



Newsletter
Fall 2010

What's New?

School is back in session and up north the leaves are beginning to change color.



A lot has happened since you've last heard from us! Where to begin? Well, here's a sampling:

- From an organizational standpoint, a major milestone has been achieved. **On August 3rd the official letter from the IRS arrived, designating us as an official U.S. 501c3 organization!** This is huge news for both our supporters and us! It not only allows you, our donors, to receive tax deductions (any donations made after February 25, 2010 are considered tax-deductible in the U.S.) but it allows our reach and impact to be that much greater. In addition, if you work for a company that matches donations please make sure to let us know at the time of donation. Gracias!
- In just a mere 6 months we've come a long way!
 - We now have 44 students in grades 1-12 being sponsored through our student sponsorship program (with over 70 already on the waitlist for next year!).
 - We have hired 2 local women in Cholul to cook and serve a nutritious breakfast every school morning to 20 students in grades 4-6 through our Breakfast Program.
 - We've elected our official board of directors.
 - We've begun raising funds for the Girls College Scholarship Program,
 - We had our First Annual Fiesta Fundraiser in Seattle which raised over \$3,000 USD.

- In June, we had a gathering in Cholul for all students and families that are a part of the program



for the 2010-2011 school year.

Every student showed

(and then some) and it was a huge success! This was a required part of being in the program: a chance for both the students and families to meet us, learn more about the program and our expectations of them, and just all around good time. Pictures of the event, as well as individual pictures of each of the students with their new uniforms and backpacks can be found here:

- Individual student pictures:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/118408467326268704267/StudentsPicturesAug2010?authkey=Gv1sRgCK-zgqKm296y9AE&feat=directlink>
- June Gathering:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/118408467326268704267/CHOLULFIESTA260610?authkey=Gv1sRgCKmZvLOT1YCUxQE&feat=directlink>
- AND...Cherie and Katrin have put together a team of wonderful people down in Merida & Cholul who we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge. Aliza Mizrahi is heading up the Breakfast Program and is the primary school coordinator, Rosi Jinich is the secondary and preparatory coordinator, and the infamous Dona Chula has been invaluable as a community liaison for the program. These amazing women in Cholul have shown tireless dedication to educaTE and we truly would not be where we are today without them. The team in Cholul had a very busy summer getting all the students uniforms, buying shoes, packing backpacks and much much more, all so that the students had a successful start to the school year!



As you can imagine though, there is so much to do that we always welcome others who would like to volunteer. Please see the end of this newsletter for ways you can help.

- **We're now on Facebook!** Search for "educate yucatan" and become a fan. Visit us here for the latest news and pictures in between newsletters!
- Our first major press! Yes, you heard right, there's already been an article about us! It just came out this week. Thank you to Ellen Fields and Yucatan Living for spending a day with us in June to tour the schools and listen and share our story. We think you'll agree, it's quite amazing. What are you waiting for? Go check it out here: <http://www.yucatanliving.com/daily-life/educate-program.htm>

Things to look forward to!

- Our newly designed website will be up and running in the next few weeks (we'll send an email when it's ready). A huge thank you to Liz Rumplesburger of Green Cat Dzine and Blake Lindsey here in Seattle who have donated their time and talent in creating what we think you all will agree is a great presence on the web for educaTE . In the meantime bear with our temporary one that's up.
- In July, a couple from New Jersey was in Merida for the month and contacted us because they wanted to give back to the community while they were there. Well, Jennifer & Ken Cornine, along with their two children, did more than that! Jennifer is a broadcast journalism teacher and her husband Ken is a commercial producer. With Cherie's amazing coordination they filmed our students over the course of several days and are creating a video for us to use to advertise the program. I don't want to give anything away so that it's a surprise to all of you when you see it, but believe me, it will be worth the wait! We'll post it on the website and youtube as soon as it's available!

How you can help

- **Spread the word:** pass along the above article, "fan" us on Facebook, tell your family, neighbors, co-workers...
- **Download the GoodSearch educaTE Yucatan toolbar:** in less than 2 minutes you can be helping us raise funds with no more than a click of a mouse! Shop at Amazon? Target? Gap? (and hundreds of others) Well, if you do, every time you order something online, at no cost to you, educaTE Yucatan can be earning funds! Check it out here: <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/educate-yucatan>
- **Volunteer:** We'll have more information about volunteering posted soon on our website, but in the meantime please contact Jill at jill@educateyucatan.org if you are interested in helping out. We need people both in the States and on the ground in Cholul/Merida who are willing to help. In particular, for those living or visiting Cholul/Merida, Spanish speakers are highly needed. Contact us and we'll see where your skills best match.

you are receiving this newsletter because in one way or another, you already have helped tremendously- whether it be through donations of time, money, or talent. We are forever grateful to you, or amazing supporters! And you, as you look through the pictures of the students, should know that without all of our efforts this would not be possible, Gracias!