



505 W St. Thomas More Way
Spokane, WA 99208

Family-to-Family

Familia-A-Familia Newsletter

February 2014

Our sponsors are the greatest !

Our Organization: Family-To-Family (FTF) is not a large multinational organization ---- like some charities that seem to have an unlimited budget for filling up our mailboxes. FTF has no paid staff in the U.S. and only a small native staff in Guatemala. Every one on our U.S staff volunteers their time and effort. Our board members pay for their own travel to Guatemala, and we don't use our income for travel and conference expenses. FTF does have administrative costs for such things as the mailing of statements and newsletters. But that is not where the bulk of our funds go. They go to help the poor.

Geographic Sponsors: Our sponsors are among the best an organization could have! Insofar as FTF is an outreach of St. Thomas More Parish, many sponsors are located in the Spokane area. FTF has also benefitted from publicity in articles, research books, and the internet. So we have sponsors in places ranging from Texas and Florida to Minnesota and cities like Denver. They do not all sponsor individual families, nor are they all big donors. However, they share a common commitment of service to those who are in most need.

Family Sponsors: For many, sponsorship is a unique opportunity to be connected directly with the poor. Having a photo of a family, seeing the house they live in, and knowing of their specific needs can be very enlightening --- especially for children of the sponsoring family. Then to know they are helping the disadvantaged to learn a skill like weaving or raising livestock in order to sustain themselves is so encouraging. And to pray for them and know that prayers flow both ways is indeed gratifying.

Some sponsors are on their 9th or 10th family. For others, getting their children or siblings involved is a blessing. One sponsor wrote about handing on his decades of support to his son saying "Brian remembers our family conversations around the photos of the families we supported when he was a child. Now he and Michelle (his wife) will lead those conversations into the next generation." FTF now has over a dozen families with children or siblings now involved with the program.

Administrative Sponsors: Administrative sponsors are a special and much appreciated breed. Although FTF tries to minimize administrative expense, we do fund the salaries of three staff in Guatemala. Income from the programs themselves, in turn, funds other Guatemalan staff.

Here again, the generous character of our sponsors is so much appreciated. Our field operations manager, Adela Tambriz, is a good illustration of this. Adela is an outstanding leader. She was the only woman selected to join a delegation that went from Guatemala to Brazil to model reforestation programs. (see photo).

Adela's salary last year (of almost \$400/mo), was sponsored by 13 donors with contributions ranging from \$15 to \$83/mo. None were the hugh donations that some charities seek. But they all fit well into the FTF framework of great sponsors connecting with service to the poor.

