



Tamarindo Update

WE ARE ONLINE!
www.tamarindofoundation.org

Making a difference in El Salvador

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2008

The View From Here- by Bud Frutkin, President



Recently, Clara Pile, our newsletter editor, asked me to provide you with an overview of Foundation accomplishments for the last year or so. My immediate reaction was to tell her how much more focused I feel about work that remains to be done, not on accomplishments. I even jotted down as a working title, “The Good, the Bad, and the Undone.”

So, with future projects tugging at my sleeve and past goofs still making gurgling noises somewhere in the dark chambers of memory, this is how I’d like to approach this piece: I’ll tell you about the good stuff now, if I can reserve space for a future piece on unsolved problems and maybe even a reflection piece about some of our mistakes. (That’s the really important one, since mistakes fuel our learning faster and fuller than anything else.)

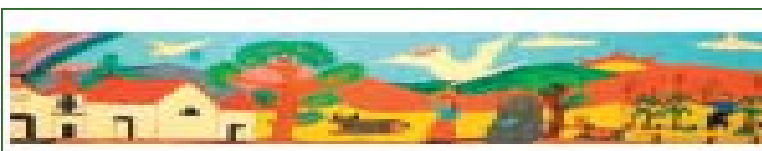
So, with those caveats in mind, here is a bullet-point list of most of the good stuff, along with some limited comments (for extended comments, go to our website and look for President’s Not Very Annual Report :

- **Coffee House fundraiser**—our biggest success to date; see detailed article in this issue
- **Fluoride project**—400 students getting weekly doses of fluoride now
- **Thank-you letter system**—it seems to be working better
- **International design award for our logo**—Graphic award given in Switzerland; many thanks to our supporter Paul Knapp, president of Young & Laramore
- **Mateo & Marta at Xavier University**—meeting them at X.U.
- **e-Tapestry**—our new database manager gives us security and reliability

What’s Inside...

- **Guarjila Clinic Update**
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- **Tamarindo Foundation Connecting With Others**
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- **Groups Visiting the Tamarindos**
- **Lemonade Stand Helps the Tamarindos**
- **A Birthday Party That “Gives”**

- **Portillo**—board members Clara Pile & Pat Baughman revisit the village where we began our El Salvador journey and promote an expanded women’s embroidery project with big potential
- **Making local connections: Bishop Gomez project, Timmy Foundation**—a local event involving the Lutheran Bishop of El Salvador and a local foundation that supports medical projects in Africa & Latin America; result: new friends on the local level
- **Stroller for family in Guarjila:** a crippled little boy gets some tangible help
- **Stu Sobel relationship**—our tax advisor and charity guru keeps us away from the precipice and we learn how to appreciate him
- **Orchard School Program**—a local project that produced some camaraderie
- **Jeff Callis**—newest board member makes a big difference
- **Making local connections: Bishop Gomez project, Timmy Foundation**
- **Website updates**—we are getting there, but still slowly





The View From Here (continued from page 1)

- **Board of Directors**—all members serving three year terms now & discussion for board development underway—using an outside vendor to provide us with mentoring support
- **Project for Guarjila school**—“**Out of the internet and into the toilets**”: one project gets challenged, re-thought, and replaced by a more down-to-earth alternative
- **Monthly giving program**—the “100 x 100 club” still needs a big boost
- **New receipt log—Jenny Malto**—a simple but breakthrough tool for us to track expenses in El Salvador
- **Filed tax returns: requires some discipline**—a little discussion of tax matters and why they are so important
- **Survived without replacing Katie Mills so far**—director of fundraising now raising spirits in Peru; we still thrive in her afterglow. See Katie’s blog about her adventures in Peru at www.rotary-katieinperu.blogspot.com
- **Wheelchair for Jose Felix**—another little boy gets tangible help
- **Tomas Dubon fund & beginnings of free-standing Emergency Medical Fund**—a beginning blossoms from a crisis
- **Health care benefit for John & family**—a knee surgery kicks off a better compensation package
- **Improving relationship with St. Pius**—non-prescription drug drive & adult trip planned for Jan. 09, the first in years
- **Eye equipment to Ana Manganaro clinic**—across the Honduran border to Guarjila, and not easily
- **Fundraiser dinner in Fall**—eyeing another annual event with experienced help
- **FTM now helping with accounting**—more continuity using local vendors
- **Rufina Amaya’s funeral**—we can handle the emergencies, it’s the everyday stuff that still needs heroes
- **Clinic—better communications**: we pledge wider support, we get beautiful 27-page annual report

