

# Tamarindo Update

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## Making a difference in El Salvador

Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall, 2006



### John Guiliano's Message to Supporters

#### Salvadoran and Hoosier Beauty

October 22, 2006

I am looking out into a very beautiful fall Indiana day. I'm sure there won't be many more like this one. The gray and cold of winter will soon arrive.

I realize that the beauty of this day is probably only matched by the beauty of El Salvador, a beauty which has brought so many of us together.

I have been in Indiana this week meeting with our Tamarindo Foundation board and the many supporters of the Tamarindos. As I prepare to return to El Salvador, I leave here with great confidence in the future of our work with the Tamarindos.

We have a board of people who have passion, ability and commitment. They have embraced all that we are. They have become a part of us, truly Tamarindos, "men and women for others."

It has been a very blessed and inspiring time for us in Guarjila. The spirit of Romero has once again moved through our hearts and the group has found a new and vibrant energy as we approach the end of 2006.

In August we received Jaime "James" Rodil back into the community. Seven years ago he left Guarjila to become a doctor. It is amazing to think that it was only a short time ago that I begged Jaime to continue school. After the fifth grade, Jaime's dad wasn't going to allow him to continue. His dad insisted that Jaime's future would be in the corn fields and that school was a waste of time.

I never could accept that. After negotiating with his dad, we agreed to pay a salary for a farm hand. Jaime was released from his duties in the fields and allowed to continue his studies.

Dr. Rodil is now back in Guarjila. He spends the mornings in our clinic giving consults and the afternoon

on the basketball court. He looks forward to his first Guarjila/Tamarindo Christmas in seven years. In January he will continue his studies in internal medicine.

It is amazing to see how one boy's world could change. We are all blessed by our little part in that.

Chamba (Salvador...as he is known in the north) has also returned from his year abroad at Marian College in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is another story of one person who has been touched by so many. Chamba continues his pursuit of a teacher's credential in English. He won't be denied.

This month we also said goodbye to our dear friend Nancy Bartholomew who in one year gave so much to so many of us. The crowd of children who gathered daily on her "magic blanket" to read and write stories will miss her greatly.

Our women's pupuseria which was inspired by Holly Fuller and her team

#### Inside:

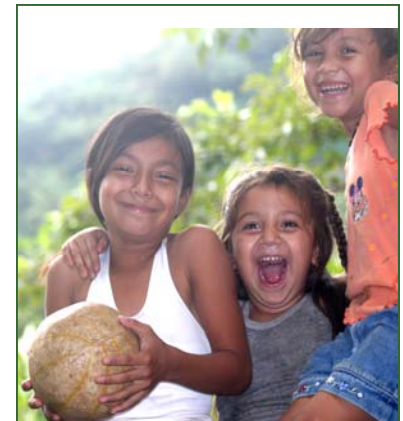
**Foundation Hires Director of Fundraising**

**Nancy Barholomew and Holly Fuller say goodbye to the Tamarindos**

**A Tamarindo Wedding**

**Reflections on Traveling to El Salvador**

**Women Begin Pupuseria**





## John's Letter (continued)

continues on. I am so pleased by this endeavor. How critical to all of us to wake up in the morning with reason and purpose. The pupuseria not only creates income for our team of women but REASON. Work is a gift and, in El Salvador, a privilege. We are all so privileged to be a part of the "Joe Pataca Pupuseria."

In sports our Guarjila Soccer Federation has just concluded its season. Enemias Chele Henriquez who serves as commissioner, coach and player did an excellent job running the league. The league is a Chalatenango province league with over 12 teams from cities and villages. Funding sources include many Tamarindos now living in the United States.

I'm very pleased to inform you that for the first time our team which is called INDIANA F.C. (F.C. for

Futbol Club) won its first championship. The team was led by Coach Santos Alfaro whom many of you know so well. He is beginning his fourth year at the university in Sports Management and plans to return to Guarjila after completing his master's degree.

At the championship game the Guarjila School marching band (led by many of our Tamarindos) drummed and tooted the Indiana team to a very decisive victory over our neighbor, San Jose las Flores.

With all the accomplishments in academics and athletics over these months, I am most proud of our daily work. Our work of community building, service and formation continues. Honestly, I believe our 6:15 p.m. prayer ("examen" for the Jesuit literate) is the most

important activity of our day.

It is here that the Tamarindos gather to pray and reflect. To find inspiration. To dream. They gather to remember and give thanks. It is here they join with so many of you to make the Tamarindos a place to grow and learn, to love and to create.

As a very famous friend of mine once said, "Please remember and pray for us always and keep our pledge cards between your phone and electric bill."

We need you.

