



Lake Atitlan Libraries (LAL) News

December, 2017

Look at the pictures above of the Reading Village Teen Readers and Leaders with their micro libraries. See the bins and the books and the children's faces. In remote Guatemalan Mayan villages this is the beginning of access to the magic of books. This year LAL has an exciting opportunity for you to assist the Reading Village teens with their efforts to spread their experience and love for reading with an assortment of books with 65 more micro libraries. Reading Village has 95 teens in their Leaders and Readers Program and this past year 30 of them had the micro libraries which allowed them to give children they read to a chance to borrow books on history, adventure, Guatemala, and more. We think that the remaining 65 should also have the micro libraries to use in their work in 2018. Help us achieve this goal.

The idea behind this program, called the Independent Reading initiative, is to enable the Teens to spread the habit and love of reading outside the classroom. This initiative has been so successful and popular with the Teens and children alike that the micro libraries are being used during the November and December school break even though teens have a break from their Reading Village responsibilities.

In 2017, the second year of Independent Reading, a system of check out was developed so the teens can better keep track of the books that children are "checking out" and taking home to read to their brothers and sisters and older family members, too.

To meet the challenge to provide the remaining 65 teens with their own micro libraries we invite you to sponsor one or more. Each bin with about 20 books costs about \$150. For each donation of \$150 you will be the sponsor of one micro library for one teen to use. We will give the Teen your name on a card to carry in the bin so the kids will learn where those books came from. And we will give you the name of that Teen and community that they work in. Guatemala is online so you will be able to find that community on the internet. Many of you have not donated for a while. Please respond to this plea to get more books into the hands of Mayan children through more micro libraries. It's a start that will lead to great results: Children discovering the magic of reading and being ready for school in Spanish.

Don't have \$150 to give now?? Recruit a friend or your book club or another group to help you raise that amount for one or more of the 65 teens who need a micro library in 2018. Or provide us with any amount and we will match you with other donors to create another micro library.

Other exciting news items from Guatemala relate to our Founder and friend, Ann Cameron. In April, she was honored on the International Day of the book at the Biblioteca Panajachel for major contributions to the Library, an honor long overdue. And this fall, Ann's young adult book *Colibri* was republished in Guatemala in Latin American Spanish. Ann's book fills a big gap of books in Spanish for teens about life and events related to Guatemala.

Please respond to our special appeal this year. Your donations are tax deductible. All funds go directly to purchase books in Spanish for Guatemala. Our financial records are available for review.

Thank you for your years of loyal support from the Lake Atitlan Board of Officers and Directors:

Rory Cameron, President;

Teresa Cameron, Treasurer;

Louise Eidsmoe, Secretary (Newsletter Editor)

Directors: Howard Cameron, Charlotte Cameron, and Mary Hambidge.

Learn more about our work at: www.lakeatitlanlibraries.org

Mail your tax exempt donations to:

Lake Atitlan Libraries, 620 Grandview Drive, Hudson, WI 54016