

# Tamarindo Update

**WE ARE ONLINE!**  
[www.tamarindofoundation.org](http://www.tamarindofoundation.org)

## Making a difference in El Salvador

Volume 3, Issue 2

Fall 2007

### A Letter from John Guiliano



The rainy season is slowly coming to an end and this really is a spectacular time of year here in El Salvador. The country is under a blanket of green.

It has also been a very productive time inside the Tamarindo as we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community of Guarjila. Since August we have been looking at our own history and analyzing as a group what community actually means both in theory and practice.

We made a historic hike into Honduras in August to begin our reflection on Guarjila history. I think it was a very powerful experience for the Tamarindo's to walk over the mountains trails where over twenty five years ago their parents ran under the bombs of the Salvadoran government.

The hike from El Salvador into Honduras is something I think you would love and would make an excellent experience for our board or future student groups.

The hike led to the Mesa Grande refugee camp where many of the older Tamarindo's were born. In the camp the parents shared their many stories of survival, joy and sorrow of the ten years living inside the barbed wire of Mesa Grande.

Throughout the two day trip the parents also discussed how crucial the role of commitment and responsibility was to their own survival over the twelve years of war.

The trip also was an experience of community life as it was twenty years ago.

### What's Inside...

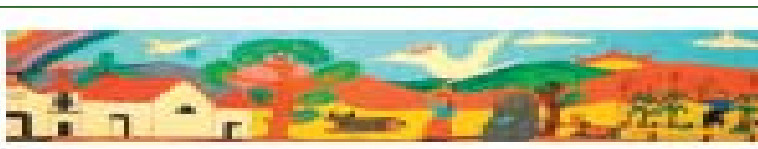
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The hikers going to the Mesa Grande refugee camp in

September was devoted to the development of the "Pequeñas Comunidades" (Small Communities).

The goal of the small communities is create a larger sense of commitment, leadership, responsibility, and purpose by each member of the Tamarindo. Inside of this organization each Tamarindo has had to reflect on their commitment to the Tamarindo and to the community of Guarjila.





## A Letter from John Giuliano (continued from page 1)



Obviously the Tamarindo isn't for everyone. Not every individual is prepared to make the personal sacrifice or take on the many responsibilities of the group. Our September reflections have called each Tamarindo to examine their own personal commitment and understanding of the Tamarindo Community. At the end of the month each Tamarindo had to decide if they wished to accept the criteria of being a Tamarindo.

What is wonderful about the small communities is the support that each individual can find within their own group.

The names of the communities were also chosen by the groups themselves. I asked the communities to choose a name which would best reflect their small community identity and goals.

- The six communities are called;
- 1) Community Padre Rutilio Grande
  - 2) Community Mohandas Gandhi
  - 3) Community Jon Cortina
  - 4) Community Oscar Romero
  - 5) Community Ignacio Loyola
  - 6) Community Juan Pablo II

I particularly like the reason for the Juan Pablo community. They chose the name based on the story of John Paul's radical ability to forgive. The members reflected on Juan Pablo going to the Italian prison to forgive Mehmet Ali Agca who attempted to take his life.

As we enter October the Tamarindo is working hard to prepare for the community celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Guarjila. We have been asked to contribute in many ways. We have decided to create a tribute to the elderly, a pupusa eating championship (that should be interesting), an original theatrical presentation on the founding of Guarjila, and organize the clean up after the celebration (a ton of work ahead...and trash).

The community has been inviting people from across El Salvador to participate in the three day celebration. The guest list includes friends from all over the world who made the repatriation of Guarjila a possibility. We are expecting over 1000 (or more) guests and people in town will take on the responsibility of food and shelter for all.



