

PUEBLOPARTISANS

Spring 2009



Young children from Pueblo Partisans' partner community of Tanhoc
Find out more at:
pueblopartisans.org

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Reasons for hope Tanhoc makes strides in education, health

By Amy Backes, Country Representative

There have been so many exciting developments in these last few months, that it has been hard just to keep track of them!

Thanks to your support, Tanhoc was able to begin middle school classes with its new community instructor in January and nine new women students enrolled.

Supporting the establishment of a middle school curriculum in Tanhoc has been a crucial and positive process for the community, as middle school

credentials are a major barrier for entry of most Guatemalans to the work force.

In keeping with Pueblo Partisans' principles, the people of Tanhoc interviewed and selected Mario Enrique Cuz Caal as their professor. He has brought great enthusiasm and creativity to his work. He is a fellow Q'eqchi speaking Mayan and lives in a nearby community.

His hiring marked the first time the people of Tanhoc have financially been able to interview

and hire someone to work in their community.

Tanhoc's many other students have been eagerly engaged in their studies. The commitment of Tanhoc's adults to the national literacy program, in particular, has been relentless.

While many literacy programs suffer from high participant drop-out rates, even those Tanhoc students that did not pass their literacy credentials last year have continued to work hard. Typically they attend night classes at the

end of a long day of toil in their home garden plot or jungle field.

This year Pueblo Partisans succeeded in offering scholarships to three outstanding Tanhoc students to pursue studies beyond middle school and connected nine women to a national scholarship program. We hope to expand these efforts in the coming year.

On February 7, in a show of extraordinary community solidarity, all the associates of the agricultural cooperative of Tanhoc planted 1000 trees around their water sources in order to demonstrate their commitment to ongoing conservation and reforestation efforts, as well as national environmental laws.

Last month, Pueblo Partisans organised a nursing student delegation from the University of Victoria. After spending two weeks working in urban slums in Guatemala City and Panajachel, the group arrived in northern Guatemala. All four agricultural cooperatives we work with



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Henry Wenceslao Maquin Tzul (left), 2009 scholarship recipient, has already made good on his desire to give back to the community.

He recently organised his business administration high school class to start a medicinal plant garden in the new Pueblo Partisans-Tanhoc conservation park.

Meet the other 2009 scholarship recipients at pueblupartisans.org

received clinics focused on women's and children's health, and all local health promoters and midwives received first aid training and medical supplies.

We also held our second annual soccer tournament, involving four Petén agricultural cooperatives: Concomá, La Unión Itzá, Tanhoc, and Santa Marta. Each set of games featured community

discussions about what a cooperative is, community plans for cooperative land once land debts have been retired, and women's participation and rights.

Recently, Pueblo Partisans also helped Tanhoc's women to found a community organic garden on cooperatively managed land.

Thank you for your continuing support of Tanhoc!

Save money on your taxes!

Pueblo Partisans is a registered charity and offers 2009-2010 tax deductible receipts for all donations.



Support Tanhoc's future

To find out more and calculate your tax credit please visit Pueblo Partisans' website.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, count me in! I'd like to:
	Donate \$_____ (suggested donation: \$100) to Tanhoc.
	Help fundraise for health and education in Tanhoc.
	Receive quarterly newsletters by email: _____.
<p>Please enclose your donation and contact details in an envelope addressed to Pueblo Partisans, 327 Machleary Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 2G8 Canada or Pueblo Partisans, 2011 St Johns Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661 USA.</p>	