**Open to Grow – Global Giving Project – December 2019**

**Open to Grow – Background**

Open to Grow (O2G) is a Canadian charity that together with our partner ADIM makes small business loans to poor enterprising women in the lowest micro-finance segment in Nicaragua. We initially worked in Guatemala but are now focused on Nicaragua. We are in our 9th year of operations and have made over 5400 loans.

We work with our on-the-ground partner ADIM, a medium-sized microfinance institution, to make loans to solidarity groups of between 3-5 women. Each woman has her own distinct business. These women live in the same communities, usually on the same block, and work together and help each other grow their businesses.

**The Project**

This Project seeks to address a 40% reduction in funding availability to for micro-loans to the poorest women micro-entrepreneurs in Nicaragua. This reduction is a direct result of the socio-political crisis of 2018 as many micro-finance institutions have now left this microfinance segment.

We are seeking $25,000 in funding for this project. This will enable us to initially make between 125 – 250 loans to these women to enable them to lift themselves out of poverty by re-building their businesses or starting new ones. Over the next five years, we will use and re-use these funds to make between 1,250 and 2,500 loans.