



# Maya Educational Foundation

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*26 years of making a difference*

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Dear Friends:

We hope this letter finds you well and thank you for your interest in our work and programs in support of higher education for Maya students in Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico.

Today we would like to give special mention to the amazing Laurie Levinger for her selfless and generous service to the English Language Program (ELP) in Guatemala, five years as a teacher and nine years as its leader. She is now retiring and handing the reins over to Randhi Wilson who will lead this volunteer effort going forward. We are most grateful. — Laurie, we commend you for your dedication and for making the program so successful. We wish you the very best.

Earlier this year a volunteer teacher who had just returned from teaching English to MEF scholarship students in Antigua stated that the ELP experience was the highlight of her life. She said that the reason for this statement were the Maya students she met and worked with.

We agree that connecting to the MEF scholarship students is a great experience. Their energy, optimism and hard work ethic are infectious and impressive. Despite the many hurdles in their way (extreme poverty, tough family situations, and discrimination), these students persist in achieving their educational goals and have high hopes for their futures in their countries.

We strive to make the Maya students' lives a little bit easier and hopefully better by investing in their education. We believe in them and applaud their progress. Though by no means luxurious, MEF scholarships are making a critical difference in the educational and professional success of these students. With assistance from our local nonprofit partners MEF currently supports the education of 460 Maya students, with most of the funding dedicated to university level.

We feature MEF scholarship students in our mailings, e-bulletins, and Facebook posts throughout the year as we want you to know the young people who benefit from your generosity. If you want to sponsor a student and follow his or her progress, just let us know.

At this time our students in Mexico and Belize are getting ready to finish their academic year and will embark on their next academic cycle soon. Your contribution at the half-year mark will help those students in particular. When you make a charitable donation to MEF, you contribute to the education of students like Emilio (see p. 2) who are all working hard in pursuit of their goals and dreams for a better future.

Thank you for making that possible. We wish you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Elisabeth S. Nicholson". The script is cursive and fluid.

Elisabeth Nicholson, Executive Director

## Maya Educational Foundation scholarships

MEF's focus is on providing scholarships for Maya university students like Emilio in Chiapas, Mexico. He is finishing up a master's degree in rural development and also helps as a student coordinator. He says:



Without the MEF scholarships many of us students would be unable to complete such an important stage as university studies. We encourage you to continue MEF's work as it gives future young Mayas hope and the opportunity to train at universities and become valuable members of society.

We thank the foundation and its donors for the great support that you are giving us and above all for the happiness that each student feels when graduating and becoming a professional.



### Do you speak English?

Increasingly, our university students are required to know English in order to graduate in their fields. English Language Program volunteers from the U.S. have addressed this need since 2004. To name just a few: Outgoing ELP-Guatemala chief Laurie Levinger (2nd row, far right) whom we thank for her deep commitment to the students; Lianne Moccia (green scarf) to whom we are grateful for leading the ELP one year and co-managing it with Laurie other times; and Matt Zimmerman (back row on the left) who has played a vital part in the program. —Across the border in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, students have benefitted from Steve Homer's in-depth English classes for many years.



On behalf of the students and MEF to all volunteers, ¡muchas gracias!

Randhi Wilson  
(with student María Dolores)  
will be the next ELP leader.



### In Belize

Utilia receives a MEF scholarship to study at Julian Cho Technical High School in Punta Gorda, Belize. One of four children, her father died when she was young. She is a very good student and is looking forward to graduating this year.

Your generosity changes the lives of Maya students in southern Belize, in Chiapas, Mexico, and in Guatemala. Thank you!

To donate and to learn more, please visit [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org)