

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY

W. 505 St. Thomas More Way
Spokane, WA 99208

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER GATHERINGS | PARTICIPANT INVESTMENT | HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Natalia De Leon to Visit

We are delighted that our Program Coordinator, Natalia De Leon, will be visiting the Spokane region this September.

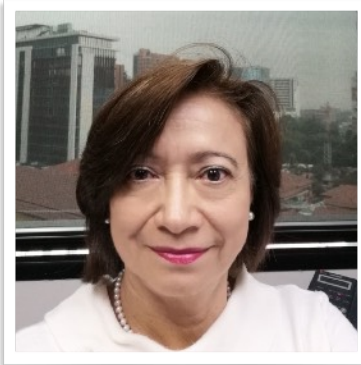
We cordially invite you to join us in welcoming Natalia at a potluck lunch at St. Thomas More Parish in Spokane, Washington, on Sunday, September 18, at noon.

If you live in the Walla Walla area, we hope you will be able to join us for a small gathering on the evening of Wednesday, September 14. Details will be forthcoming.

Natalia has served a critical role in Family-to-Family for more than thirty years, while also acting as liaison for other nonprofit groups in the area. She will be the featured speaker at the Eighth Annual Guatemala Mission Celebration at Barrister Winery in Spokane on Monday, September 12, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. There is no charge for attending this event. Complementary appetizers, coffee and water will be served, with wine available for purchase.

Family-to-Family products, such as weavings and coffee, will be available for purchase at all three gatherings.

Bilingual in Spanish and English, Natalia De Leon has vast experience in program planning, financial operations, and international project management. In addition to her work with nonprofits, Natalia is an Administrative Manager for



Ormat, a renewable energy company with two geothermal power plants in Guatemala. Natalia earned her Business Administration degree from San Carlos University in Guatemala City.

Natalia lives in Guatemala City with her husband, two children, and her sister.

Participants Invest Time

Families participating in the three-year FTF skills-training program spend an average of 100 hours learning occupations (sewing, weaving, gardening, cooking, growing trees, raising livestock, etc.) and, every year, each family commits 10 to 15 seven-hour days of direct service to the program.



Whether maintaining the recreational spaces at Xe'ul, as pictured above, cultivating coffee or harvesting and drying the beans, attending plant nurseries or working elsewhere within the program, participants invest time and energy in FTF operations and learn by working. In this way, families are not only beneficiaries of the program, gaining income-producing resources and building safer homes, they are also essential contributors to the life-changing work of FTF.

Building Safer Homes

When families enter the Family-to-Family program, they are often living in houses constructed of boards and sheet metal such as the house pictured below and left. Typically, the floor is dirt and there is a small wood fire on the floor for cooking, without proper exhaust for smoke. Often houses lack basic services such as running water and a sanitary latrine. As families participate in skills-training workshops, attend FTF gatherings, and work within the program, they receive materials to construct a new home or, if appropriate, to improve their existing home.



FTF program participants, in front of house upon entering the program.



Same FTF participants, in front of house constructed during the program.

Regarding the family pictured above, Guatemalan Field Operations Manager Adela Tambriz stated, “Thanks to Family-to-Family, this family will live in better conditions and with more dignity.”



Construction materials may include gravel, sand, cement, concrete blocks, rebar, galvanized sheet metal, roof tiles, piping, wood, a latrine, and an efficient wood-burning stove with a safe exhaust system. The photo on the left shows a participating family building their home. The cost of constructing a single house has risen to about \$3500. At \$480 per year for three years, family sponsorship does not cover the cost of constructing a house; sponsorship funds are primarily applied to skills-training activities and to developing food and income sustainability. We are deeply grateful to have received gifts that we were able to apply to housing construction costs for 2020 and 2021.

About Family-to-Family: Family-to-Family was founded in 1985 as an economic development program in the Guatemalan Highlands. Its primary mission is to provide income-producing skills training and resources to families and communities working to rise from poverty and become self-sufficient. For further information about the Family-to-Family program or to view newsletters in color, please visit our website www.familytofamilyguatemala.com. You may also contact us by email at ftfguatemala@gmail.com or by phone at (509) 593-8204. This newsletter was written by local director Julianne Connell Sachs.