Whatever happened over the last year was the result of 16 board members interacting multiple times not only at our regularly scheduled board meetings every other month, but also at other gatherings focused on specific projects. For instance, the Executive Committee met at least 11 times in addition to board meetings, and you should know the names of the people on that team: Tom Essling, our Treasurer; Diane Hendrickson, our Secretary; Mike Qualters, our Vice President; Debbie Sahm; and myself. Lots of probing, lots of discussion, lots of action, lots of generosity, lots of care (our Secretary Diane takes really excellent, amazingly detailed notes of all meetings); and lots of accountability (my greatest respect and thanks to so many people who execute on their promises).

So, to paraphrase that old song from one of my favorite English, WWII movies, “God bless them all, the long, the short and the tall, God bless them all.”



Bud Frutkin, president of the Tamarindo Foundation.



The Guarjila Clinic



Update on the Ana Manganaro Community Clinic Diane Funk

As part of the medical team that travels to Guarjila, I have had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Dagoberto Menjivar and the health promoters about the health clinic's needs. My overall impression is that they are a resourceful, professional group that has accomplished much in a relatively short timeframe.

The clinic originally started in a small house for basic healthcare after the Salvadorans returned from Honduras refugee camps in October of 1987, despite that the war continued until the Peace Accords were signed on January 16, 1992. With the assistance of Sr. Ana Manganaro, a Sister of Loretto and a physician, a system was developed to educate health promoters and midwives. The health promoters originated from the refugee camps and the mountains; 300 were initially trained. With international donations, Sr. Ana and Fr. Jon Cortina (also a civil engineer) designed and built the present clinic, completed in 1990.

The Guarjila clinic serves as the center of healthcare for a 35 km area. Objectives of the clinic's healthcare: to remain free (to those in need), autonomous (from the government), and available to all the people. A specific objective of the clinic is to contribute to the development of the community; participation equals development. Healthcare in the country is supported financially by three sources: the local community, in the form of voluntary contributions for services; the government, from which this clinic does not receive support (or they will lose control of its management); the international community. Their clinic has proven to be more effective and efficient as compared to the country's government-controlled clinics. For 2007, the total income of the clinic was \$96,342.59; \$92,072.70 was spent. Local income for health services accounted for 16.7%, and 76.5% of the total income was provided through donations by counterpart organizations (the balance is accounted for by carryover income from 2006). Little financial support goes toward medications, the second greatest expense, of which they are in great need. The greatest expense: salaries for the physician and the health promoters. Health promoters may make \$75/month; this is not enough to support their families. Unfortunately, the clinic will be losing their largest contributor for 2009; they received greater than \$34,000 from this organization for the 2007 budget.

Some of the ways our local community has supported the clinic: the St. Pius El Salvador Outreach Program recently conducted a non-prescription medication drive, which was sent down to the Guarjila clinic in March. Dr. Bill Tellman, a member of the Foundation, has instituted a program to provide fluoride treatments to the ~440 school children of Guarjila; a program to provide the treatments to the ~50 students in Portillo is underway. The Foundation recently funded the transfer of donated optometry equipment (an ophthalmic examination chair, a stand, a slit lamp, and projector) from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to the Ana Manganaro Clinic. The equipment was donated by Dr. Kevin Waltz. The Foundation does provide a monthly stipend of \$1,116 to the clinic for expenses.

I have chosen to focus on the financial aspects of the clinic rather than their achievements, as this is a very real, tangible need that can be met by the international community. The commitment of the health care workers is inspiring; they work hard and serve so many for little monetary support. I plan to write my next check to the Foundation in support of the clinic; my hope is that you will too.



