

Student Spotlight - Xiomara Bolom



Meet Xiomara Bolom, one of our truly extraordinary seniors, a young woman whose life story is a testament to fierce, selfless love. At just fifteen, unimaginable tragedy struck when her mother passed away, forcing Xiomara to instantly become the sole caretaker of her younger siblings, overseeing their every meal and necessity. In an incredible act of devotion, Xiomara deliberately put her own academic life on hold for eight long years, sacrificing her chance to study so that her brothers and sisters could continue attending school.

Last year, the foundation of her world shook again when her father also passed, bringing Xiomara to the very brink of dropping out. She had carried the weight of her family for nearly a decade, and the responsibility felt impossible to bear alone.

Yet, with the immediate and unwavering support of Ak' Tenamit, Xiomara found the strength not only to continue, but to excel. Her persistence has paid off: she is now set to graduate with a secure, excellent job. Xiomara's victory is her family's salvation. Her hard-earned success guarantees one paramount thing: she will now be able to ensure that her siblings continue their education until they, too, achieve their dream of graduating from high school.

Xiomara's journey proves that courage, sacrifice, and the right support can overcome any adversity, transforming a legacy of loss into a legacy of triumph and hope.

Stitching a Future: Ak' Tenamit Students Earn Certified Sewing Skills



The synergy between global partners and local champions has ignited our sewing program! Inspired by Terri Naaf from Chicago, who generously brought the first sewing machines, our students displayed incredible aptitude, quickly grasping the mechanics despite limited home electricity. To ensure this momentum continued, Terri connected with local heroes Sofía and Tita of the Tikal Petén Rotary Club. They didn't just supervise; they orchestrated a significant upgrade, enrolling students in a certified industrial sewing course run by the renowned INTECAP. This crucial local-to-global pipeline ensures that the skills learned here—from basic operation to industrial production—are professionally recognized, giving our students a genuine advantage. We celebrate this powerful mentorship that turns enthusiasm into certified, tangible professional skills.

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
Phone: 561-747-9790 | info@thegtfund.org.

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 fundraising arm of Ak' Tenamit.



Graduation - November 2025



Dear Friends

As we wrap up this school year, our hearts are filled with immense accomplishment and gratitude for your faithful and transformative

support. Because of your commitment, we didn't just offer education; we equipped over 1,000 rural indigenous students with the tangible tools to overcome generational hardship through high-quality vocational training. This culminated in 176 young women and men who graduated not just with knowledge, but with over nine months of on-the-ground work experience—meaning most are already gainfully employed, equipped to secure good jobs, support their families, and launch income-generating enterprises in their home communities, all built upon a foundation of recognized resiliency and adaptability.

This immediate impact is crucial because the region we serve is under siege from a rapidly changing climate, facing devastating droughts and flooding, which compounds existing crises like the highest rate of malnutrition in Latin America and high rates of adolescent pregnancy. Yet, your unwavering support has fundamentally shifted this narrative for our over 5,000 graduates, enabling them to rise as powerful community leaders who are actively lifting

families out of poverty, using technology to help communities adapt, and securing essential land titles to preserve vital natural resources for the future.

Our innovative teaching methodology is now recognized nationally, regionally, and globally as a cost-effective, high-impact solution, leading to international sponsorship that has allowed our students and staff to share our success in global forums. This work clearly demonstrates that as the world faces greater challenges, the best pathway forward is to invest directly in the empowerment and leadership of indigenous communities so they can forge their own successful future. We ask you now to stand with these future agents of change, ensuring they can continue to lead their families and communities toward enduring prosperity while serving as dedicated stewards of the environment.

In Service,

Steve Dudenhofer
Founder/Chief Technical Advisor

■ Securing the Future: How Ak' Tenamit Students Led Conservation Dialogue in Abu Dhabi

We are bursting with pride as our team, staff and emerging student leaders, recently returned from the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi. This attendance was a global validation of the conservation model you powerfully support through your investment in Ak' Tenamit. As an accredited Indigenous Peoples Organization, our role was to showcase community-led success alongside global leaders at the Indigenous People's Pavilion. Our students, Linda Bedoya Tiul (Q'eqchi' Mayan) and Byron Cayetano (Garifuna), took center stage to discuss our vital reforestation initiatives and the intergenerational transmission of indigenous knowledge.



