



Kateri Update November 2019

2019 Angels of the Year Karl & Crystal Radnitzer

Crystal and Karl Radnitzer are the Most Valuable Angel awardees for 2019. They have been donors to the Fund since the very beginning. Read their reflections.



Thank you for the honor of this recognition! **God has been very good to us and we are happy that we are able to share financial blessings with others.**

God has blessed us abundantly through our work as an education administrator & a physician. Because of His generosity, we are delighted to be able to pass His blessings along to others through our calling as foster parents, in elder care, and supporting educational opportunities.

We first learned about the Kateri Education Fund when Kay Sweeney and Crystal's mother, Sara Stephenson, visited us in central Illinois almost 20 years ago.

The idea of providing financial support so girls in Guatemala are able to complete their education inspired us. These young women are then able to obtain adequate employment and, in turn, be able to support their own children and families. Not only does education and employment improve the living situation of these women but also as the women's confidence rises, they are able to be leaders in their own communities.

It is exciting to see the early graduates of the program involved in running many of the programs and in teaching and inspiring the younger women. We have also been impressed by the vision that has inspired the additional Kateri Education programs for the women of Guatemala like the organic gardening classes, and sewing classes

We believe that aid to developing countries is most effective in the hands of small independent local organizations rather than through large bureaucratic ones. Our enthusiasm for what this program is accomplishing in the lives of women in Guatemala

grows every time we receive a newsletter with updates about their activities. We are privileged to partner with the Kateri Education Fund.

The Kateri Fund and all who have benefitted from Karl & Crystal's support say thank you. May God continue to bless you!

[Food Security/Gardening News from Chumanzana](#)



Candelaria, the women's development program manager, arranged a workshop at Ixoqi' Capacitacion for the women of Chumanzana. The women learned to prepare and bottle jelly and marmalade made from the fruit they grow in their gardens. Bottled in glass, it will keep for a year without refrigeration. They can make it when fruit is plentiful and eat it all year round. The women shared their reaction to the workshop.

Maria Q. already grows apples, plums, peaches, and pears in her garden. Now she can make marmalade and jelly so whenever her family wants to have some with their bread, she will not need to buy it.

What impressed Josefa was that jellies are easy to make. Selling fruit marmalade will be another way that she can earn money from her garden.

Candelaria M.'s family will be enchanted by this new food. She was happy to learn how to preserve it in bottles because she does not have a refrigerator.

Maria M has learned many new things through the support of the Kateri Fund. She thanks all of you who are responsible for this support.

All of the women, along with Kateri staff member Candelaria, will now teach others how to make marmalade and jelly and preserve it in bottles.

Internships Provide a Road to Employment

The Indigenous high school graduates in Guatemala do not have many professional role models. Internships help them to learn about the work environment and about working with other professionals. In addition, they practice their professional skills in a real work setting.

For example, **Clara has been searching for a position as a bookkeeper since graduating from high school.** Her difficulty finding work is common in Guatemala. Work is scarce, prior work experience is essential. Clara writes about her internship, "I am the general assistant in an office with an accountant and his secretary. I manage the profit and loss books, collect bills owed the office, and pay income taxes. I am learning to do the work, as the accountant wants it done and to work in harmony with the secretary. This experience will help me when I look for a job at the end of my year as an intern. **I am thankful to you who support this program for giving me the opportunity to have new experiences."**

A Word From Scholarship Holder, Mayra

High school scholar Mayra writes: "I am very happy to be able to tell you that my studies are going well. In fact, they are excellent! We have finished our seminar project on reforestation. We planted 500 trees on city property in San Andres Ixtapa. We worked together with the children in the primary school. This project was to raise awareness of the need for reforestation and to take care of our environment.



At home, I dedicate myself to helping my mother with the housework. We also sell snacks at the school in the afternoon to help support the family. I spend the rest of my time doing my homework. We have a lot of work because it is our last year. **Thanks to the support I have received from all of you, I will graduate and start a new phase of my life. It is a dream come true!"**

From the Board

A message from our founder/director Kay Sweeney

After reading a recent article from the Washington Post, Kay reflects on the impact of non-profits on the Guatemalan economy. The article is online at

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/people-are-leaving-guatemala-because-life-is-getting-better-we-cant-respond-unless-we-understand-that/2019/08/19/5bc2eef6-bde4-11e9-a5c6-1e74f7ec4a93_story.html

The article certainly is one view and one reason for migration, but it takes a very simplistic position. Everything the reporter says is true and one part of the whole picture. She just leaves out many other things, especially why infant mortality and murder rates have gone down and why there are more educated citizens.

A large part of the improvement in life for many Guatemalans is because of what you could call "non-government foreign aid". Non-profits like Kateri who support health care, education, and income producing activities, and the remittances sent back by immigrants here in the US and elsewhere.

Another are the immigrants who come to the US, get some money together and learn some skills and go home to start their own businesses. They know they need money to better their lives and they do not wait for someone to give it to them, they find a way to earn it themselves. I know many Guatemalans who have gone that route. **They do go home again!**

Waiting for things to stabilize is not the answer. Real things are happening to make the changes. You are a part of that change! Your support helps young women in Guatemala stay home, learning to help themselves and their families and their communities through education!

We hope this update has brought you a few smiles and much satisfaction that your care for these women IS having a very positive effect! You do matter to them.

Upcoming events

Giving Tuesday, Dec 3, 2019 and Annual Pledge Campaign.

Our Annual Pledge Campaign supports all of our programs. In 2020, our goal is \$10,000.

Please watch for our emails leading up to Giving Tuesday, a national day of generosity. Money donated on this day is part of our Annual Pledge Campaign. **Donations made through the Global Giving website will be matched on Giving Tuesday.**

Scholarship Drive.

Beginning in late November, we kick off our annual campaign to support our students as they complete high school. Eight students are seeking support to finish school in 2020. This campaign provides committed funds that we use to plan for 2020 scholarship awards.

Facebook page.

Check out the Kateri Facebook page for interesting articles, photos and videos, and offerings of job training for Guatemalans. The following on this page is primarily young Guatemalans, but you are welcome, too. <https://m.facebook.com/katerifund/>

Our contact information

Kateri Tekakwitha Fund
PO Box 906
Pacifica, CA 94044
Info@kateri-fund.org
650 738 9551

Look for our email and Facebook appeals!