



GIVE GIRLS A CHANCE

Name: Teresa

Age: 13 years

Grade: 7

Country: Guatemala

Goal: "My goal is to pass all my classes this year in 7th grade and then enter into 8th grade and then finish 9th grade."

Hobbies: "I like to play football, basketball, read, listen to music and participate in activities. I like to be happy."

Support: Approximately \$450. for each of the three years.

"I speak Spanish and my native Mayan language of Ixil. I can read and write a little bit in my native language. I have three brothers and four sisters. My oldest sister is 22 and the other one is 20 years old. They are both married now because they did not study, my father did not have any money for them to go to school. The other sister is 16 years old and she is in 9th grade. I have two brothers that are in 4th grade: they are eleven and nine years old. The smallest brother is 7 years old and he is in 1st grade.

My house is very simple and is made of wood and has an aluminium roof with a dirt floor. The house is divided in two parts. One part is to sleep and the other is the kitchen. It is very pretty here as there are many trees, rivers and flowers. There are many fruits in this area such as pineapples, oranges, bananas and sugar cane. There are about 1,400 people living here. We cultivate corn, beans, malanga, guisguiles (a squash), cardamon and coffee. Many of the products are sold at the market so that the families can buy clothes and food.

My village is about 30 kilometres from the nearest town. It takes us about 8 hours to walk the distance. At times there is transportation and then it would only take 3 hours. It is very far from the main town.

I want to thank you very much for the help you are giving me for my studies. Thank you."

Teresa

Teresa lives in a community of CPR (Communities of the Population in Resistance-Sierra). This group of people survived in the mountains for 14 years during the 36 year old civil war in Guatemala. The major violence would have been over by the time she was born. The very poor community where she lives was given as compensation from the government.