



August 24, 2018

Dear Friend,

“If I use birth control, I will never be able to have another baby!” We hear this nearly every day as we continue to expand our *Health for Life* program to our fourth branch in Quetzaltenango. Thankfully, our clients trust our Facilitators who host nurses at loan-repayment meetings so clients can make informed health decisions.

In July, for example, our monthly *Non-Formal Education* topic focused on cancer. Through an interactive game, our clients learned how cancer affects the body. They also learned to identify risk factors, how important regular checkups are, and how Friendship Bridge provides health services, which can be life-saving. Since its inception, *Health for Life* has exceeded our expectations with more than 5,200 clients receiving health services, and over 15,000 clients receiving health education. This is only one of the services that distinguishes Friendship Bridge from other microcredit organizations.

With this letter, we are including our 2017 Annual Report. It represents the first year of our 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, *A Path for Every Client*, which reflects our commitment to offer opportunities to empower clients. In the Annual Report, you will read about the international recognition we received from the prestigious *Healthcare* journal as well as why legendary actress Susan Sarandon supports Friendship Bridge. You will also learn about the great strides made in our *Advanced Education* programs, which help empower our clients with confidence and the knowledge to diversify their incomes. All of this is possible because of your partnership.

Vanesa Sandoval, Portfolio Director of Global Partnerships, recently shared with me **“We love working with Friendship Bridge, a best-in-class institution who has stayed committed to its social mission despite all the changes and competition around.”** I want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to creating more opportunities for our clients in Guatemala! Together we make lasting change in the lives of thousands of women and their families.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Larson", is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Karen Larson, President & CEO

P.S. We invite you to join our 4th annual *Health for Life* Challenge in September, which will support the continued expansion of our Health for Life program to Quetzaltenango. Set your own health goals, create a team or go at it alone, and help raise funds for our program. You can sign up at www.friendshipbridge.org/events or by calling 303-674-0717 for more information.