



## BUENAS NOTICIAS

November 2018

We hope this newsletter will help provide an on-going window into our exciting work and the people and organizations we work with. Our goal is to give you an update about every quarter, featuring special news and highlights, and some of the people that make BFB Foundation such a compelling organization!

Enjoy this edition and please forward to a friend!

### PROGRAM UPDATES - Connection, Inspiration, Action!

#### BFB Foundation Women's Scholarships

##### University and Vocational Tracks

In the August edition of BUENAS NOTICIAS, we were eagerly preparing in anticipation of an upcoming three-day gathering of [BFB Foundation Women's Scholarships](#) recipients and prospective scholarship recipients in Antigua, Guatemala. Informed by the summer visit and with input from a leadership team made up of some of the young women, our final agenda was kicked-off in September with opportunities to network, learn about career paths, provide feedback to the scholarships process, and help plan for future reunions.

During the September 1 – 3 event, our intense and exciting sessions resulted in strengthening the bonds of scholarship and shared dreams, the creation of a Mission and Vision statement by current scholarship holders, motivation of 2019 scholarship hopefuls and support for their continued focus on studies and greater community involvement, and celebration of special achievement by some of the scholars. Next year's reunion promises to be even more valuable to those involved, and will be developed and planned in large part by the students themselves with support from BFB Foundation leadership.

Check out a [short video](#) highlighting two BFB Foundation scholarship recipients who came to the reunion.

*Pictured below: Along with current Scholarship students - from BFB Foundation, Founder Chris Burns-Fazzi, Executive Director Elizabeth Maddrey, Board Members Jen Jackson and Tom Farrell, Academic Advisor Mishelle Rodriguez, and Friends of BFB Foundation, Joe and Sally Williamson, Maureen Kivney, and Carlos Mijangos (our all-around make-it-happen friend and resource in Antigua).*



## Aflatoun

### Creating Social Awareness and Financial Literacy

For several years, BFB Foundation has supported the implementation of social skills and financial literacy training through [Aflatoun International](#), an NGO out of the Netherlands. The Aflatoun Program brings social and financial education into formal and non-formal educational environments, supplementing any learning that can be had at home. It is primarily for children and youth aged 3-24, both in and out of school settings, designed to be engaging and child-friendly, and uses methods that put children and youth at the center of the learning process, including songs, games and worksheets. Aflatoun programming is currently implemented in 102 countries and reaches 5.4 million children and young people each year.

Our support for Aflatoun programming benefits the Niños de Guatemala program, Socorro School students, and the Riecken Community Libraries women's leadership development program.

At the end of October, Aflatoun sent two facilitators to Socorro Antigua Posada in Antigua to train 27 teachers from the Socorro Schools (pictured below). Over three days, teachers participated in 24 hours of training, that they will implement in their classrooms starting in January. They will encourage children and youth to apply what they learn, taking on different activities that improve their school and community.

BFB Foundation covered funding for this training and Aflatoun facilitator expenses. This teacher training investment of more than \$10,000 will bring financial and social literacy to a larger audience than was previously possible in the communities where we work.



## SERniña

### Empowering Girls through Self-Awareness and Social-Emotional Support

[SERniña](#) offers an in-depth and research-based approach to empowerment for young girls in Guatemala. In July 2018, SERniña began offering two 2-hour workshops every week (54 hours total) at our partner high school, Socorro. By providing workshops in the Socorro schools that BFB Foundation serves, SERniña is able to enhance BFB and Socorro's continuing efforts to guide the students to reach their highest potential, serving as a complementary social-emotional support program.

The Socorro SERniña workshops were taught by a certified SERniña instructor who is a young indigenous Guatemalan woman and served as an authentic role model for the students.

The impact of the SERniña program was evaluated focusing on trends of behavioral and emotional change in the following areas: self-esteem, resiliency, emotional management, self-value, and assertiveness, and attitudes about women/men.

**A few words from a SERnina workshop participant:**

“I learned that I can succeed with or without the support of other people. I learned how to share my opinions. I also learned that my body is a temple and I need to know myself and protect myself. I think since SERniña, I stand up for myself more because it taught me how and motivated me to defend myself. I think it is a very important program for girls because many of us do not know ourselves or our bodies; we do not know how to defend ourselves, and we do not know how to build healthy relationships with others. At first I felt weird learning about our bodies, but now I see how important it is for my well-being...”



**DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Board Member, Thomas Farrell**

For BFB Foundation Board Member, Tom Farrell, providing strategic insight, advising leadership on educational issues, facilitating high-level introductions, and being a steadfast supporter come naturally. Since his retirement professionally, Tom has been even more actively involved with BFB Foundation leadership, a helpful presence during Guatemala visits, and offering guidance whenever needed.



[Click here to read more](#) about how Tom’s support for BFB Foundation began, and why he is committed now more than ever to its mission and vision.



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### About BFB Foundation

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

To learn more about BFB Foundation, our program and impact, visit [www.BFBfoundation.org](https://www.BFBfoundation.org) or [Donate Here.](#)

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