LUIS LOPEZ— ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TAMARINDOS

By Maria Guiliano



Friends and people who know Luis Lopez would agree in describing him as a careful speaking, smart young man. But among his many qualities perhaps the most significant one is his well defined personality.

A member of the Tamarindo group since it was first started in 1992, Luis was one of many children who inspired John to start this organization.

He grew up during the El Salvador Civil War, 1980-1992.

Luis was born thirty-one years ago in the remote border town of Arcatao, twenty miles from Guarjila. He and his four brothers and three sisters knew little about their father who was assassinated by the National Guard when Luis was four years old. During the early years of the war men were commonly part of the guerrilla organization. In 1980, when the war broke out, his mother, Isabel, along with hundreds of people seeking safety, led the children to the Mesa Grande Refugee Camp in Honduras.

The camp was a place where they felt safe. Shelter, food, basic education and healthcare were provided to everyone, but not freedom. They were not allowed to go anywhere outside the fenced area. Seven years passed there. “What I most remember of those years is that, at nine, I got my first job. I worked growing vegetables and I loved it. My payment was tomatoes, many of them! I was proud to bring them to Mom because she motivated me to do my job.

Then the government permitted the refugees to return to El Salvador. Despite the danger of the war, families decided to go back. Luis and his family arrived in Guarjila in 1987 with many other families. However, this time two of his siblings, Catalina and Pastor, were missing. In those years, teenagers were part of the guerrilla effort and they had been fighting with them in the mountains for three years. In his memory Luis sees soldiers, and a house they shared with fourteen families and their mothers teaching them to fear the mines and be good and not to go far because the soldiers were close. Little by little people started building homes. His older brother, only 16, wanted to join the guerrilla forces. He disappeared and was never found. “I cannot forget him. I have a picture of Meme, and his smile. He is still here.”

Luis’ Words:

“Life then wasn’t difficult. There was no electricity, nor TV. I played a lot and went to school. I have never liked to go to school. There was also a garden and I worked there too... growing more tomatoes. The rest of the time we played with other boys and we were combatants. I wanted to be a guerrilla. Five more years passed in front of me, a child. We often saw dead people, bodies or pieces of them. But I did not cry, we were used to that.”

1992

“One day I was 15 and there was no more war. I do not remember when I met John Guiliano. I only remember I wanted to learn to ride a bike and he had one. That is how I began to attend the Tamarindo Group. At the beginning, I wanted to ride the bike. Then, I started to like it even more. That was a great place for me to hang out, to pray, to read, to talk, and meet people. And, ever since, I am a Tamarindo.

“At the same time, a new project was started in Guarjila and I learned carpentry. I took it really serious and today this is my profession and I pretty much love it.

“Many different stages of my life have passed. But I always remember to be a Tamarindo. I have received many blessings from the group and I even finished high school. I value all these years and everything I have learned in the Group.”

2004

Luis is also a well known person within Guarjila. He is well respected for his determination and intelligence. In 2004 he was elected president of the Directiva in Guarjila, a type of local organization that administers the town. This experience took him on a visit to Madison, Wisconsin when a sister parish invited him as a speaker. “Whenever I can I like to make my contribution to the community.”

New Opportunity

“I have also recently joined the Tamarindo Touring Company, (www.tamarindotouringcompany.com) a new project that is a good job opportunity for me. I am a driver and a tourist guide. This is a job that allows me to make some money to help support my own family, my wife, Ingrid, my daughter, Courtney, 5, and Thomas Lee, 8 months.

“I plan to continue working here. As difficult as it is, life is full of joy for me. I have a young family and friends here and overseas. I have the Tamarindo Group and a job. I still make furniture. I love music and keep learning English. I am thankful for my life and the choices I have made.”





The Tamarindo Foundation Makes Connections

by Mike Qualters

It has been a busy spring in Indianapolis for the Tamarindo Foundation. In an effort to increase public awareness for El Salvador and to have a chance to work with other local groups with ties to El Salvador, the Tamarindo Foundation took part in three ecumenical events.

