



The International Alliance for Women

and

Friendship Bridge

Village Bank Report

Saquilla and Jazmin Village Banks

Guatemala

June 2010

Supported by the International Alliance for Women
With donations from
The Women International Leaders of Greater Philadelphia

TIAW and WIL Sponsorship: The Saquilla Village Bank and the Jazmin Village Bank

The Saquilla Village Bank was visited by members of WIL during their trip to Friendship Bridge's program in Guatemala in April 2010. To accommodate TIAW's granting requirements of a minimum of 15 borrowers and \$3,750 towards loan principal, the Jazmin Village Bank was chosen to be partially supported by TIAW as well, with the remaining loan principal being funded out of Friendship Bridge's general fund.

Saquilla Village Bank: Located in Saquilla, Chichicastenango, El Quiche



The Saquilla Village Bank, from the municipality of Chichicastenango, in the department (state) of Quiché, consists of 10 women, ranging in age from 24 to 60. The majority of the Saquilla group members are weavers. Being part of Friendship Bridge affords them the opportunity to improve their own lives and those of their families. The Saquilla group is in their second loan cycle with Friendship Bridge. "They are always on time in making their payments and actively participate in training. I'm glad they recognize what solidarity means within the group," states their Friendship Bridge Loan Officer.



Jazmin Village Bank: Located in Camino Pueblo Nuevo San Juan Ostuncalco, Quetzaltenango

The Jazmin Village Bank is a new group in its first loan cycle with Friendship Bridge, consisting of 15 women between the ages of 19 and 60. From the department of Quetzaltenango, the Jazmin Village Bank members are generally merchants of some sort, primarily selling food and clothing.

Doña Tomasa Macario Xen is a member of the Saquilla Village Bank. She has discovered how to be a leader through her experience with Friendship Bridge. She not only serves as the President of the Saquilla Village Bank, but she is also involved with projects to improve and assist her local community. "I believe that education and microloans are important as part of our progress as women – to support our husbands and to improve our quality of life," Dona Tomasa Macario Xen states.



WIL members visiting the Saquilla Village Bank



One of the Jazmin Village Bank members is 34-year-old **Anadelmy Méndez Escobar**, a married mother of three children. An entrepreneur at heart, Anadelmy has plans to expand the kinds of products that she sells. Her first loan with Friendship Bridge for \$125 was used for buying raw materials to make plastic jewelry and purchase perfumes for resale. She also sells ice cream and has hopes to sell clothes as well in the very near future. "This is a new adventure, and God will lead me to improve my business. My children are little, but I want them to continue in school and follow their dreams," Anadelmy states. Recognizing the importance of education in every moment in life, Anadelmy feels that we learn something new every day. She is particularly excited about having learned

about Friendship Bridge and expresses the desire for her Village Bank to do well so that they can be granted a second loan cycle, with even larger loan amounts.

Guatemala's Demographics

- Population: 13 million
- 75% live in poverty
- 50% are indigenous
- Average number of years of formal education is less than 2 years
- 44% of children are chronically malnourished
- 40% of the population does not speak Spanish as their native language

Friendship Bridge

Friendship Bridge, founded in 1990, works in over 50 villages throughout 7 departments of rural western Guatemala to provide micro credit and education that empowers women and their families to create their own solutions to poverty. Small loans are made to individual women to initiate or expand business enterprises. Women co-guarantee each other's loans in groups, or Village Banks, of 7-30 women.

- Number of clients: 13,491
- Loan range: \$80-\$1,000
- Loan portfolio: \$2.74 million
- Average loan size: \$325

Clients

- 100% are women
- 45% of clients have never been to school
- 43% are literate
- Average age: 35.6 years old
- Average household size: 6
- Median income: \$1.47 per day
- 80% are Mayan indigenous

SAQUILLA VILLAGE BANK CLIENT TABLE

| No. | NAME | AGE | BUSINESS | NUMBER OF CHILDREN | LOAN AMOUNT Q | LOAN AMOUNT \$ |
|-----|----------------------|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Tomasa Macario Xen | 35 | Weaver | 6 | Q 4,000.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| 2 | María Pantzay Canil | 35 | Weaver and embroiderer | 7 | Q 3,000.00 | \$ 375.00 |
| 3 | María Pol Canil | 29 | Weaver | 1 | Q 2,000.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| 4 | Jacinta Pol Canil | 34 | Weaver | 5 | Q 3,000.00 | \$ 375.00 |
| 5 | Josefa Tol Ventura | 58 | Weaver | 5 | Q 1,000.00 | \$ 125.00 |
| 6 | Tomasa Macario Xen | 38 | Weaver | 9 | Q 4,000.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| 7 | Tomasa Tzoc González | 60 | Weaver and embroiderer | 10 | Q 1,500.00 | \$ 187.50 |
| 8 | Rosita Calgua Xirum | 48 | Animal husbandry and crafts | 8 | Q 5,000.00 | \$ 625.00 |
| 9 | Micaela Mejía Pol | 34 | Weaver and animal husbandry | 8 | Q 4,000.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| 10 | María Mejía Pol | 24 | Selling firewood | 2 | Q 1,500.00 | \$ 187.50 |
| | | | | | Q 29,000.00 | \$ 3,625.00 |

*The remaining funds from the WIL sponsorship were used to partially fund the Jazmin Village Bank.

Board of Directors

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|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 Tomasa Macario Xen | President |
| 2 María Pantzay Canil | Secretary |
| 3 María Pol Canil | Treasurer |

JAZMIN VILLAGE BANK CLIENT TABLE

| No. | NAME | AGE | BUSINESS | NUMBER OF CHILDREN | LOAN AMOUNT Q | LOAN AMOUNT \$ |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Santa Ofelila López García | 41 | Clothing sales | 8 | Q 2,000.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| 2 | Anadelmy Méndez | 34 | Making and selling jewelry and perfume | 3 | Q 1,000.00 | \$ 125.00 |
| 3 | Ana Berta Pérez Vail | 41 | Ice cream sales | 4 | Q 1,000.00 | \$ 125.00 |
| 4 | Kirsten Roxana Guerra | 26 | Food sales | 3 | Q 1,500.00 | \$ 187.50 |
| 5 | Natividad Elías Juárez | 53 | Clothing sales | 5 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| 6 | Olimpia García Ralda | 49 | Small grocery store | 9 | Q 2,000.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| 7 | Santos Albina Elías | 56 | Small grocery store and selling snacks at a school | 4 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| 8 | Zoila Carolina Pérez | 34 | Small grocery store and ice cream sales | 5 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| 9 | Margarita Magdalena Gómez | 43 | Animal husbandry | 9 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| 10 | Vilma Luz Esteban | 33 | Food sales | 4 | Q 2,000.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| 11 | Modesta García Carreto | 60 | Meat sales | 5 | Q 2,000.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| 12 | Delia Verónica Higueros | 19 | Clothing sales | 1 | Q 1,500.00 | \$ 187.50 |
| 13 | Blanca Florinda Guerra | 43 | Small restaurant | 4 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| 14 | Rosalina García Elías | 40 | Grocery sales | 4 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| 15 | Verónica López García | 26 | Small grocery store | 3 | Q 2,500.00 | \$ 312.50 |
| | | | | | Q 30,500.00 | \$ 3,812.50 |

*This Village Bank was funded in part by WIL and also by Friendship Bridge general funds.

Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 Santa Ofelila López García | President |
| 2 Kirsten Roxana Guerra | Secretary |
| 3 Ana Berta Pérez Vail | Treasurer |