



# 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

## Supporting Education for Maya Students since 1992

June 2019

Dear Friends:

At the half year mark, we would like to thank you, our donors and volunteers, for your interest and support of our work on behalf of the Maya people. Thus far this year you have made it possible for us to successfully continue all ongoing MEF scholarship programs and projects in Guatemala, Mexico, and Belize and to serve more than 500 Maya students, 186 of them studying at university level. In addition, special grants have allowed us to support the work of CIRMA, the leading social science research center in Antigua, and to also help with three special projects (in Guatemala, rebuilding a crumbling wall around our partner FEP Maya's office in Mixco, and helping to complete a second floor at an educational center in Cotzal; in Belize, fixing student dormitories at Tumul K'in Learning Center). In January, volunteers under the direction of Randhi Wilson worked tirelessly to make the English Language Program a great success. Due to several organizations and individuals deciding to sponsor MEF scholarships this year, we now have sponsorships for a total of 46 Maya university students. Each such funding commitment gives the students and us great encouragement. Thank you.

Our gratitude goes also to our nonprofit partners who help us carry out our mission of educational advancement for the Maya people. Without their dedication and collaboration, we would have to establish costly administrative branches. We keep in regular contact with our partners and students and make frequent visits. You'll see photos of some of our recent visits to Guatemala and Chiapas on the back of this letter.

Regarding our nonprofit profile, we are pleased to announce that MEF has received the highest-level Platinum seal of transparency from GuideStar. In addition, we once again passed the auditors' annual test required for U.S. public charities. Every year MEF must show broad public support in the form of many different, individual contributions from donors large and small. As you can imagine, this is not an easy feat. Your continued support is therefore vital.

MEF donors share our belief that it makes sense to help indigenous people in their own countries where they are in great distress socially and economically. Their difficult situations can only be improved if they have a path to advance in their society. With higher education levels, they have a better chance at finding rewarding work in their homelands. MEF scholarships help young, hard-working Maya students succeed. The students deeply appreciate the scholarship opportunities and ask us to thank you. They understand that it is your support that makes their scholarships possible.

Exciting Challenge: We have a generous donor pledging to match your 2019 midyear donations to MEF dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$10,000! Contributions you make this June and July will qualify for this match. Please, help us meet this time-sensitive call to action. You can give to MEF securely online at [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org) and also by phone or mail.

We thank you for your support and wish you a healthy and happy summer!

Elisabeth S. Nicholson, Executive Director

PS: If you'd like to learn more about our work, students and nonprofit partners, please visit [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org) You'll find current news and photos, as well as all of our bulletins and newsletters there as well.





## In Guatemala

Earlier this year, MEF Board President Pablo Chavajay and Elisabeth Nicholson visited with the donor of student housing, renowned author and journalist Andreas Boueke and with the amazing FEP Maya students in Mixco.

Thank you for your hospitality and for giving us a tour of your common spaces and rooms and for sharing some of your life stories.

## In Chiapas, Mexico

Armando Alfonso, our former Executive Director, took time to meet with the leaders of our partner Sna Jtz'ibajom (House of the Writer) in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. The members of this group bring theater plays and books they write to Maya communities and also teach Tsotsil and Tzeltal so Maya heritage and the indigenous languages won't be forgotten. – In addition, they supervise 31 full-time university scholarship students for us. Thank you, Armando and *Muchas gracias* to Xun Teratol, Jorge Gutiérrez, and all our friends at Sna Jtz'ibajom. We are glad to be working with you.



Donate to MEF this June or July and your contribution will be matched dollar for dollar. Your support makes all the difference to Maya students. Thank you!  
[www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org)

