



Kateri Update March 2020

Students Continue Their Road to Graduation



The new term started in January. The Kateri students are all in high school this year. They were excited to renew their friendships with their Kateri friends at the first meeting in February. **Margarita and Yessica** are in 10th grade. **Margareta** is studying to be a teacher. **Yessica** is following general studies with a focus on computers. **Ingrid, Milvia, Darli**

and Alicia will continue in their high school career studies.

All of the students have set their goals for the year and for after graduation. An example is Darli. She has set as her goals for 2020 to pass her second year in high school, get good grades in all her courses, especially her seminar course, and give all her effort to her pre-practice teaching. When she graduates, she wants to work as a teacher, continue studying at the university level, and earn a degree.

What is happening right now, she tells you in her letter below.

Dear Friends,

My name is Darli and I am 17 years old. I am in 11th grade at Las Águilas High School studying to be an elementary school teacher. I study there in the afternoon because the career I wanted was not offered in the morning.

On January 15, classes started. I am grateful that they are going well and I am learning many interesting new things. I am paying a lot of attention to my classes in order to get good grades. My classes are easy for me except for math,

which is a little difficult. However, I know that I will be able to overcome this challenge.



On February 4, I started my pre-practice teaching class. I am very anxious because I get nervous when I talk in front of the class. However, I know that I am able to master my nerves and will do well. I will teach a class on animal sounds and will be making materials to use.

The twentieth of January was the festival for Saint Sebastian, the patron saint of our town. Everything was joyful. There was a parade. My aunt and many other families decorated the front of the house. At night, everything was beautiful. My cousins and I went to see the traditional dances performed. It was wonderful spending time with my family.

I really like doing my homework, helping with the chores, living with my family and helping my cousins with their homework.

Thank you for all of the support you are giving me. It is very helpful to my family and me, especially during my studies. I wish you many blessings and happiness.

**Sincerely,
Darli**

Darli's parents were killed in a car accident when she was small. Her aunt and uncle took her and her other siblings into their home. It is difficult for them to provide for Darli and her siblings plus their own three children, but they have given Darli a loving home. **The scholarship you help provide is a great support to the family as they struggle to keep all the children in school.**

[A Decision to Refocus Our Work](#)

As we see the success of the young women in the intern program, we have decided to make it a focus for our work in 2020.

The Kateri Intern Program is unique.

This is where we can make the greatest impact.

In 2019, four interns were selected to work through March of this year, and **two of them have already been offered permanent positions.** That leaves two in the program through March 2020. Carmela is interviewing for five internships to start in June. **One of the women selected was so**

eager to get started and, as she was already attending the intern's meeting voluntarily, has begun her placement.

Because the young women are doing such good work, they are being offered permanent work before they finish their internships. This really is a sign of success!

Of the 25 young women who have participated in the intern program since its small beginning in 2004, over 75% have gone on to find employment.

They are all working hard with the same goal—a permanent job!

A Note from the Managing Director

Kay writes

Last week, I got word that Aura had finished her internship and was hired full time with the accounting firm where she performed her internship! This is the news that we joyfully hear.

Aura has been working toward this goal since she went back to school, starting at sixth grade at 17 years old. She has navigated the full six years of secondary education and a year as an intern, faithfully working hard and looking ahead to this day.

She has done her part, but without the support she has received all along the way from all of the Kateri supporters, it would have been much more difficult, if not impossible. She gives a big thanks to all who have been with her. She believes our motto, "Everything is possible with a little help from a FRIEND!"

To donate to support our expanding Intern Program Go to <https://goto.gg/25063>

Giving Tuesday 2019

On Giving Tuesday in 2019, you donated \$2300 and we received \$439 in matching funds from Global Giving. To learn more about Giving Tuesday and about the success of this international project read ***Unleashing The Power of Generosity Around the World*** at https://issuu.com/givingtues/docs/givingtuesday_2019impactelectronic/24

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

Mother's Day Special Event

Look for an announcement in late April.

Birthday Gift for our Founder, Kay Sweeney.

In July and August, we will have a promotion to provide a special gift for Kay Sweeney, our founder.

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/>

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