



# Maya Educational Foundation

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*25 years of making a difference*

June 2017

Dear Friends,

As we proudly celebrate MEF's 25th anniversary, this letter will bring you up-to-date on some events that have taken place as well as some that will still occur this year.

Led by all volunteers from the USA, the 12th annual English Language Program took place in January and was a resounding success with 20 Maya students learning English from native speakers. Our thanks to everyone who made this possible!

In March and early April, our executive director Elisabeth Nicholson undertook a 17-day journey to visit with all MEF partners and projects in Chiapas and the majority of projects in Guatemala. She met with students, supervisors, and groups of parents at scholarship programs as well as with the director and staff of CIRMA. Many of her photos and impressions are posted on MEF's Facebook page and also in the latest MEF E-bulletin at [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org).


Later in April I, too, had the opportunity to visit three of our program partners in Guatemala: Esperanza Juvenil and FEPMaya in Guatemala City, and Grupo Cajolá in Quetzaltenango. The scholarship recipients impressed us during our visits with a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility for the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams. The students acknowledge both their successes and difficulties in achieving their educational goals and know that a better education will help them secure a better future, not only for themselves but also for their loved ones.

As part of celebrating MEF's 25th anniversary, MEF's board members decided to hold the annual board meeting in Antigua, Guatemala this July (donated accommodations and air miles will make this event more economical than meeting in the US this year). While there, board members will be able to visit with our two largest project partners, FEPMaya and CIRMA. We are looking forward to meeting and hearing from the Maya students about their experiences pursuing university degrees and to talking with the staff members at CIRMA about the diverse projects they are currently working on. We will also connect with members of the Guatemala Scholars Network at their conference in Antigua. They have supported MEF's work all along and we are grateful to them.

After many years of valuable service, we had to accept the retirement of MEF board member John Farrow in March. We thank John for his friendship, dedication and insightful contributions to the organization and wish him well. He will be sorely missed.

¡Muchas gracias! to our partners and students for welcoming us so warmly during our recent visits and to you, our amazing donors, for your continued support and interest in MEF's mission. Please help us spread the word and consider making a mid-year, tax-deductible donation. We can say without a doubt that your contributions make a significant difference in the lives of Maya students, their families, and whole communities. Thank you.

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful summer!



Pablo Chavajay, President



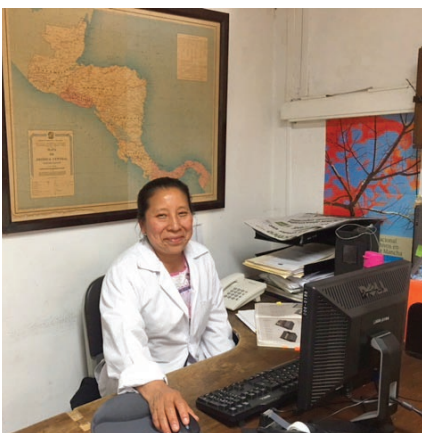
MEF President visiting with Esperanza Juvenil in Guatemala City, April 2017



A delegation of teachers and students from Entre Ríos, Petén traveled far to meet with representatives of the Daniele Agostino Derossi Foundation (Armando Alfonzo) and MEF (Elisabeth Nicholson) at CIRMA in Antigua Guatemala



Visiting with MEF scholars at Sna Jtz'ibajom in San Cristóbal, Chiapas in March



Reyna working to preserve history at CIRMA's Historical Archive



Your generosity makes this work possible. Thank you very much from the students, the parents, and all of us!

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

Also, please like us on Facebook!

