



La BECA Women's Scholarship Foundation

Bringing Education, Compassion, and Assistance to Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean

Christmas 2021

Dear Friends,

From the time we first founded La BECA more than 15 years ago, our goal has been the same: to help young women in Central and South America achieve their dreams through education. But for most of this year, there was no “school” to attend.

In Honduras, El Salvador, and Bolivia, vaccines were in short supply for much of the year. That meant that schools and universities remained closed for anything but remote learning.

Our determined scholars, with La BECA’s help, found ways to attend their regular classes – thanks to all of you who made it possible to purchase computers and arrange internet access. But what about the educational requirements that had to be completed in person?

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, that was the challenge facing **Gladiz** as she neared the end of her three-year technical school studies to become a public accountant. She had taken all her required classes, but could not complete her studies without an internship. And with offices mostly closed, those opportunities were hard to come by.

But Gladiz is nothing if not enterprising, and so with the support of Asociación Amistad, our long-time partner in Cochabamba, she approached the office of the orphanage where she and her two siblings lived. Could she complete an internship in the business office of the home?



The business office staff members new Gladiz well – she had come to the Home with a younger sister and brother in 2007. They had watched her grow up and were committed to her success. So they welcomed her and began to show her the intricacies of everything from payroll to handling fixed assets.

And when it came time for her to present her final project to her professors, they pitched in even more. The chief accountant at Amistad even took a day of personal leave to assist Gladiz as she prepared for the all-important oral presentation.

It was a big success. In March, Gladiz will formally graduate as an accountant and will join the La BECA alumnae who have the education and skills to become self-supporting. She has plenty of role models: Flora, Mercedes, Amalia, and Claudia are just some of the La BECA scholars who grew up at Amistad but who are now in professional careers.

"It's La BECA's consistent support that makes such a difference," says Chris King, the Amistad executive director. "Over the years, young girls watch as others complete their university studies and become self-sufficient. They say, 'I can do that, too.'"

This year, **we are supporting 40 young women in four countries** – Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama. Thanks to your help, we have contributed over \$540,000 to assist young women who want to be accountants and lawyers, engineers and teachers. They are committed and resourceful and hard working.

But for every young woman like Gladiz, there is another in need. So once again at the end of the year, we are asking you to please consider La BECA as part of your year-end giving.

If you have already made a contribution this year, thank you! If you are still making your year-end giving plans, we hope you will consider what your gift can provide:

- **For \$100**, you can underwrite the extra expenses that sometimes cause a young scholar to drop out of school – things like transportation and class activities.
- **For \$250**, you can support one month of a university education for a future teacher, veterinarian, or lawyer.
- **For \$500**, you can send a young woman in the most remote areas of Honduras to high school for a year.
- **For \$1000**, you can send a young woman to university for a term.

Again and again, your gifts have made it possible for young women to change their lives through education. We are grateful for that support.

With gratitude,
The la BECA Board

Kris Amundson • Sara Conrath • Rey Decerega • Kelly Newton Jeffers •
Margaret Reed Millar • Joanne Newton • Anne Reed • Carmen Tobar

