

News

FROM AK' TENAMIT &
THE GUATEMALAN TOMORROW FUND



Education for Change

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty



When Ak' Tenamit began working in the Mayan villages of eastern Guatemala, it became clear that education was the only way to effect lasting change. We provide indigenous youth with the knowledge, skills and motivation to work their way out of poverty, while instilling them with a commitment to service.

Every one of the 390 young people who have graduated from Ak' Tenamit's Father Tom Moran Educational Center is a success story, and the more students that graduate, the better life gets in their communities. With the help of donors like you, we are transforming the lives of young people who would otherwise be trapped in poverty, and who are now helping their families and neighbors.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity that Ak' Tenamit has given me," Hector said. "I want to work hard, and give money to my parents, to help my brothers and sisters."

2012 Graduate

Hector de la Cruz

MANAGER AT BUGAMAMA RESTAURANT



Hector de la Cruz grew up in a one-room hut with his parents and seven younger siblings, in the village of Lagunita, on the Rio Dulce. His mother never went to school, and his father, Samuel, dropped out after third grade. Samuel explained that there is little arable land in Lagunita, and he struggled to deliver the 10 quetzals (\$13) worth of corn that Ak' Tenamit requires parents to contribute each month, to help feed students and staff. "It was hard to come up with 100 quetzals every month, but Hector is our future," he said.

Hector graduated from Ak' Tenamit's Father Tom Moran Education Center in November with a degree in sustainable tourism, and was hired as a manger at Bugamama Restaurant, which is staffed by students. He plans to give most of his salary to his parents and his younger sister, who wants to study nursing.



Educating Girls for a Better Future

ONE OF AK' TENAMIT'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS



Promoting the education of girls has been one of Ak' Tenamit's greatest achievements. Two decades ago, few girls in the area's Mayan villages studied beyond third grade. Now, almost half the students at the Fr. Tom Moran Education Center are female, and 154 young women have graduated and gotten jobs. International studies show that educating girls results in smaller, healthier, more prosperous families. Each year, we invite approximately 50 fifth- and sixth-grade girls from rural villages to a three-day workshop at Ak' Tenamit to convince them that education is their key to a better life.

Empowering Young Women



Feve Cabnal

SOCIAL WORKER, CISP

"Ak' Tenamit provided the foundation of my education," said Feve Cabnal, who went on to become a teacher, and study social work. She now works for the Italian nonprofit CISP in rural communities, promoting alternative incomes.

"In the classrooms of Ak' Tenamit, you get guidance. Every student learns to reflect, to decide where they want to go and what they want to achieve in life," she said. "In other schools, they just teach you courses, its purely theoretical. At Ak' Tenamit, they give you the theory, but also practical experience, which is fundamental."



Andréa Bo

PROJECT MANAGER,
FUNDACIÓN GUATEMALA

Andréa Bo's father didn't want her to go to high school, but she and her mother convinced him to let her study at Ak' Tenamit. She graduated in 2008, and has since worked for the Fundación Guatemala helping groups of

indigenous women to prepare their villages for natural disasters.

"I'm thankful to Ak' Tenamit for this idea that it is important to help communities," Andrea said. "You graduate with the idea that you have to work for the community, not just for yourself. It is beautiful to share with people."

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 (\$360 per year)**, you can transform the life of a young person who would otherwise be trapped in poverty.

Internships Prepare Students for Careers

INVALUABLE TRAINING FOR THE SENIOR LEVEL

In addition to the 3000 hours of practical training that Moran High School students get working at Ak' Tenamit's farm, restaurants and gift shops, seniors do two-month internships at fourteen nonprofit organizations and government offices. Those internships not only provide students with invaluable professional training, in some cases, they result in jobs.



Raul Cholom 2011 GRADUATE, WAITER AT HOTEL VILLA CARIBE

Raul Cholom did his senior internship in the restaurant of the Hotel Villa Caribe in Livingston, which hired him the day after he graduated. He spends most of his salary on his family – clothes and school supplies for his five younger siblings. He has also written proposals for the leaders or his village, Cerro Blanco, to the local government and companies, to request projects such as a

"I'm very happy to have this job, and to be helping my family and my community," Raul said.



Dilia Xol 2012 GRADUATE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dilia Xol did her senior internship with the Guatemalan environmental group FUNDAECO, which works with communities and grassroots organizations in the Rio Dulce area. Dilia helped members of the Mayan women's association AMMUDIS to hold workshops for women in remote villages to promote literacy, and the production of handicrafts, or other economic activities.

"I really enjoyed working with the women," Dilia said. "The experience helped me to overcome my shyness and fear. I learned a lot, and I now feel more capable."



Bernardo Caal 2012 GRADUATE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

For his senior internship, Bernardo Caal worked for the Municipality of Livingston. He helped a team of field technicians conduct a census of Mayan communities that will be used for the allocation of government funds. According to Oscar Gamboa, the municipality's Director of Planning, Bernardo did a great job. "He speaks the language, he understands the culture and the reality of the communities. Somebody from a city can do this kind of job, but they won't do it as well as one of the (Ak' Tenamit) students," Gamboa said.

"There have always been professional programs, but none of them are oriented toward rural areas as Ak' Tenamit is."

Carol Cohen

OWNER, LE CAFÉ

Groups of Ak' Tenamit students work at the bakery and restaurant Le Café, in Guatemala City, for two weeks at a time as part of the job training program. Le Café owner Carol Cohen has also hired several graduates.

"The students are great. They come so well prepared," she said. "I had my doubts at the beginning, since they come from such a rural area, but they really work hard and are so grateful for what you give them."

Manfred Hunger

GENERAL MANAGER, HOTEL VILLA CARIBE

Manfred Hunger has managed the Hotel Villa Caribe, in Livingston, for years. During that time, hundreds of Ak' Tenamit students have worked there and at that company's two other hotels. Hunger has also hired four Ak' Tenamit graduates, and intends to hire more.

"I myself see how serious, hard-working and responsible the students from Ak' Tenamit are. That's why I prefer hiring Ak' Tenamit graduates," he said.

The Impact of Giving

EDUCATION

339 Study at the Moran Center in grades 7 - 12 middle school and high school finishing this academic year



graduated in November 2012
Half with a degree in Community Development and Half in Tourism



38% are girls

Often the first in their family to study past the sixth grade

Students graduate with **3,000** hours of experience



15 hours per week worked by all Moran students in maintenance and on the school farm



HEALTH 2011



4,080 patients seen at the clinic

and it's



24/7
365 days a year

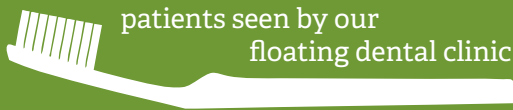
4,512



patients treated during health team visits to **18** villages

1031

patients seen by our floating dental clinic



43

emergency **1½** hour boat trips to the nearest hospital in Puerto Barrios

Become a Health Care Partner for only \$120 per year to help insure this care continues.

Our operating budget is \$120,000 with the help of medical volunteers and donated medicines.

DONATE NOW

Much has been accomplished - but much remains to be done. Help us continue to help the poor to help themselves by making a special end of the year Anniversary gift to the Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund.

Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund 2011 Use of Revenue

