



## *GIVE GIRLS A CHANCE*

Name: Maria

Age: 21 years

Grade: Teaching - 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3-year technical education bilingual teaching program

Goal: *"My goal is to have a Masters in Education to help strengthen the Maya culture with the students and the people in my community."*

Hobbies: I like watch the news on TV, read newspapers, sing, dance, read stories, play football and basketball and also embroider and crochet blouses."

Support: Approximately \$770. Cdn. each year.

*"I speak Spanish and my native Mayan language of K'iche which is my first language. I can read and write in my native Maya language. I have 4 brothers and 3 sisters. My oldest siblings of 30, 27 and 26 are all married. I am the fourth in the family and not married. **I am the first in my family to study.** I graduated four years ago as a primary school teacher. My youngest brother and sisters of 10, 14, 17 and 19 years are studying. My house is made of wood with an aluminium roof with a dirt floor.*

*I am continuing my studies at the University. I am studying the career of teacher in bilingual education. We are studying the values of our ancestors. When I finish the technical part which is three years, I will be qualified as a teacher of junior high and high school.*

*My village is very pretty with many green areas, a river, churches, one health clinic, school, el Institute for junior high and many students. The majority of the people are dedicated to agriculture, the planting of beans and corn, which they consume daily. Approximately 920 people live here. It is located about 15 kilometres from the next town. In a bus, it takes about 45 minutes and walking takes about 2 hrs. When it rains, the busses don't come because the road is not safe.*

*I am working with a group of teachers at the boarding school in Xix called IMOA. We teach the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The school offers classes in agriculture. We are concerned about the education here in the Ixil region. I also study at the University of Rafael Landivar. Every weekend we go to Santa Cruz del Quiché to receive classes on Saturdays. My goal is to have a Masters in Education to help strengthen the Mayan culture with the students here at the school and with the people in my community. This is my dream. I am hoping that you will be able to help me realize my dreams.*

*I want to tell you that I am very thankful for the help you are giving me for my education and may God bless you.*

*Maria*