



The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund NEWSLETTER

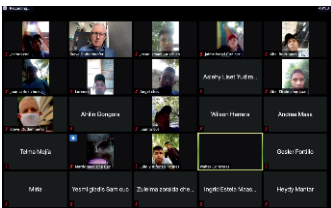
AUGUST 2020

■ The Silver Lining-AAT's Action Plan for our Students



March 15th 2020, upon the declaration of a state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Guatemala's Ministry of Education decreed that the country's schools be closed. Ak' Tenamit's 800+ boarding students returned to their 200+ rural communities where they have since played an active

role in Covid-19 prevention by implementing what they had learned at our school regarding the construction of simple hand washing stations, making face masks out of used clothing, and planting vegetable gardens.



Students have continued their education through distance learning via WhatsApp groups with their teachers, although it's common for students to have to walk several hours

to reach an area with sufficient cell-phone signal to be able to send and receive class-work. Multidisciplinary teams composed of indigenous educational specialists, social workers and agronomists visit villages regularly to support student's learning and to help solve critical barriers that might cause students to drop out.

An upside of the global pandemic is that it presents a tremendous opportunity for Guatemalan youth to secure decent employment in new digital jobs if provided the proper skill-set of hard and soft skills. Microsoft and LinkedIn estimate that over the next five years some 149 million new digital jobs will be created. Due to the nature of these jobs, most won't be limited to a specific geographic area, meaning that

with proper analysis regarding new job trends and the required sub skill-sets needed to fill them, and with an appropriate methodology that fully includes rural at-risk youth (especially girls) in training opportunities, these new jobs provide a tremendous opportunity for Guatemala's predominantly young population.

Our current and projected Covid-19 education response is three-fold:

1) Make sure that our boarding students, while back in their communities, are playing a vital role as agents of Covid-19 prevention and resilience, ensuring that they continue their studies and providing encouragement and psychological support in order to minimize drop-outs, boys attempting irregular migration to the US and especially, in the case of our female students, to avoid adolescent pregnancy and child-marriage.

2) Adapt our jungle boarding school facilities to better accommodate our 800 students under required social distancing regulations through the construction of smaller open sided structures that will allow groups of 6 to 8 students to study while maintaining social distancing, expanding boarding facilities, the deployment of inexpensive solar-charged tablets with appropriate applications and content, and teacher training in adapted teaching methodologies. Part of this adaptation will entail establishing an ongoing rotation of students between village-based distance learning and on-campus learning in order to avoid all 800 students being on campus at once.

3) Train students for emerging job markets in two primary fields; a) Self-employment opportunities and jobs with governmental and non-governmental organizations related to promoting poverty reduction, food security, economic development and conservation in rural indigenous communities. b) Emerging digital jobs related to customer service, software development, virtual design and data entry.

■ Wanda Finke-A Special Tribute



#1 and worked with Steve's Aunt Sally to compose

Our founder, Steve Dudenhoefer, relayed a story regarding Wanda. When the Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund was started there were no computers, only electric typewriters. All donations received a typed letter and they were personally signed. Wanda was Volunteer

all of the letters. So, since 1992, Wanda was a dedicated supporter of GTF and Ak' Tenamit. For her 80th birthday in 2018 Wanda managed to provide 80 mattresses for our students through her "Mattress Madness" campaign which raised $50 \times 80 = \$4,000$. Wanda recently passed away and she will be deeply missed. Thank you, Wanda, for your amazing legacy! Per Wanda, "In love, there is no giver or receiver. Both are one!"

■ Rotary Global Grant



Thank you Riccardo Boehm of the Palm Beach Rotary Club for spearheading a Rotary Global Grant to purchase additional electric boat motors. Donations earmarked for this purpose will receive matches by the Rotary District and Rotary Foundation, multiplying the impact of every dollar received. For information regarding how to support this effort please contact The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund.

■ Brooksville Rotary Club

A special thanks to Karen Nicolai of the Rotary Club of Brooksville, Florida for leading a work team of Rotarians from her club to our Ak' Tenamit campus in Guatemala. In addition, their club raised \$4,158.40 for the solar batteries that power our electric motor-propelled 'floating school bus'. THANK YOU!

■ Donor Advised Funds

Please include The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund (EIN# 65-305897) in your estate plan by naming our organization as a beneficiary of your donor advised fund, retirement plan, IRA, or life insurance policy. You can also have your annual IRA distribution, or a portion thereof, donated to GTF without tax implication. Choosing any of these options is as simple as filling out a beneficiary designation form from your plan provider or administrator. Talk with your financial advisor today about the best option for you. With a planned gift you ensure that we are here to support our students and that your legacy lives on!

■ Sponsor A Student **Transform A Life!**

Ak' Tenamit's practical, vocational education, 3,000 hours of job experience, and personal motivation prepare graduates to succeed in their rural environment, and inspire them to help their families and their communities. For just one dollar per day (\$365 per year), you can transform the life of a young person who would otherwise be trapped in poverty.

The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund, P.O. Box 3636, Tequesta, FL 33469
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WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law and processed through a PCI Compliant Data Security Company. The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund is the US based, non-profit, non-denominational fund raising arm of Ak' Tenamit.

