March 2018 Featured Grantee: Women’s Justice Initiative

Patzun, Chimaltenango, Guatemala
Introducing Women’s Justice Initiative

Women’s Justice Initiative empowers indigenous Guatemalan women and girls to improve their lives through education, access to legal services, and gender-based violence prevention.
Where in the world?

WJI works in 24 indigenous Maya-Kaqchikel communities in the Patzún, a municipality of Chimaltenango, Guatemala. Guatemala is located in Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Mexico, and bordering the Gulf of Honduras (Caribbean Sea) between Honduras and Belize.

The country is slightly smaller than the state of Pennsylvania, with a population of about 15.8 million.
What are we supporting?

The project will benefit rural Maya women by developing a network of Community Advocates who promote women’s rights at the local level.

The project will also provide free legal aid to survivors of violence, as well civil legal support to women and girls to secure their economic rights through property titling and registration, land disputes, and alimony and child support cases.

Direct Impact: 2,243 Women and Girls
Indirect Impact: 8,381 Women, Girls, and Male Community Members
Life Challenges of the Women Served

• Guatemala faces some of the highest levels of violence against women and girls in the world.
• 27.9% of women suffer from intimate partner violence in their lifetime and the country has the third highest femicide rate globally.
• Rural, indigenous women are disproportionately impacted due in part to their social isolation and limited access to resources.
• The high incidence of violence against women is exacerbated by social norms that tolerate violence and foster gender inequality.
Life Challenges of the Women Served

• Poverty among indigenous groups, which make up more than 40% of the population, averages 79%, with 40% of the indigenous population living in extreme poverty.

• Nearly one-half of Guatemala's children under age five are chronically malnourished, one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world.

• By age 15, 60% of indigenous girls drop out of school.

• By age 18, 40% of indigenous girls are married.
### Budget

How DFW’s grant of $45,000 will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Staff</td>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$18,359.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Advocates</td>
<td>Includes training materials, stipends, training kits, transportation, meals, community action plan training</td>
<td>$9,432.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Advocate Led-</td>
<td>Materials, printing, meals, transportation, workshops with mothers</td>
<td>$5,182.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Advocate Led-</td>
<td>Materials, printing, meals, transportation, telecommunications</td>
<td>$8,238.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for Women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services</td>
<td>Transportation, case registration, provider toolkit, posters</td>
<td>$2,019.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Transportation, printing</td>
<td>$220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Project Costs</td>
<td>Office supplies, equipment and furniture, rent and utilities</td>
<td>$1,546.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the Featured Grantee

WJI was founded in 2011 by Katharine Flatley—a lawyer with fifteen years’ experience in women’s rights, access to justice, and public health—to tackle gender inequality and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in indigenous communities in Guatemala.

WJI piloted its first program, Women’s Rights Education, in 2011 with 15 participants in Patzún and expanded the program into five additional communities in 2012.
Between 2012 and 2015, WJI developed three complementary programs and reached a total of 24 communities. In 2015, WJI was awarded a highly competitive three-year grant from the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, which facilitated its geographic expansion.
Share Your Thoughts

1. How do you think the use of Community Advocates can impact the sustainability of this program?

2. What role do you think women’s education has in changing a patriarchal culture?

3. How can this program affect the UN’s sustainable development goal of peace, justice and strong institutions?
March’s Sustained Grantee: Nepal Youth Foundation

The Nepal Youth Foundation brings freedom, health, shelter, and education to Nepal’s most impoverished children.

DFW’s sustained grant of $20,000 per year in 2016 – 2018 supports the Vocational Training for Freed Kamlaris project, which provides vocational skills to 90 freed Kamlaris so they can support themselves and their families. This will be done through teaching vocational skills to the girls and helping them become gainfully employed. This training allows the girls to make their own choices and shape their own destinies.

Direct Reach: 90 girls (30 per year)