



Backgrounder

Cafe Femenino Foundation

The Cafe Femenino Foundation (CFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to bring hope and aid to women and families in the poorest and least accessible areas of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Nicaragua, Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. The Foundation is currently working to extend aid to indigent women coffee producers in other developing countries throughout the world. CFF is *not* a membership organization. The Foundation relies on donations to the *Three Wishes* and *Coffee Can* Campaigns, regular donations from coffee roasters who sell Cafe Femenino Coffees, and other fund raising events throughout the year.

The Foundation works through a network of coffee-grower cooperatives based in each country to improve the overall quality of life for entire communities and to support a sustainable economic system by:

- Funding grant requests generated in-country by groups of women coffee-producers who operate small organic farms;
- Working within existing socio-economic structures in each country to foster positive change to benefit the entire community; and
- Supporting the efforts and enhancing the status of women coffee growers by recognizing their contributions within their communities and integrating women coffee farmers into social, political and occupational organizations.

History

Gay and Garth Smith founded the Cafe Femenino Foundation in 2004 as a separate entity from the Cafe Femenino Coffee Program to help address the gender inequality, poverty and abuse that continue in many coffee producing regions throughout the world. Traditionally, most women in coffee producing regions actively participate in all farm activities, but have negligible influence on decisions regarding coffee sales or the use of proceeds. Without income or options, these women continue to hold out hope for a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

The Foundation provided its first grant to an Indonesian coffee co-op to provide emergency relief, food and basic necessities to remote villages following the devastating December 2004 earthquake and tsunami. Since then, CFF has funded numerous projects to address health, education, living and working conditions in coffee growing communities around the world.

Contact Us

For further information or to support The Cafe Femenino Foundation, contact Marilyn Dryke, Foundation President, at marilyn@cafefemeninofoundation.org or (800) 791-1188 or visit www.coffeecan.org.