The first was a memorial service on March 24 honoring the anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. The service was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in downtown Indianapolis. The bi-lingual service included songs, excerpts of Romero homilies and gospel readings. After the service, a light meal was provided that consisted of Papyrus, a traditional Salvadoran food, and juice. The Tamarindo Foundation partnered with Mr. Kent Newton, a local attorney, who is affiliated with the Equal Exchange (www.equalexchange.com), a worldwide, worker owned cooperative that facilitates fair trade between farmers and consumers.

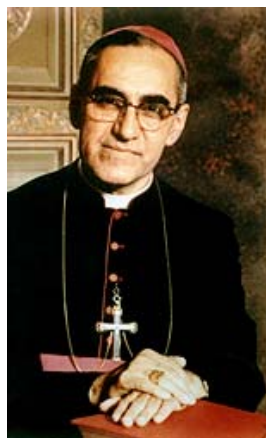
On May 15, the Tamarindo Foundation participated in a public address by visiting Salvadoran Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez. Bishop Gomez was in Indianapolis to receive an honorary degree from the Christian Theological Seminary. Bishop Gomez is considered one of the most influential leaders in El Salvador today as he continues the work of his friend Archbishop Romero, fighting for peace and justice for those on the margins of society. Bishop Gomez spoke on the topic of immigration, its causes and effects. His message was clear that immigration is a social problem on a worldwide scale and that government, church leaders, large corporations and local citizens all must be a part of the solution. He mentioned that until developing countries can offer their bright young people quality education and an occupation with a dignified salary the mass exodus will continue. He mentioned that the work the Tamarindo Foundation is doing in Guarjila, El Salvador, is an example of a grass roots effort that is providing educational opportunities and creating hope for so many young people and this type of work is invaluable to the communities.

On May 18, The Tamarindo Foundation participated in a private event for Bishop Gomez at the home of Rose and Larry Kleiman in Indianapolis. The reception and dinner was a chance to meet and talk more intimately with the Bishop about his work in El Salvador and the challenges he faces. Once again, the Bishop mentioned how the work of the Tamarindo Foundation was so critical to the community and how important non-governmental organizations will be for the future of El Salvador.

These three events were a great way for the Tamarindo Foundation to meet new groups who are also involved in El Salvador. The new relationships formed with the Timmy Foundation, Equal Exchange, CoCoda and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador will benefit all as we begin to probe the possibility of working on future projects together so we may continue to make a difference in El Salvador.



Lutheran Bishop Gomez (left) was a friend of Archbishop Romero in El Salvador. He continues the fight for peace and justice.



Tamarindo Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization devoted to making a difference in El Salvador

- Pat Baughman
- Jeff Callis
- Tom Essling
- Nick Fohl
- Bud Frutkin
- Tom Funk
- Jennifer Grontkowski
- Diane Hendrickson
- Tim Logan
- Alice Mattingly
- Clara Pile
- Mike Qualters
- Debbie Sahn
- Mary Sukup
- Carol Wagner
- John Guilliano,
Director of Operations in El Salvador

Contributions to the foundation may be sent to

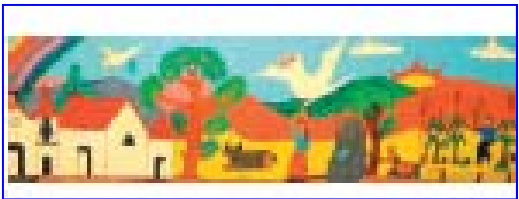
The Tamarindo Foundation
P.O. Box 90404
Indianapolis, IN
46290-0404

Or go to

www.tamarindofoundation.org

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

scpile@aol.com



The "Tamarindo Coffeeshouse Group" playing at Fatima Retreat Center in Indianapolis.

OUR FIRST "COFFEE HOUSE" FUNDRAISER

BY DEBBIE SAHM



Recent high school graduate Liz Fohl playing her original music.

