

## **Guidelines for Visiting Together Women Rise Grantees**

### **Together Women Rise's Travel Program**

Together Women Rise's Travel Program provides meaningful and inspirational travel experiences for our members. These trips offer opportunities for members to connect face-to-face with our grantees and the women and girls we serve. Members who are interested in visiting a Together Women Rise grantee are encouraged to participate in a Together Women Rise sanctioned trip. These trips are organized by Elevate Destinations, our exclusive travel provider, and promoted through Together Women Rise's website, email, and Facebook communications.

### **Personal/Tourist Visits to Grantees**

We recognize that many members are interested in connecting with Together Women Rise grantees when they are traveling on their own. Some of our grantees have their own visitor/volunteer models and are well-equipped to handle tourists. For many others, accommodating visitors can cause undo hardship due to their limited staff and resources. Some organizations, especially those that operate in close proximity to the U.S. such as Mexico and Guatemala, receive many more requests than they are able to accommodate.

If you would like to visit a grantee during your personal travels, it is up to you to contact the grantee directly and arrange your visit as a tourist. Please be sure to make your arrangements well ahead of time, before you leave the U.S.

There is a difference between tourist visits and site visits. Only Together Women Rise staff may conduct site visits for grant purposes. When you contact a grantee, please identify yourself as a tourist. Because of the grantor/grantee relationship that Together Women Rise has with these organizations, identifying yourself as a Together Women Rise member may apply extra pressure on them to host you. We do not want organizations to feel that they need to go above and beyond what they would normally do for any visitor/tourist. If Together Women Rise is mentioned, it is important that the organization understands that this is not an official Together Women Rise trip or site visit, and it is not connected with their Together Women Rise grant.

Member visits to grantees can be a very rewarding and beneficial experience for both Together Women Rise members and our grantees. We strongly encourage you, however, to use Together Women Rise's official Travel Program so that these visits do not become a challenge for our grantees.