Complementing their message, recent graduate Krizzley Ordoñez detailed her essential work securing land titles for forest protection. This comprehensive presentation proved that our local stewardship is generating globally recognized conservation solutions.

We returned from Abu Dhabi energized, knowing the local knowledge you help us plant is now creating global solutions, confirming that your support directly empowers the next generation of sovereign conservation leaders to echo our work worldwide.

■ Graduation as a Lifeline: Forging Stability Amidst Climate Chaos and Social Pressure

The Ak' Tenamit dining hall has become an explosion of living color, a vibrant testament to triumph! One hundred seventy-six graduating seniors are weaving the very tapestry of their future, intertwining bright Heliconia and fiery Ginger blossoms with native palm fronds to adorn their celebratory space. These dedicated young leaders are fresh from completing their rigorous final internships, stepping out not just with diplomas, but with the solid job prospects needed to break the cycle of poverty and support their families—a first for many in their lineage.



This monumental achievement pulses with significance because it arrives at a critical juncture: our served villages are battling severe crop failures and rising malnutrition fueled by a relentless changing climate. Because of the sustained, powerful investment you make, this high school education stands as a crucial bulwark,

offering a vital, secure alternative to the tragic rise of forced marriages and adolescent pregnancies in these remote communities. Families embark on journeys lasting up to two full days, driven by the profound understanding that this parchment represents true security and self-determination. Ready to meet adversity head-on, the collective success of these 176 champions is the ultimate proof: your support doesn't just fund schooling; it invests directly in resilience, hope, and the forging of sovereign futures.

■ Building Beyond Structures: Rotary Instills Construction and Life Skills

Our dedicated Rotarian friends play a vital, hands-on role in advancing the mission at Ak' Tenamit's schools. Every year, we witness this incredible partnership in action, most recently when 25 Rotarians from the Chicago area Buffalo Grove Rotary Club returned to Guatemala for their yearly mission trip. These dedicated volunteers joined forces directly with our students to construct a beautiful new dormitory for staff and volunteers, significantly expanding our capacity to host and support our community. This infrastructure support was amplified by others: Rotarians from the Lake in the Hills Rotary Club built a new boy's dormitory, while the Vero Beach Sunrise Rotary Club generously funded and supported a crucial Solar Energy system to power our facilities. Beyond construction, the partnership fosters lasting skills; Rotarians have taught our students valuable sewing skills, helped them advance their English, and expanded their practical construction



skills. Furthermore, this global effort is seamlessly supported locally by the Tikal, Puerto Barrios, and Sur Rotary Clubs in Guatemala, who expertly host the international teams and provide essential, ongoing technical support for our schools. This collaboration truly builds more than structures—it builds a brighter future.

■ Solar Power, Spiritual Power: Monsignor Tom Lights Up Futures at Our School

The anticipation in the halls of Father Moran Vocational High School reached a peak as our beloved Monsignor Tom Skindeleski arrived for his incredible 20th mission trip! This year, he was again accompanied by a powerful delegation of men from the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council. For our students, these yearly trips aren't just a visit, they're the highlight of the year.

Weeks before his arrival, the excitement was channeled into preparation: students diligently practiced traditional marimba music and hymns in their Q'eqchi' Mayan language, readying themselves for the grand Mass that Monsignor Tom always celebrates at the school. It's a profound blend of culture and faith that deeply resonates with everyone present.

During their weeklong stay, the mission was one of skill-building and transformation. Monsignor Tom personally taught English lessons, while the Knights jumped into action, mentoring students in essential carpentry skills and basic electrical wiring. Their combined efforts resulted in the construction of a much-needed new computer lab and the installation of solar power lighting in a student dormitory—bringing sustainable light where it's needed most.

Over two decades, Monsignor Tom has made a tremendous, indelible difference in the lives of our students. His loyalty, paired with the practical skills shared by the Knights, has built more than just structures; it has built hope and a pathway to a brighter future. We are eternally grateful for their enduring support.