### The Tamarindo Council

Standing: left to right

Sylvia Navarette Guardado 27 (mother of 1 boy)

Maria Yolanda Delagado Guradado 26  
(mother of 3 boys)

Blanca Norelvi Urbina 15

Carlos Alfredo Tobar 15

Kneeling

Mario Roberto Lopez Vasquez 15

Enemias Henriquez Romero 25

Miguel Antonio Ramirez Bubon 26



We have also been a part of the development of a new community based youth organization which will bring together different sectors of youth in Guarjila. Fact is youth have no real representation in the community. The new youth organization will meet once a month with the hope of creating a new sense of responsibility for youth in the community. Hopefully this new organization will not only represent youth in Guarjila but also inspire new hopes and dreams in them. The Tamarindo Community will be represented by Elsi Dubon and Carlos Tobar (two outstanding people).

Lastly I wish to thank you for all your support over these months. Without you we can't do anything.

I also have a short list of requests.

#### John's List

1. Don't forget us
  2. Tell people about the work of the Tamarindo Foundation
  3. Go to [TamarindoFoundation.org](http://TamarindoFoundation.org) and be a monthly donor
  4. Be generous
  5. Plan a family trip to El Salvador (see [TamarindoTouringCompany.com](http://TamarindoTouringCompany.com))
- Pray ...without it what can we do?

It's amazing that we are entering October. In November we look forward to a trip to the Cortina Community at Creighton University, the arrival of Mark Brodnik in El Salvador and then..... *Christmas*.

With affection and thanks,

John G.

Tamarindo Community  
Guarjila, El Salvador  
Oct. 2007



*John Giuliano with his wife Maria and daughter Rose who is now 11 years old.*



## Reflections From the Clinic in Guarjila By Clifton Burt

If you ask me why I chose to spend my only long summer in medical school (six weeks between first and second year) in the small town of Guarjila, in Northern El Salvador, I'll tell you honestly "I don't know." While I had spent a year in Bolivia, I had spent only a week in El Salvador; yet something beckoned me to return to Guarjila. Three years ago I came with a group from the Arizona State Newman Center led by Father Fred Lucci, and under the direct guidance of John Giuliano and the Tamarindo Community. This time, as a medical student, I came exclusively to work in the Ana Manganaro Clinic. So, my

second day in the country, Monday, July 2, 2007, I got to work.

The clinic staff told me they did not know that I was coming, but without missing a beat they welcomed me and found me a place to stay with a very nice family down the street. I decided that rather than trying to tackle a certain project from the outset, I ought to see all of the different things that the clinic had to offer – and they were many.

Then ensued one of the best months of my life – and I consider my life to be a fortunate one. I met many wonderful people who welcomed me into their homes, whether invited or not.

The clinic treats all patients as walk-ins, there are no appointments. In addition I went on many home visits, both house calls to visit sick patients and the routine inspection of the town, tackling all or part of a sector in a given day. The clinic does so much for the betterment of the community.

The clinic enlisted my help in giving talks to the various community group meetings e.g. pregnant women, diabetes/high blood pressure, women, men, teens, etc. For example I helped give talks about AIDS, about nutrition, about proper foot care, and other general health info. I even gave a little nutritional talk to some of the promotoras (health promoters) at their staff meeting on things such as trans fats and cholesterol. It was fun and I hope it was helpful to the community.

While we visited homes the promotoras showed me how to find mosquito larvae breeding in the sinks and buckets, especially those of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito that can transmit dengue. It is through such efforts that Guarjila has possibly the lowest rates of disease in the country, going a couple of years without a confirmed case of Dengue Fever, no AIDS to my knowledge and no malaria, etc. They really take the resources available to them and use them to the fullest.

There were several things we checked on during our home visits: sinks, latrines, stored water, and woman's health, among other things. The sinks we checked for mosquito larvae; the people of Guarjila leave their spigot on so that the sink can fill with water when it comes, always at an unpredictable time of the day, which may come spaced out by a day or two. This water that has filled the sink they then use to cook, clean, etc., but they try not to empty it, because they'll run out of water. As a result of this standing water, mosquitoes may breed, possibly carrying Dengue. We checked to make sure that they had a bag of chemicals to kill the larvae, and that they emptied the water and washed the sink once a week.



