

BUENAS NOTICIAS

May 2019



Program Support

In March, Founder Chris Burns-Fazzi, Executive Director Elizabeth Maddrey, and Board Member Thomas Farrell visited Guatemala to support our

4 program initiatives:

- Academic Scholarships
- Business Training
- English Language Immersion
- Financial Literacy

Highlighted in this newsletter: Business Training

Pictured above with BFBF are three principals of Socorro and Mishelle Rodriguez, Academic Advisor. Socorro is one of our partner schools where we fund academic scholarships and financial literacy.

Donor Spotlight



Sherman & Patterson law firm has worked closely with BFB (A Division of Gallagher Benefit Services Inc.) for over 10 years. The firm was one of BFB Foundation's first corporate sponsors and we appreciate their continued support!

The firm is one of the lead sponsors of the 5-Year Riecken Women's Leadership Project (*see article left*). They also provided significant funding for much-needed building improvements for both a Riecken Library and one of our partner schools, Ninos de Guatemala.

The firm's partners –Kirk Sherman and Jim Patterson--have each served on the BFB Foundation board - Kirk until last year, and Jim since 2017. We want to thank them both for their leadership and for their generous support of the foundation!

Want to be a Corporate Sponsor?

If you'd like to inquire about corporate sponsorships or make a donation, contact Elizabeth Maddrey at 704-593-6935 or [donate through our website here](#).

Business Training: Economic Independence for Rural Women

1) Riecken Community Libraries (Women's Leadership Project 2015-2019)

BFB Foundation is in the culminating year of funding a 5-Year Riecken Community Libraries' **Women's Leadership Project** in five libraries in Guatemala. Riecken Libraries are independent, free libraries promoting literacy, self-learning and citizen participation in areas that are remote, largely rural and often very poor. Women, in particular indigenous women, are often excluded in these communities. BFB Foundation has focused on supporting the women in these communities.

Each of the groups selected a woman leader and identified a business or community project. As the groups formed a weekly support system developed. They learned how to generate income and value for themselves, their families and their local communities.

Some of the businesses the groups started are: Egg production, cosmetics and jewelry-making, homemade dairy products, cake-baking, cooking and food sales, personal and home cleaning products, and unique items such as bridal veils and footwear.



Rural women at a Riecken Community Library engaging in the first Namaste Direct Seminar in April.

Amigas Club Update

The Amigas Club continues in two high schools –one in Guatemala (Socorro) and one in Charlotte (Charlotte Catholic). The girls communicate in English and Spanish via video conference, and exchange letters of friendship during the school year. The students have enjoyed connecting with girls the same age and in a different country! The facilitators have expressed what a great experience it has been for their students and hope to continue next year.



Socorro students sending a video message to students at Charlotte Catholic High School.



Charlotte Catholic students sending a video message to students at Socorro.

2) Namaste Direct

(Introductory Program Starting 2019)

In April, BFB Foundation launched a business training program through Namaste which will be offered to four of the eleven Riecken libraries in Guatemala this year.

Namaste provides business development programs that increase the business cash flow of low-income women.

The goal is to continue supporting the women who participated in the Women's Leadership Projects (*see article above*) and offer to more women each year. *With financial literacy training, mentoring and guidance, the women will either expand businesses or explore new ones.*

About BFB Foundation

The BFB Foundation is a non-profit public charity whose ***mission is to strengthen developing communities by supporting education-focused initiatives for girls and women.***

BFB Foundation was founded in 2011 by Christine Burns-Fazzi, and her business partner, Rich Brock, the two Principals of Burns-Fazzi, Brock & Associates (BFB) based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Their goal in starting the foundation was to help developing communities break the cycle of poverty by providing educational opportunities for girls and women. The idea stemmed from the belief that a woman's dedication to sustaining her family will ultimately affect the rest of the community. www.BFBfoundation.org

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