresas3@gmail.com let us know you want the change, it also helps our environment!

"I am Oswaldo Humler Choc, student in the eighth semester of the Bachelor's degree in Physical Education. I am pleased to talk about the PROGRESA program and the opportunity it offers young people with limited resources to continue studying and improve their quality of life. This year I had the opportunity to develop workshops and training for the children of my community through my Community Service. My project was "Learning, Reflection and Recreation" where through different workshops children learn different subjects in a dynamic and fun way. It is very rewarding to have the opportunity to share and to see the interest shown by the authorities as well as the children who participate. it is a valuable opportunity".



Oswaldo Humler Choc
Physical education

The Teaching English Workshops



Nora Verónica Sabán Car
Social work

"The completion of the intensive English course was an experience full of learning. Sharing with foreigners that I never thought I knew was wonderful. Each of the Quaker friends are teachers who contributed to the teaching-learning process of the English language course. They are an example of love, help and dedication to teaching. Thank you for the patience shown with me and my colleagues.

The English course was a week of joy, adventures and sharing with each of the classmates and teachers. How to forget the first hours of the day, to remember the first lessons full of unknown words that little by little were taking on a meaning as the course progressed! I am very happy to have had the opportunity to participate in the course. They have sown in me the seed of wanting to improve the level of learning. Above all the experience contributed to the search for a social transformation at the level of my community and country through education".

"English is much in demand at the world level. I believe that English classes are of the utmost importance since it is a requirement in several fields of work. Thanks to PROGRESA Quakers for promoting English study for its scholarship recipients. For me it is a gift to have the experience of the English course. The course has been a way to share with some donors and be close to them. It is also an opportunity to share our dreams and to exchange life experiences. The English courses have helped me, because thanks to the language learning I am currently a teacher of the English course at the Basic Level. I hope the program continues to use this and new programs. My best encouragement for each member of the institution".



Efraín Mendoza Pablo
Math and physics

Many thanks to all our donors and volunteers who make all this possible!

If you want to support our work, please consider donating to our general fund, sponsor a student or participate in our tours of Guatemala. Write us an email if you have any questions or comments.

All donations are made out to: **Redwood Forest Friends Meeting** and are mailed to:
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