



JUANITA – FROM IMPOVERISHED WIFE TO MATTRESS-MAKING BUSINESSWOMAN

Juanita Bantilles found a surprising business opportunity when her husband, Elden, came home from work with three foam pillows instead of food. At first, Juanita was upset and frustrated but then she decided to sell the pillows for a profit to her neighbor. What could have been an unfortunate situation turned into a life-changing experience for Juanita.

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THE ESPINOZAS – THE COUPLE WHO NEVER GAVE UP

When Concepción Espinoza and her husband, Rodolfo, were first married they could not make ends meet. Their last resort was to rent a sewing machine to make clothing which enabled them to keep their home. Then they discovered Dignidad (Mentors' partner organization in Mexico). Dignidad gave them a loan and they were finally able to buy some sewing machines. Their business was becoming successful but then a tree fell on top of their home so they had to sell most of their machines to pay for the repairs.

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A STORY OF GIVING

When Alan and Jeanne Hall were first married, they were struggling entrepreneurs just beginning a business out of their basement. Fast forward thirty years and the Halls are now the creators of the internationally recognized MarketStar Corporation, a global leader in sales and marketing outsourcing. But they did not stop at their own financial success. The Halls decided to help others who had gone through similar struggles and so created the Alan and Jeanne Hall Foundation whose mission statement says "Let there be no poor among us."

And that is how the Halls discovered Mentors.

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Carlos Rivas, executive director in El Salvador and **Daniel Rodriguez**, executive director in Guatemala, are just two of the seven executive directors participating in the Mentors conference this week.



MENTORS' EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS CONFERENCE — A HISTORIC OCCASION

From Friday, April 6, 2008 until Friday, April 11, 2008 Mentors is hosting the first Executive Directors Conference in its eighteen-year history. During the week, all seven of its executive directors from each of Mentors' partner organizations are convening at Mentors' headquarters in Draper, Utah. The leaders, who have traveled from the Philippines, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, will collaborate on microcredit strategies and will receive additional training from outside microcredit experts.

The executive directors will also hold several speaking engagements at Brigham Young University during the week.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS TO BE FOCUS OF BYU ACTIVITIES ON APRIL 11

At BYU, the executive directors will be the focus of a microcredit forum wherein business students will learn directly from the leaders who are fighting poverty at the ground-level. The directors will share first-hand experiences on how microcredit benefits the poor in their countries.

This forum will be followed by a presentation at a BYU fundraising activity held at the Lavell Edwards Stadium. At the activity, each director will give a presentation about their organization to a crowd of 2,000 students. More information about this activity and how you can be involved is in the news byte below.

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