



Kateri Update March 2019

Kateri Fund makes it safe and easy to support projects that uplift women and girls in Central Guatemala. Donate to a project today in honor of a special woman or girl in your life.

Look for our email and Facebook appeals.

New Year Begins for Scholarship Students

The new term started in January. Most of the Kateri students will be in high school this year. **Margarita** and **Yessica** are in 8th grade. They will finish junior high this year. **Carmen and Darli** finished 8th grade in 2018. There the curriculum was a general study including reading and writing in Spanish, mathematics and practical problem solving, social studies, and cultural awareness. She now joins **Gloria, Ingrid, Mayra, Milvia, and Alicia** in high school where they take a more specialized curriculum based on their choice of career. Their scholarships assist their families with tuition, purchase of books and school supplies, uniforms and shoes for school attendance, and other expenses each individual family may incur by having a student in school full time.

Sponsors who make a monthly pledge support students. Sponsors receive letters from their student and progress reports from Kateri staff member Carmela Paz Bal. Luke Alessandrone's Spanish classes at Lick Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, CA translate the letters and reports. We are tremendously grateful to these volunteer translators.

Feedback from a Global Giving Donor 2019: *"It has been a pleasure to see the young women in this program move on to work in their profession. A small but powerful force. Getting monthly reports from these young women is a validation that my money is leading to something better for them."*

Internship Project in Urgent Need of Funds



Intern group 2018 with Carmela Paz Bal kneeling, their mentor.

The Kateri Tekakwitha Fund developed the Professional Intern Program to provide critical work experience for recent high school graduates. Finding their first paid positions in their chosen fields is very difficult. Since 2012, the Kateri Fund has been providing internships to these young women so that they will get the work experience that they need.

We planned to continue this program and place six interns in January 2019. Young women have submitted their applications and are waiting to get started so they can follow in the footsteps of graduate interns like:

- **Loyda** whose internship as a secretary at a school in Panajachel is now a fulltime job, while she attends university to become a teacher.
- **Blanca** whose internship lead to a position in the restaurant where she interned.
- **Francisca** who teaches near her hometown of San Juan Comalapa.
- **Brenda** who works at a government health clinic.
- **Juana**, a bookkeeper, who works as a bill collector for a cable company in Santa Clara la Laguna.
- **Rosa and Mishel** who are working as hospital practical nurses.
- **Silvia** who works as a bank clerk.
- **Reina** who is a pre-school teacher in a government program.
- **Leona** who works at an accounting firm. .

Graduates of the Kateri Fund intern program have very high employment rates at 72% having secured job in their career. **These young women all**

credit the Kateri Intern Program as preparing them to move ahead with jobs in their career.

So far, for 2019, due to a lack of funding, we have only been able to place one intern. The other applicant are on hold. We are still seeking funding to place them in intern positions. If you are able to help. Go to www.kateri-fund.org to donate. Each intern placement requires \$1000 to support it for a year.



Report on the Garden Project/Chumanzana

Kateri Guatemalan staff wrote their first grant application to the Seed Money Foundation last November

We hope you saw our announcement of the Kateri Guatemalan staff's very first efforts to raise money for their project. Their funding request submitted to the Seed Money Foundation Campaign. They used Facebook as a way to reach out to possible donors after submitting the grant proposal. Our staff consultant, Laura Vaske meets with the leadership group to study where they need to go to secure funds. This was their first independent effort to find funding internationally.

The women are currently practicing small plot gardening, compost creation from kitchen scraps, weed abatement, and mushroom growing. They create the projects and find mentors from various places in the nearby towns.

Candelaria Sut, Kateri Women's Development Manager, has plans in place for the Chumanzana program for 2019. She has interviewed the women and found out what they would like to learn. They already have their organic gardens established and ongoing. They have learned to grow mushrooms to add to their diet. Now they want to learn other ways to improve their diet. At their direction, she has arranged workshops in grafting for fruit trees, making marmalade, and making baskets. Josefa who attended workshops at the Mesoamerican Permaculture Institute (IMAP) in 2018 through funding by the Atkinson Fund will aid her.

Meet the Board



Our newest Board member, Jan Justice-Oswald met Managing Director, Kay Sweeney, when they taught grammar school together over forty years ago. She has always been involved in education and has admired Kay's career and the development of the Kateri Fund. She has been a supporter from the beginning.

Jan loves traveling, reading, classical music and film. She is active in and supports all the performing arts in Sedona, where she lives with her eleven-pound poodle, Colette. Jan also has a home in Central America on the island of Ambergris Caye where she spends the summers.

Poem for the Leaders

By Aura, 2018 high school graduate

I want the daughters of Guatemala
To have a better future.
I want them to work hard to
Change their country.

Young Guatemalan leaders
Are the future of Guatemala.

It is not important who you are-
Tall, short, fat, thin.
All these things are not important-
Neither color nor race.

Only you can change things.
Keep your head high
And be firm.

Your support has made the achievements of all these Guatemalan women possible. Thank you for the trust you put in the Fund to represent you in Guatemala. As we say, **“Everything is possible with a little help from a FRIEND**

To contact the Fund: info@kateri-fund.org

Visit our website: www.kateri-fund.org

Visit our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/pg/katerifund/

Our Global Giving project pages:

Scholarships www.globalgiving.org/projects/scholarships-for-rural-guatemalan-women/

Internships www.globalgiving.org/projects/empowering-guatemalan-women-with-professional-jobs/

Gardening and nutrition www.globalgiving.org/projects/improve-diet-of-20-guate-women-and-their-families/