The Tamarindo Foundation had its first annual "Coffee House" evening on Sunday, April 27th at Fatima Retreat House located on the north side of Indianapolis. Well over 100 people came to listen to our own Indy Hoosiers entertain for the evening. Mike Qualters, Christ Dietrick, Liz Fohl, Mary Sukup, Tom & Jim Funk & their sons, J.T. & Ryan had the crowd clapping, dancing and swaying to the music. The definite favorites were renditions of Rocky Top, Amy and Margaritaville!

A big *"thank you"* to all our supporters who made the evening such a HUGE SUCCESS! A generous long time St. Pius Parishioner, Carl Arnold of Classic Cleaners, really got the buzz going with a matching promotion of fifty percent for anything up to \$100, one hundred percent for gifts of \$100 to \$499, and doubling anything over \$500. The excitement could be felt all evening. Everyone enjoyed coming together with friends and family to help raise awareness and money for the Foundation.

We would like to encourage our members outside of Indiana to have a Coffee House evening within their own communities. If you want to find out how to do this, contact us on our website www.tamarindofoundation.org.

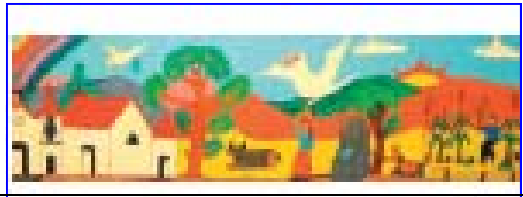


Parishioners Carl Arnold and Beth Reitz enjoying the music.



Tom and Jim Funk with their sons J. T. and Ryan singing "American Pie."





GROUPS VISITING THE TAMARINDOS IN 2008

John Guiliano and The Tamarindos are hosting groups from the following schools this spring and early summer:

March: St. Mary's College High School; Berkeley, CA
Arizona State University; Tempe, AZ

May: Creighton University; Omaha, NE

June: Archbishop Mitty High School; San Jose, CA
St. Francis High School; Mountain View, CA

Tamarindo Touring Company

The Tamarindo Touring Company offers adventure tours, led by members of the Tamarindos. If you are interested in adventures- kayaking, scuba diving, deep sea fishing, hiking, mountain biking and more- contact www.tamarindotouringcompany.com and help the Tamarindos at the same time.



Dutton with his lemonade stand. He even had pictures of the Tamarindos on his sign.

Lemonade Stand Raises \$ for the Tamarindos

After Charlotte Eilbert's visit with the Tamarindos last June, as part of the group from Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, CA, she spent much of her summer raising funds for the Tamarindos. Using pictures and letters she inspired family and friends to give to her cause.

Three ten year old cousins, Dutton, Ben and Holly Crowley, continued her campaign by setting up a lemonade stand in Spokane, WA. Dutton is pictured, along with Charlotte's photographs of the Tamarindos. Look for the lemonade stand again this summer!

THANK YOU, DUTTON, BEN, AND HOLLY for your support of the Tamarindos.

A Birthday Party "Gives" to the Tamarindos

Gwen Meyer's family was motivated to help the Tamarindos after listening to her tell about the people of El Salvador that she met during Creighton University's visit there last spring.

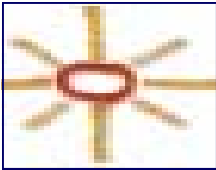
As the time for her young cousin's second birthday approached, Joelle's parents, Dustin and Lynda Lewis, feeling that, "most of us in North America have so much more than we could ever need", asked the guests if they would bring monetary contributions for the Tamarindos instead of gifts for Joelle. (The Birthday Girl is second from the left!)

THANK YOU TO JOELLE AND THE BIRTHDAY GUESTS for your contributions to the Tamarindos!



Joelle (2 years old- 2nd from left) enjoys eating cake with her friends at her birthday party. The party raised money for the Tamarindos.

If you have a story and/or pictures of your fundraiser, please send them to Clara Pile-CPile@tamarindofoundation.org



Supporter Contribution

(contributions may also be made online at www.tamarindofoundation.org)

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

Name _____ email _____

Address _____
Street City State Zipcode

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 _____

Make checks payable to The Tamarindo Foundation and mail to the address on this newsletter

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