With great thanks and affection,

John



**Joe and Karen Albers (called Mr. and Mrs. Petaca) who were married recently, had a second wedding reception in Guarjila with the Tamarindos. Both are teachers. Joe is a former intern with the Tamarindos.**

**The Tamarindo Futbol team, the INDIANA F.C., led by Coach Santos Alfaro, won its first championship.**



## New Director of Fundraising for the Tamarindo Foundation

The Tamarindo Foundation has hired a Director of Fundraising Katie Mills. She is an active member of the All Saints Catholic Newman Center at Arizona State University and it was with them that she first went to El Salvador in the spring of 2005. Since then, she has been back three more times: she returned to volunteer in the summer of 2005, then helped organize the trip for the Newman

Center in the spring of 2006, and volunteered again this past summer.

Her experience in fundraising comes mostly from when she helped to lead the student campaign to build a new chapel at the All Saints Catholic Newman Center, which raised over \$50,000 toward the campaign. She is also a member the Association of Fundraising Professionals at

Arizona State University which offers educational resources and opportunities in fundraising and adheres to principles of ethical and effective fundraising.

She is currently finishing a BA in political science and minoring in Spanish and anthropology at Arizona State University. The board welcomes her enthusiasm and dedication to the Tamarindos.

**You can reach Katie Mills at**  
[katieb4erin@hotmail.com](mailto:katieb4erin@hotmail.com)



**Katie Mills with a Tamarindo friend**

## Nancy Bartholomew Says Goodbye to Guarjila

By Nancy Bartholomew

I write this with only a handful of days left in El Salvador. After nearly a year here, it is time to pack my bags, my memories...

I cannot write this without feeling that familiar knot constrict tightly in my chest. What a mess of emotions I've lived with these final weeks...love for the people who have embraced me so warmly; tentative anxiety as I look to my return to the U.S.; regret for the "would've," "could've" and "should've" that always seem to plague us human beings, and of course, a deep sadness as I feel this important time in my life coming to a close. It's all here tangled up in my heart.

Yet I know that amidst all of this, the thread that must bind this whole experience together is a sense of gratitude. Nina Carmen and Nohemi ever so patiently teaching me to make tortillas, de grain maize and beans, and wash my clothes by hand. The camaraderie of Saturday afternoon walks – rain, shine, or downpour – with our women's walking group. Serene nights filled with fireflies, a million serenading crickets and frogs and rain on the tile roof. The shared pride when we read the books we wrote in the afternoon class for young children. Long bike rides with the Tamarindos through picturesque towns and breath-taking mountain vistas. Sitting on the front porch with the reading club, sharing a cup of sweet *atol* and a good book. What, besides fond gratitude, can I feel when I remember moments such as these?

But I know my gratitude must run much deeper... it cannot only embrace the easy moments. There were the frustrating, endless pull-out-my-hair moments. Why were my English students still staring at me blankly when I had already explained, in every way possible, how to form questions in the present tense? Why were there still so many times I couldn't express myself in

Spanish? (or worse, why were they laughing at me?) Why did it seem that no activity with the Tamarindos turned out as I had planned? These moments made me more humble. I give thanks for them. Then there were the times I thought I might drown in my loneliness. I give thanks for them. I remember the mistakes I made. May they make me more forgiving, and I give thanks for them. Looking back, I see that every experience taught me something. The difficult, the mundane, the joyful – I give thanks for them all.

So as I say my final goodbyes and try to neatly store the details in my heart, I focus on gratitude. When the sadness and anxiety go away, gratitude will remain. I doubt I can ever find words to communicate, in English or Spanish, my appreciation to the Tamarindos for allowing me to share a bit of life with them. I many never be able to express my gratitude but I hope to live it.





## Tamarindo Update

### Pupuseria Generating Income for Women of Guarjila

By Holly Fuller

Six women started a micro-business, the Tamarindo Pupuseria, several months ago. These women, all mothers in their twenties and thirties, attended initial planning session to determine their interest and to begin planning. Those women were Ingrid, Rosa, Nohemi, Chayo, Sylvia, and Sandra. Julie Frye, a CPA who works in Nicaragua with women starting micro-businesses, along with Silvio, her Nicaraguan co-worker, came to Guarjila to work with the women on how to form and run a successful business. The pupuseria is located between the Tamarindo shop and the new hockey rink.

After buying the necessary materials – a grill, bowls, plates, cups, tables, and chairs, the women began making pupusas six nights a week, each night becoming more and more confident of their skills. The Tamarindo Foundation provided a small grant to the women to begin the pupuseria.

The women are slowly becoming experts and learning the financial side of the business. The afternoons are spent counting money, how to make change for customers, how to keep records of expenses and earnings, and using a calculator.

Holly Fuller with support from Nancy Bartholomew has led the women in the project.

There have been a lot of ups and downs. Only three of the original six women have continued. Many weeks their earnings just match expenses. Business was slow during the rainy season. But the women are working well as a team and all have started to learn the financial part of the business, such as balancing the checkbook.

Though the pupuseria seemed like an impossible mission, they have overcome many obstacles. Holly hopes and dreams that the women will be able to confidently and successfully continue after her return to the United States.



