

MARY'S PENCE (www.maryspence.org)

Gilda Larios of Mary's Pence interviews **Alejandra y Maria**, Amatitan, Nicaragua

Alejandra: Hello, I am Alejandra and the two of us are partners, our business is called Jovenes Emprendedoras de Amatitan. Since last year we have been working with children, but it has been a challenge because at first we had four groups, and now we have only one group of children.

Maria: Hello, I am Maria del Socorro and I am Alejandra's partner in the business. Yes, we have had difficulties, but what is more important is that now we have machines and a site of our own where we can work and succeed.

Gilda: And what have your successes been, besides getting the machines? What have you learned?

Maria: We learned how to work together and to work with different groups. Our biggest success so far has been having our own business and a group that has a lot of motivation to expand.

Alejandra: Also, another one of our achievements has been working with the children, who at first had no experience and now who are working with Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. We have watched them learn and count this as a success. Of course, you have to have patience to work with the kids because it is difficult. At first we had children ranging from 12 to 14 years old, and now we have a group of children ages 8 to 9. So there is definitely a difference between working with small children and with older ones, because you cannot use the same vocabulary as you would if you were talking to an adult.

Gilda: And why did the other children leave?

Maria: The difficulty that we had with the other group was that after matriculating, they wanted to attend the classes for free. The parents had already paid for the school, and they thought that these classes should be included. This has been a problem because while the group benefits the community, we need to pay our electrical bills and so we can't give classes for free.

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