

Via International's Partners in the Field



Tijuana microcredit participant opens her own store (Photo by Via International - Los Niños)

Los Niños Microenterprise Program

It is considered very difficult to create viable microcredit programs in urban areas. Los Niños annually provides about 200 loans with nearly 100% repayment of principal and interest. Working with a group solidarity model, these urban microcredit programs have supported the development of mini-businesses in Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico, including resale ventures, a bee cooperative, artisan development, and the selling of homemade products. Consumer loans have been provided for home improvement, school expenses and medical and dental emergencies.

www.losninosinternacional.org

SHARE Guatemala Microenterprise Program

Recently SHARE received approval for lines of credit from formal banks in Guatemala to expand its successful microenterprise program. SHARE provides over 1000 loans annually. SHARE Guatemala is an integrated rural development program. Therefore the majority of the loans are provided for agricultural initiatives. Training in management of resources and finance is also provided. Activities focus on supporting families to grow enough beyond subsistence living to generate funds for other family needs such as health and education.

www.shareguatemala.org

Highlights from the Border Region

A new partnership has been formed with Enlace Comunitario in Baja California!

Born and raised in Mexicali, Mexico, Ana Gabriela Perez, a graduate of the University of San Diego, was inspired to establish a humanitarian community development organization thanks to her experience as a former Via service learning volunteer.

Enlace Comunitario works to improve the environment of housing projects constructed by Urbi development company in Mexico. Via International - Los Niños is providing nutrition and ecology education for Enlace Comunitario in their housing



More than 200 Via International - Los Niños Community Outreach Workers gather in Mexico for Promotora Dialogue and Breakfast, July 2010. (Photo by Veronica Gonzalez, Instructor for Via International Promotora Program)

and community development projects.

In July, the Formation and Education of Promotoras Comunitarias (Community Outreach Workers) from Via International - Los Niños collaborated with the Iberoamericana University, Enlace Comunitario and Urbi to host a breakfast for graduates and participants in the program. More than 200 women participated in the alumni breakfast, shared updates on their current activities as graduates, and learned about the new sustainable city, Valle de San Pedro, being constructed east of Tijuana.

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