



# Maya Educational Foundation

P.O. Box 1483, Wellfleet, MA 02667, USA  
mayaedufound@aol.com • www.mayaedufound.org  
Tel: (508) 349-1330 • Fax: (508) 349-0252

June 2016

Dear Friends,

Over the years I have had the good fortune to meet many of our university scholarship students and seen what your support to MEF achieves. It has made it possible for students like Lisbeth and Santos to study medicine in Guatemala. They are graduating this year and are about to start their working lives. In Chiapas, Mexico, scholarship recipient Marisol is able to study dentistry and will provide dental care to her community upon graduation. In Belize, Olario had a MEF scholarship and is now a teacher in his home town. These inspiring stories are multiplied many times over when you consider all the students who receive scholarships through the different programs supported with MEF funds.

As a member of the MEF Board, I have also been delighted to learn about the many different and creative ways people raise funds for MEF. Among others, these have included sales of Maya textiles that had lingered in donors' closets, a conference auction of a T-shirt that marked a moment in Guatemalan history, sale of paintings done by school children, vehicle and boat donations, people choosing MEF as their charity when ordering on Amazon ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)), supporters who ask their employers to match their donations, and more. All these efforts have been meaningful and vital contributions to the MEF programs, which allow more than 400 students to continue their education.

One creative, long-time donor is Abigail Adams, an anthropologist with deep roots in Guatemala. I've asked her to share with us some of her thoughts about why she supports the Maya Educational Foundation:

“For decades, MEF has answered my need to reciprocate in a fair and meaningful way what so many Guatemalans have given me as an anthropologist. I write in memory of a dear friend, Rosa Quim Xol, who died at age 56 and in whose name I'll make my annual donation. Rosa and her husband Domingo Tut Cuc head my host household in San Juan Chamelco, Alta Verapaz. Rosa was generous, funny, creative, and very intelligent. She taught me a lot about Maya education and literacy. She grew up desperately poor and left school as a young child to work. She became an astute business woman who ran a clothing store specializing in machine embroidered huipiles and wedding apparel. Every day she bought a newspaper, read it, and discussed the news at dinner. She read the Q'eqchi' language Bible and hymnal as well. Yet she could not write, not even to sign her name, and she described herself as illiterate, a self-labelling that the dominant culture supported. — All of her children completed their schooling and her grandchildren are now entering university. I challenge the label of illiteracy placed on her, and hold her up instead as a champion of Maya education. — MEF is how I can champion Maya education. MEF inspires my loyalty and also, it turns out, some creativity. When I got married, I asked friends to donate to MEF in lieu of wedding presents (I still received an inordinate number of large pottery bowls), and, now, carrying the wedding theme forward, as a justice of the peace, I officiate weddings and donate the fee to MEF.”

Thank you, Abigail, for sharing your thoughts!

This is my last letter to you as President of MEF whose Board I joined in 2005. I'm retiring and say farewell to you with confidence, knowing that the work will continue, carried on by MEF's Board and staff, and most of all by supporters like you. I will remain a devoted contributor and hope that you will, too, and that new supporters will join in and boost MEF's work far into the future.

With deep thanks and best wishes to you and your families,

Carol Hendrickson, MEF President



Santos, now a medical doctor in Guatemala



Marisol, a future dentist in Chiapas



Lisbeth, now a medical doctor in Guatemala



Olario, now teaching in southern Belize



For information about our work,  
please visit [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org)

Also, please like us on Facebook!

