

# Women's Literacy Program

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**Project Summary:** The Foundation will partner with a respected international literacy agency and a local (Mennonite) organization to deliver literacy training – disguised as a micro-enterprise development project – to hundreds of Nivacle women over a two-year period.

**Background:** Few Nivacle women understand, speak, read or write Spanish, which is essential to life beyond their villages and, for LDS women, to utilize Church manuals. They have begged for a literacy program.

Pro-Literacy International, based in Rochester, New York, and ASCIM, a Mennonite Indian support agency located in Filadelfia, Paraguay, will teach women the basics of small business development, management and marketing. These skills will enable them to formalize their native weaving and other artisan skills, develop better-quality goods, and market these at better prices than is currently possible. The women are highly motivated as they see the potential for advancement and a better life. Because they use Spanish as they develop these skills, they become literate. This approach has been proved successful in dozens of projects all over the world.



**Proposal:** To contract with the two partner organizations, using the confidence developed by the Foundation with women in the LDS villages of Abundancia and Mistolar, to initiate a series of classes, workshops and other activities which will create in these villages centers of learning for women within the villages and surrounding communities. Outreach efforts will enroll hundreds of women. The results will include improved confidence and self-esteem, the ability to interact with the Spanish-speaking majority in their environment, the ability to read Church and other literature, and the skills to create and manage their own means of gaining a livelihood.

**Costs:** The entire two-year project will cost up to \$25,000, depending on the number of women enrolled. However, the start-up cost for initiating the project with the two partner agencies will be approximately \$5,000. Additional costs will average about \$50 per woman enrolled.

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| 1. Start-up cost (corporate or other one-time gift) | \$ 5,000 |
| 2. Donation to bring literacy to one woman          | \$ 50    |

**How Can I Help?** A corporation, business entity, family or individual can contribute funds sufficient to initiate this project in 2007. However, families or individuals can also donate the \$50 that will provide one woman with literacy and micro-enterprise skills -- skills so important to the quality of life of these women and the well-being of their families.

Note that all moneys donated to the Nivacle Foundation are used only as described in project proposals; there are no administrative, fund-raising or overhead costs. Donors are always given final (and where appropriate interim) reports, including written appreciation from the beneficiaries and photos of the ongoing or completed project. If interested in contributing to this (or other) project, please contact the project director (listed above) or Kurt Mayberry, Foundation president, at 208-359-9514.