Self-Help - Women’s Micro-credit Loans in Nicaragua

Summary
Self-Help has been alleviating hunger in Nicaragua by helping them help themselves since 1999. Providing opportunities for women to learn business operations, and loans ($50-
200) to initiate these enterprises is proving to be very successful in this mission. Training and loans for new groups of women, and value-added enterprises further strengthen women’s income and their voices in society. In order to continue these efforts, funding is needed to support these objectives. Self-Help is proud of its 97% return on loans.

What is the issue, problem or challenge?
Many rural women in southern Nicaragua face limited education thereby decreasing their voices in the home and community. Training and loans to start businesses strengthen women’s roles and positions. Furthermore, women use proceeds to focus attention on their children, especially girls, to increase education and improve living standards. Success stories are impressive, and now we face the challenge of finding financial support for 75 new loans over the next three years.

How will this project solve this problem?
Every fund received by this project will go directly to the Women’s Micro-credit project. In Las Azucenas Ramona needs a $150 loan to build a fuel efficient oven; Eliadora needs $100 for baking sheets and pans to expand her baking business; Miriam needs a $50 loan to make tortillas she sells at the local school. Each woman is hard working and needs small financial support to increase her business!

Potential Long Term Impact
Rural women play important roles working beside husbands in the fields, while managing the house and caring for children. Financial decisions tend to remain in the hands of the male. We have witnessed that when women are able to earn their own income, profits are invested in the well-being of their children. This commitment provides a favorable future for themselves, their children and grandchildren.

Project Message
“My last loan was used to build a better oven reducing fuel use by 75%. Because of this I spend less time gathering wood, can bake more goods to sell, and have greater profits for my children’s schooling.”
Eliadora

Funding Information
Total Funding Goal: $11,250

$50 - buys ingredients for tortillas
  - 40 chicks to improve diets and sell eggs
  - 35 broiler chicks to improve diets and sell whole
$75 – buys 2 piglets
$100 – buys baking equipment and supplies
$150 – buys materials to build 1 fuel-efficient oven
$250 – buys a used frig to store consumables