**Clif meeting with the Diabetes/Hypertension Group.**



While one person checks the sink, another may check the bathroom, almost always a pit toilet, to make sure that there was a lid and that they used some type of desiccant, like sawdust to dry the contents. To that end, we tried to get them to toss the toilet paper inside (many people don't, believe it or not), to help aid as a drying agent. The importance of keeping the toilet dry and covered, is to prevent flies and cockroaches breeding there, both serious medical concerns.

We checked to make sure that they purified their water. The most common and cheapest method was to stick bottles of tap water onto the roof, which the sun will purify after several hours, although most leave them up there for several days.



The clinic lacks the capability to test the purity of its drinking water, nor can the clinic do any bacterial culturing. Instead, the doctors must rely wholly on clinical diagnosis and simple microscopic analyses. Testing would be extremely easy for the clinic to do given the right equipment, as the "promotoras" routinely visit every corner of the entire town each month on their house visits. Furthermore, there are several very capable people who can work in the lab, such as Angelica and Marleny, who received training from Ana Manganaro, Juan Luis, both a certified lab tech and medical student, and Amadeo, also a certified lab technician. I know the latter two have extensive training and experience using much more sophisticated microbiological equipment, but are forced to use what is at their disposal in the clinic.

In addition to the site check, we would ask the woman of the house when she had her last PAP smear, as well as check on any sick patients or children and pregnant women about whom there might be some concern.

Now I'm back in Philadelphia, hard at work on my studies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. I am very glad for having had the chance to visit the clinic, and will keep it in my heart as I study as a reminder of why I wanted to become a doctor in the first place.

Clif is studying at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Clif and the medical staff at the Ana Manganaro Clinic have compiled a list of the many needs of the clinic, including medicines. We would be happy to send the list to anyone who might wish to donate any items. Contact Clara

Pile,  
scpile@aol.com

**Clinic Staff: (from left) Reyandi, Marlene, Roxana (Esperanza's daughter), Dr. Marta, Esperanza, Dr. Dagoberto, and his dog.**

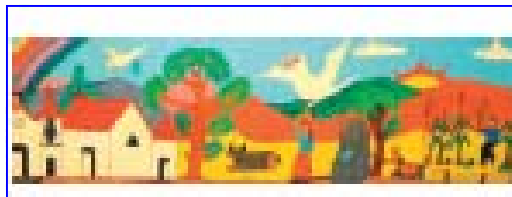


## A Summer in Guarjila by Jenna Knapp

I arrived in Guarjila, El Salvador with a small bag and only a faint idea as to what I might be doing this summer. I had ideas of starting an after school program for the kids in the town, perhaps tutoring individuals in English, or working with a woman's group, but I was willing to serve wherever the need was greatest. Upon my arrival I spoke with the director of the lower school and it became clear that my help would be most needed in the classroom because the English teacher at the school could not even speak English. From that point on, I became a 1<sup>st</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher for the following nine weeks of my stay. In order to do something somewhat sustainable, I worked with the current English teacher to try to help his English improve, as well.

When school ended at five o'clock each day I taught a smaller English class at the Tamarindo shop for young people who were no longer attending school. I spent each evening at the shop doing reflections and games with the Tamarindos and getting a chance to get to know many of my students on a deeper level. I helped facilitate dialogues and forums with different groups from the US who came down on immersion trips and organized activities like futbolito tournaments, "music of the revolution" nights, and "stone soup" nights. Just as I was leaving, we began planning a trip for the youth to walk through the mountains to the Mesa Grande refugee camp in Honduras with their parents as the guides, teaching the younger generation about both the hardship and the incredible sense of community that had marked their own journey to and from the camp. Whether we came together to share a meal, plan, reflect, play, or just to spend time together, I never missed a night at the center and really loved spending time with such incredible youth. As the rain poured down each evening and the stars shone brilliantly, I would walk home, always pleasantly weighted down with kids on my back and at my sides, to sleep in the home of my family of seventeen, who graciously found room for one more.

