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Dear Friend,

Recently a client told me that she did not want to leave Guatemala to find work after her husband abandoned her and their six children and left them indebted.

“I looked for new opportunities, and I found Friendship Bridge,” said our client, Maria. “Friendship Bridge, supported me with financial resources and education for my artisan business and gave me moral support through our monthly meetings. Today, my business is thriving; I feel empowered, and I can make my own decisions. Thanks to the growth of my business, I employ 25 single mothers from three communities.”

The opportunities Friendship Bridge creates, for clients like Maria, through our *Microcredit Plus* programs, are part of a larger global initiative to create sustainable solutions to many complex and interconnected issues. Friendship Bridge programs currently address 9 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In the enclosed Annual Report, you can read more about the opportunities we create for our clients to:

- Goal 1: End Poverty
- Goal 2: End Hunger
- Goal 3: Develop Good Health and Well Being
- Goal 4: Provide Quality Education
- Goal 5: Encourage Gender Equality
- Goal 8: Provide Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 10: Reduce Inequalities
- Goal 12: Teach Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Educate about Climate Action

Our work at Friendship Bridge has always been important and impactful, but NOW, more than ever, with the current economic climate and political challenges south of our border, we are working even harder to create sustainable opportunities for our clients and their families so they do not feel the pressure to leave their country to make the dangerous journey north.

Friendship Bridge serves nearly 30,000 women like Maria each year with microcredit, education, and health services in rural Guatemala. We invite you to come see for yourself how our work changes lives. Enjoy beautiful Guatemala while learning about critical economic and political issues. Be inspired by our clients who are improving their lives, families, and communities. Sign up for our October Insight Trip at info@friendshipbridge.org. As always, I am so very grateful for your support to Friendship Bridge.

With gratitude,

Karen Larson
President & CEO