Family Ties: Guatemala and Iowa

The PBS Frontline documentary, “Guatemala: In the Shadow of the Raid,” tells about the aftermath of a May 2008 immigration raid at a meat plant in Postville, Iowa. Most of the workers were from two small villages—El Rosario and San Jose Calderas—in the Guatemalan highlands.

As you watch the documentary, take notes to answer the following questions:

1. Who is William Toj? Why did he immigrate to the United States?

2. How long had William worked in Postville before he was arrested?

3. What charges were brought against the undocumented men? What happened to them?

4. Who is Rosita? Why did she and other undocumented women remain in Postville? Describe their lives there.
5. After the raid, what was life like for American families in Postville?


6. How much did it cost William Toj to come to the United States? Where did he get the money?


7. What is William's life like now? What does he see in his future?


