

SUMMER 2017

Education for Change

Breaking the cycle of rural poverty.

THE GUATEMALAN TOMORROW FUND
IN SUPPORT OF AK' TENAMIT.



It is with a heavy heart that we must share the news that The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund founder, Joseph (Joe) Dudenhofer passed away on April 5th at the age of 93. He was a tireless supporter of Ak'Tenamit's efforts to help the indigenous people of Guatemala overcome poverty. Originally from Milwaukee, Joe spent two decades working in advertising in Chicago before moving his family to Tequesta, Florida. He and his wife Patsy were supporters of Ak'Tenamit from the moment their son Steve started the project in 1992. Joe and friends created the Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund to raise funds for Ak'Tenamit. For more than two decades, Joe dedicated much of his time and energy to this organization. He visited Guatemala often, served on our board, and spent countless hours on the phone and the computer soliciting and coordinating support for our work. He remained engaged until his last days, and believed that there was no better measure of his worth than his charitable work. Joe's

life was celebrated with masses in Livingston, Guatemala and Hobe Sound, Florida, and Mayan ceremonies in Guatemala. He will be missed by many, but his compassion and altruism live on in Ak'Tenamit's daily work to improve the lives of some of Guatemala's poorest citizens.

January started again with a record breaking number of students moving into the Education Center at Ak'Tenamit! Every year we are turning increasingly more students away as our installations are full. Steve and the Ak'Tenamit staff work hard to find partnerships with organizations in other areas of the country where our unique curriculum can be implemented and allowing students to remain closer to their communities. In the meantime, our students are real troopers living and learning in the very basic rural facilities at Ak'Tenamit. We are eternally grateful to Catholic Churches and Knights of



Steve and Joe on the Rio Dulce

Columbus in the Diocese of Palm Beach, Rotary District #6440, 6930 and 4250 and the Engineers without Borders Chicagoland Chapter who continue to work tirelessly to improve the living conditions for our students. The girl's site is being refurbished with a new water pump powered by solar energy and a brand new bathroom building with flush toilets and sinks that will replace the existing pit latrines and bucket flush toilets that currently serve 200 girls, staff and the health clinic. Thanks to a grant from the Rotary Club of Hot

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Springs Village, Arkansas our vehicles received some much-needed maintenance and are back on the road transporting our students to their internship sites.



Sustainable Tourism student intern

The Sustainable Tourism Program is receiving a boost this year with grants from the World Wildlife

Fund and the German Government. Funds will be used to hire a reservation and operations manager to oversee 15 different community tourism initiatives in the Rio Dulce area, including several directly managed by Ak' Tenamit. Additionally, funds will be used to strengthen the curriculum for our students in areas such as policy development, tourism and communities, client service, food management, marketing and promotion and Maya Cosmo vision. Needed equipment for our restaurant schools as well as rental equipment like kayaks are also included in these grants. We are grateful for the



Jaime, Ak' Tenamit graduate is now a chef at Tre Fratelli Restaurant in Guatemala City. He lives on 50% of his income and the rest he sends home to his family.

support of these organizations. Our seniors have just begun their final 3-month internships, further honing the skills they acquired during 3-month internships in 10th and 11th grade. They will graduate October 27th with 12 times more practical experience than students from other schools and as such are likely to find gainful employment soon after graduation.

With your help, we are transforming young lives, but it isn't easy. Ak'

Tenamit continues to experience higher enrollment every year and it has been a challenge to keep everyone fed and healthy, and transport them between school and their internship locations. Your help has played a vital role in our student's success! Please continue to support our vital work with a donation.

Child Sponsorship: A \$365 annual student sponsorship helps pay tuition and buy food, school supplies, cover boarding and other essentials.

Healthcare Partner: \$120 annually supports our riverside healthcare clinic.

Where most needed: Unrestricted donations are especially valuable as they allow us the flexibility to use funds where they are needed throughout the organization.

You are making the world a better place, one young person at a time!

Sincerely,

Steve Dudenhoefer
Founder and Technical Advisor

Suzanne Cordero
Executive Director
The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund

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

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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 fund raising arm of Ak' Tenamit.