In the weeks to come, I spent a great deal of time with my family. They were my teachers in many ways. They lead me across the mountainside to the best swimming hole, and showed me the closest place to collect water to drink when the water pipes would break after a heavy rain. They taught me how to make necklaces out of fried bamboo, and to shake lemons from the trees to rub onto scorpion stings. Whether we were baking quesadillas in an outdoor mud oven at three o'clock in the morning to sell later that day or grinding cheese with a stone to make papusas to sell in the evening, I was always learning a great deal. They taught me about their past, about the history of suffering in the country, the horrific war they had survived, and shared the stories of those who had not been so fortunate. They showed me how to love hard, to be generous even when there is hardly anything to give, and how to laugh in moments of confusion.



When I was not with my family or other friends in the community, I could almost always be found at the school. Although I am not one for public speaking (in English, let alone Spanish) I had to overcome this obstacle on my first day of teaching when I stepped in front of thirty rowdy sixth graders, ages 11 to 18, with the instructions "teach whatever you want to teach." I learned quickly that games like Simon says and hangman are an invaluable resource in a room full of kids constantly begging for "dynamicas." The school had been set up to be a "pilot" school and the government had mandated that the students learn English every year, starting in the first grade. While this seems like an innovative idea, the school never received funding for teachers or supplies to carry out this initiative, so the students had no books or materials of any kind, nor did they have trained English teachers.

I began building relationships with many of my students, inside and outside of the classroom, and the floodgates opened as my students' stories poured out, allowing me to piece together and begin to understand the wide array of social problems that plague their lives. As stories about gang violence and abusive parents seeped out, I began to question my impact on my students and my place in their lives. How could I hold my students accountable for learning English when they did not feel safe as soon as they stepped out of the classroom? How could I motivate my students to stay in school when there are so few jobs in the country that even the few members of the community who have gone on to pursue university education now work in a meat packing plant in Omaha, Nebraska? I struggled with these questions, and many more, as I continued to teach in Guarjila, and certainly did not come up with any quick answers. If anything, teaching English would provide certain students with skills to pursue jobs in the tourism industry in El Salvador. For many more students, however, it will only serve to help them get by in a few years as they struggle through multiple jobs in the States, sending money back to help sustain their families at home each month. This is really the harsh reality of the situation facing El Salvador's youth right now.

Although I did not solve any grand problem, I went and I asked questions. These questions I will seek to answer throughout my life. I saw so many areas in which I could focus my efforts in my life to help create justice and change. My time in Guarjila this summer, the friendships I made, classes I taught, and times I shared may have just been a drop in the ocean, but they were a brilliant and life-giving drop that will remain with me throughout my life as I seek to work for peace and justice.

Jenna is in her second year of studies at Notre Dave University.



## Archbishop Mitty High School

This is a letter that The Tamarindo Foundation received from Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, California:

“Please accept this donation on behalf of the Archbishop Mitty High School community. Each year our Campus Ministry’s Immersion Program hosts a Solidarity Dinner. During the evening, community members eat a simple meal of beans and rice as a symbol of solidarity with those who do not have enough to eat. It is a special night to pray, sing, and hear student reflections on the immersion experiences they’ve had in El Salvador, South Africa, Appalachia, Tijuana, San Francisco, Arizona, East Los Angeles, and right in San Jose.

“The money students and parents donate to attend the dinner, and share in the simple meal, is then used to help support the service agencies and communities we work with through our Immersion Program—we rotate and donate to three a year. We deeply value the relationship we have with you and are happy to offer this small gift of appreciation and support. Thank you for the incredible work that you do.”

Janelle Kroenung  
Immersion Trip Coordinator.

THANK YOU, Archbishop Mitty High School!

