



Maya Educational Foundation

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Dear Friends,

Despite the ongoing international financial crisis, we are pleased to report in this mid-year letter that the Maya Educational Foundation has thus far honored all its current commitments to the education of indigenous students and adults in all its varied programs within the Mayan region. Our ability to do this has been based on three factors: the measures of fiscal restraint taken and conservative investment policies; the willingness of our partner organizations to increase their efficiency and reduce their expenses by pooling resources and expertise; and increased efforts to attract new donors and grants to support our mission. This letter asks for your help in providing a fourth leg for our table of support.

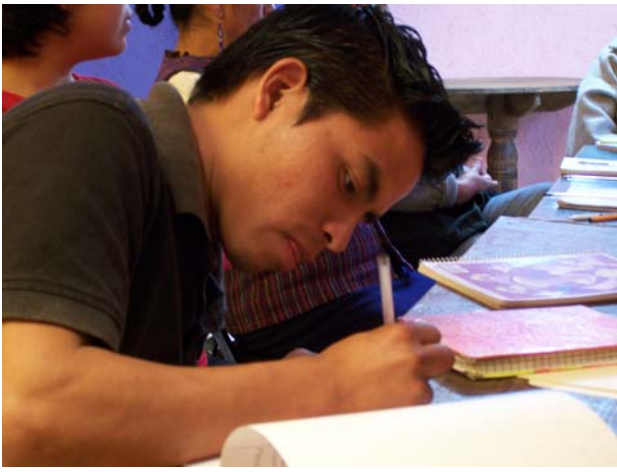
The Maya Educational Foundation works primarily with indigenous people in underserved communities in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. We provide over 230 scholarships, primary level through university, to students from very poor families. MEF also supports vocational training programs for Maya women and men to increase their skills and their ability to support themselves and their families, and to strengthen the communities where they live. MEF programs require a high level of commitment from those enrolled and we engage in on-going evaluations to monitor their success. In addition, MEF assists programs that foster the study, preservation, and understanding of indigenous cultures. The enclosed chart offers an overview of our current programs, and our website www.mayaedufound.org can provide you with detailed project descriptions.

We need again to tap into your most vital support and commitment. Every contribution helps keep these projects alive. If you have not donated to MEF before, please consider a first-time gift. If you are one of our regular donors, please consider an additional mid-year gift. These are hard times everywhere, and your compassion and generosity help the people who have so few opportunities and so much potential.

Your support has made it possible for MEF to provide effective and sustainable programs for seventeen years. Please help us continue to offer hope for the future to indigenous people from beautiful and ancient cultures who have lived a life of discrimination and poverty.

We thank you,

for the Maya Educational Foundation Staff and Board



University student and grade school student at work in Chiapas



Meeting with parents and students from Livingston, Guatemala



Health promoter in Chiapas



Principal with students in front of their school in Michbilixpú Guatemala



English language program volunteer works with a university student



High school students from Cajolá, Guatemala



Weaving classes and workshop for teachers at Colegio Paxil, Nebaj, Guatemala



Photographs courtesy of Armando Alfonso and Laurie Levinger