



The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

How are You?

We have been concerned about our new and long-term loyal donors and want to know how you are doing. This has been a new and unfamiliar episode in our lives and we have all tapped into our adaptive skills and managed to make necessary, if uncomfortable, changes. If you would like, please send us an email and share your experiences.

We have been in touch with each other through weekly phone calls. GTF is receiving updates from Ak' Tenamit on dealing with funding shortfalls, the status of our 800 students who are currently in their 200 villages receiving distance learning, and the reaction from employers that hire our graduates. Even though things have changed, we are providing support. As our students study remotely, they are also learning to be village ambassadors regarding COVID-19 prevention and food security. We are so proud of them!

There is no doubt you are receiving requests to assist other organizations during this difficult and unusual time.

And yes, we are asking you too to provide any assistance possible to help us through the following months. Due to canceled fundraising events, we are facing a bleak financial future and are uncertain what donations we may be able to count on for the remainder of 2020. This is a time when our students and their families so urgently need our help!

In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy. We thank you for all of your support in the past and going forward!

Our Best!



Steve Dudenhoefer
Founder and
Chief Technical
Advisor



Debora Kerr, MA,
Executive Director
Guatemalan
Tomorrow Fund

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

We recently shared the steps we have taken at Ak' Tenamit (AAT) to ensure the safety of our students and their families during this challenging time. This pandemic has undoubtedly had a global impact.

Our mission at The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund (GTF) remains steadfast – to empower the indigenous people of Guatemala to become self-sustaining through appropriate education and community development initiatives.

Long-term progress only happens when cultures are given the tools to educate and empower their people. In essence, collectively, we are helping the people of Guatemala to help themselves.

As a direct result of your donations, Ak' Tenamit has seen tremendous positive changes since opening our doors 30 years ago. Thousands of graduates are now lifting their families and communities out of poverty and helping to transform Guatemala. Our enrollment

has gone from one hundred percent male, to a fifty-fifty ratio of male-to-female students.

Graduates are gainfully employed and contributing back to the growth of the local economy in the agricultural and tourism industries. The previous age for marriage among young girls was 14 (without education). We are now seeing our female graduates delaying marriage, gaining self-esteem and contributing to the local economy. All of which continues to break the cycle of poverty.

Ak' Tenamit also supports communities by promoting income-generating activities such as handicraft production while preserving the natural environment and their cultural heritage.

In an effort to respond to the recent needs of the pandemic, in addition to providing distance learning and support to our 800 students, we are helping communities and families feed themselves by developing their own gardens and growing their own food.

Seeds to Sustainability



Our 800 students come from almost 200 remote communities. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, due to restrictions in commerce and mobility mandated by the Guatemalan government, these communities are experiencing unprecedented levels of unemployment, poverty and malnutrition. As part of their classwork at Ak' Tenamit our students have learned how

to plant dooryard gardens in order to increase the food security of rural families. As they are currently back home in their communities, our students have assumed an active role for their families and communities in what we are calling "Gardening in Place".

Guatemala currently has the highest level of malnutrition in the Americas and the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly increased malnutrition levels in rural indigenous communities.

We are trying to provide gardening tools, vegetable seeds and remote guidance to our 800 students so that they can be empowered to help their families and communities grow fast-growing and nutritional vegetables in order to help fight the scourge of malnutrition and to help their communities become more self-sufficient.



We need your help now more than ever to enable this emergency rapid response and empower our students as agents of change in their rural communities. Increasing their role as young leaders provides real and sustainable solutions to the challenges they face

every day and especially due to the pandemic.

It is because of your faithful support over the years that these young women and men have been empowered to be able to contribute directly to the well-being of their communities. We would be unable to continue to stay on this path without your support.



United we Grow

Together we can transform the world for the better, one student at a time.

Aid without education can quickly turn into handouts that stifle self-worth and perpetuate cycles of dependence and poverty. Our unique and highly effective educational methodology is focused on empowering students to break the cycle of poverty.

Support in the form of appropriate education and empowerment over the past 30-years – made possible through your donations – is why our students have been able to make a tangible impact in their communities and throughout Guatemala.

Most of our students live in remote jungle communities in thatch-roof, dirt-floor one room homes with no electricity or running water. Families live day to day, often unsure where their next meal will come from. On average, \$30 can help provide seeds and supplies to a student that will help them begin their garden and sustain their families. Any amount you are able to give will help!

These are challenging times. We wish everyone health and safety and are grateful for your generosity. Your donation allows us to support our students, create brighter futures and continue to transform lives.

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.

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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.



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