## New Jobs in El Salvador

For the past nine years members of the St. Pius X El Salvador Project of Indianapolis have been selling the beautiful hand embroidery work of the women of El Portillo los Guardados, El Salvador, our sister relationship. The income for the women was very small and we always had hopes of helping the women find a more steady income.

This summer we succeeded! Through working with the Marketing Coordinator of the USAID Artisan Development Program in El Salvador, THIRTY women and teen age girls from “Portillo” are now employed by the small family owned company of Palma City. The company sells hand embroidered items (handbags, little girls’ dresses, placemats, etc.) in several European countries, as well as in Mexico and at the airport in San Salvador. The company is starting a new line of articles and, in addition to the original sixty artisans in La Palma, needed THIRTY experienced workers to do the hand embroidery. The women work from their homes and are paid by the amount of embroidery that they produce.

After learning of the job opportunity, one teen age girl commented, “Now we can buy the things that we need for school.” Hopefully this opportunity will not only improve their quality of life, but will also increase their self-esteem.

### WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH!

Please send all changes of address, both mailing and e-mail to:  
Clara Pile: [scpile@aol.com](mailto:scpile@aol.com)

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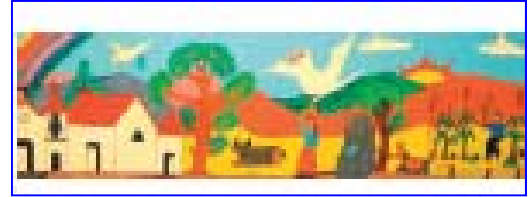
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For information or to contribute  
to the newsletter, contact  
Clara Pile at

**[scpile@aol.com](mailto:scpile@aol.com)**





## THE TAMARINDO FOUNDATION SAYS GOODBYE TO KATIE MILLS

It is with regret that we report that Katie Mills, Director of Fundraising for the Tamarindo Foundation for several months, is no longer with the Foundation.

After graduating this summer from Arizona State University with a BA degree in political science and with minors in Spanish and Anthropology, Katie will begin a new and exciting chapter of her life. The first part of February she will leave for Lima, Peru where she will continue her studies at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru as the recipient of a Rotary Club Scholarship. She has been accepted into the school's certificate program for graduate studies in International Migrations, Globalization and Development.

In addition to her studies Katie will serve as a goodwill ambassador to Peru giving presentations about the United States to Rotary clubs and other groups as well as leading service projects.

To say that Katie was an asset to the Foundation would be a real understatement!! She set up the database for the Foundation, took on the responsibility of working with a friend to set up the Foundation's website, organized an on-line auction for the Foundation--and more. All of this was done with her unbelievable energy and enthusiasm!!

In spite of the MANY hours given to the Foundation Katie chose to not accept a salary.

The Tamarindo Foundation would like to express it's deepest gratitude to Katie for the work that she has done in furthering the Foundation's mission of supporting The Tamarindo Community!

***DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS  
MOVED AND IS NO LONGER ON OUR  
MAILING LIST?***

**If they would like to continue to receive information about the Tamarindos, please send their mailing information to: Clara Pile:  
[scpile@aol.com](mailto:scpile@aol.com).**

## WELCOME TO MARK BRODNIK

Hello to everyone... It is with great passion and purpose that I join the Tamarindo team as an intern. I first visited El Salvador with a group from Marian College (Indianapolis) in March of 2004. My interests in social justice were, at best, relegated to an intellectual level. So, what was my reason for going? Within a day of meeting John Guiliano, and after observing first hand where Archbishop Romero, Fr. Rutilio Grande, the Maryknoll sisters and the Jesuits had been martyred, AND hearing the stories of Rufina Amaya and the Tamarindos, my reason had become clear. Consequently, I left El Salvador that week with, the passion to say, "I MUST come back."

Inspired by the philosophy of the Jesuits provided by my professors and that of the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador I lived as a Jesuit "candidate" for seven months. Although I subsequently decided against joining the Jesuits, this period of time served to deeply enrich and reinforce both my Ignatian spirituality and my passion for social justice..