To the left is a group picture of the Creighton University students and the Tamarindos when Creighton visited Guarjila earlier this year. Rose is sitting in front of John on the right.



Creighton University students heard Maria Serrano, subject of an award winning 1990 American documentary, when they visited Guarjila. Marie fought in the war for the FMLN and at one time was a representative to the government assembly. She returned to teaching many years ago.



### Holly Fuller leaving Guarjila

Holly Fuller is leaving Guarjila in December. She graduated from Creighton University in May, 2003 with a degree in Justice and Society. After graduating, she went to Nicaragua with Jesuit Volunteers International for two and one-half years. She worked at an orphanage for adults and children with mental and physical disabilities. She first got involved with the Tamarindos as a junior in college. She had heard John Guiliano speak at Creighton. She then visited for 10 days and has visited Guarjila many times. She begins a MSW program at Washington University in January.

# Tamarindo Update

## Saint Mary's Student Urges Others to Visit Guarjila

My name is Molly Hertz and I am currently a senior at Saint Mary's College High School in Berkley, CA. I went to Guarjila for the first time during my junior year, through an immersion trip offered to juniors and seniors at my school. After my first trip to El Salvador, I realized that there was no way I could stay away. There was so much I wanted to learn from the people there, as well as give to them. In July of that same year, I returned and spent three weeks in Guarjila.

My time in Guarjila and my time with John have had a profound effect on my life. Things I used to value no longer seem to be of importance. I feel that my friends and family in Guarjila are a part of who I am and they will never lose a spot in my heart. If you have not visited Guarjila and spent time with the Tamarindos, it is hard to imagine how one week in a place can change you forever. The people of Guarjila are some of the strongest people I have ever met. They are positive about life, despite the hardships and life-altering events they have been through. From them I have gained an inner strength I never knew existed in me. I hope to return and stay for an entire summer. These people have helped me know what I want to do with my life. I have learned from John that one person really can make a difference.

## Saint Mary's History with Guarjila

By Melissa Gravis  
Teacher at Saint Mary's

Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley, CA started sending students to El Salvador in 2000. The first trip was originally called Pilgrims for Peace and was conceived by Chris Burman, a Spanish teacher who had spent two years in El Salvador with the Peace Corps. He wanted students to experience the history, culture and faith that he found there. Today the trip is one of four immersion trips that are built on the core principles of Faith, Justice, Service, Community, and Simplicity.

Chris and the school's community service coordinator at the time, Caroline Chinn, spent a summer in El Salvador searching for the right opportunity and met John. I joined the program with Jeff Mihaly in 2002. Next

March, the schools eighth group will visit Guarjila. About 75 students have visited thus far.

This past summer, five students returned for three weeks to pursue a video project of their own which they intend will serve the Tamarindo Foundation. Each student raised \$1000-\$2000 for the foundation as a sign of their commitment.

As part of the program, we discuss the 5 core principles with them. We stress prayer and reflection, immerse ourselves in the Tamarindo community, discuss the effects of war, poverty, immigration, economic and political oppression on people's lives in the context of Catholic teaching. Students learn what it means to live simply and we discuss U.S. excess.

Without fail, students return home with new understanding of their lives, their faith, the world and global socioeconomics. Sometimes they come home confused about how to deal with everything they have seen and heard. Many students rethink their values and plan changes for their lives.

In addition to the students who traveled last summer, the group was lucky to be joined by Chrissy Chavez, a graduate of Saint Mary's, a medical student and niece of Cesar Chavez.

Saint Mary's continues to be committed to supporting the Tamarindos, to making a difference in the lives of its students.

### Tamarindo Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

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

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Mike Qualters  
Debbie Sahn  
Bill Tellman  
John Guiliano, *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**

For information, contact  
Clara Pile at  
[scpile@aol.com](mailto:scpile@aol.com)

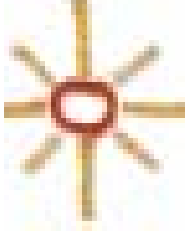
### Jazz and Wine

*The Foundation hosted a Jazz and Wine Tasting party in October to celebrate the good works that are happening for youth in Guarjila. John Guiliano, Director of Operations for the Foundation, was in Indianapolis to meet with the board and provide updates on the exciting projects.*

*The evening provided a pleasurable venue to introduce 35 guests to the mission of the Foundation. John had several follow-up meetings during the week to talk about specific financial needs of the Foundation's activities.*

# Tamarindo Update

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN EL SALVADOR



Tamarindo  
Hockey



If you missed it...

If you missed John Guiliano on Stu Sobel's radio program earlier this fall, you can catch it on [www.taxpayermagazine.com](http://www.taxpayermagazine.com).

To gain access to the site, go to the URL listed above and then email Stu Sobel at [spsobel@aol.com](mailto:spsobel@aol.com) to request a login name and password.

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