In Oct. 2006, during a chance visit home and to Marian College, I saw my theology professor Mike Clark walking toward me...with John Guiliano. To this point, the main obstacle to my living in El Salvador had been that John was not connected with an entity/association recognized by the government as a registered non-profit. This made it impossible to get my student loans deferred. NOW, he was. I was hired by the foundation and am currently working on various projects here in the States. I am trying to raise the money necessary to provide for a future extended stay in El Salvador, where I will attempt to assist John and the foundation in whatever way possible. As I stated earlier, it is with great passion and purpose that I accept this new challenge and I hope to be involved with the Tamarindos well into the future.

Thank you.

## The Story of the Tamarindo Touring Company:

Tim and Cathy Thoman have supported John Guiliano's work with the Tamarindos for the past 11 years. They have been amazed at the impact John has made in the lives of these Salvadoran youth in terms of effectively teaching important life skills, including; community service, leadership, teamwork, responsibility, love of God and neighbor, winning and losing with class, importance of education, and how to set and achieve goals. They saw the fruits of John's tireless work in the leadership positions the older Tamarindos have assumed within their communities, the high school and college degrees they earned, and the character/integrity of these Salvadorans.

Unfortunately, many of these very talented Tamarindos felt they had to emigrate to the U.S. when they came of age because there were no jobs in El Salvador that could allow them to provide financially for a family. On a visit to El Salvador, Tim was drinking a \$4 latte at a gourmet coffee shop in San Salvador, pondering John's comment that Salvadoran's were paid \$5/day to pick coffee beans -- and it struck him that the lack of decent paying jobs wasn't due to a poor economy, low prices, or insufficient business opportunities, but rather due to the fact that the profits were being retained by a few rich business owners and not shared with the workers. Tim felt called to help the Tamarindos, which was the purpose for his trip. He had prayed before arriving in El Salvador that God would guide him as to what He wanted Tim to do. Tim now felt certain that starting a business in El Salvador was the clear answer to that prayer. Tim asked John to brainstorm with him on businesses they could operate locally that would provide decent paying jobs (\$12,000/year) to enable the Tamarindos to stay in El Salvador.



The answer soon became obvious -- start an adventure tour business! Putting together the Guiliano family and the Tamarindo Community's successful track record at running memorable tours, the spectacular Salvadoran landscapes, and the friendly Salvadoran people, the pieces fell together. El Salvador is also undiscovered, which means new and refreshing experiences for guests and best of all, **no crowds!** One year later, after uncovering some magnificent destinations, 5 star resorts, tremendous adventures – and of course, the investment of significant time and money, the Tamarindo Touring Company has been launched.

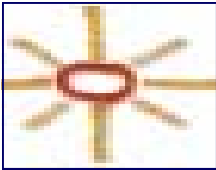
## Opportunities for Economic Development = Jobs for the Tamarindos!

The Tamarindo Touring Company (TTC) is a for-profit adventure tour company that provides economic opportunity for individuals who have become leaders in the Tamarindo community and beyond!

The touring company offers escorted tours to exhilarating destinations in El Salvador. Adventures include; volcanic crater and Pacific ocean SCUBA diving, surfing, zip-line tours, deep-sea fishing, kayaking, hiking, biking, river rafting, artisan tours, historical and cultural tours – and more!

View the TTC website at <http://www.tamarindotouringcompany.com> or call 1-888-882-8006 for more information about this unique Adventure Touring Company in El Salvador.





## Supporter Contribution

(contributions may also be made online at [www.tamarindofoundation.org](http://www.tamarindofoundation.org))

*If you prefer snail mail, please tear and mail to the address below.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

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### Amount of Tax-Deductible Contribution

\$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member of the Tamarindo Foundation

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (student)

(For those who wish...)

I would like to make this contribution in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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