

## Chronology of the Biblioteca Popular in Tiquisate, Guatemala

### Our activities . . .

#### **January, 2001**

Mary and Todd begin fundraising to buy books for proposed new library in Tiquisate, Guatemala.

#### **April 6, 2001**

New library founded at the Escuela Tecun Uman in Tiquisate. Housed in school office.

#### **October, 2001**

Return to Tiquisate with Probigua team. Probigua finishes cataloging library collection. Sarah works to reinforce paperback books. Probigua announces decision to pay half of a librarian's salary; will place two computers in the library after a new building is built for it. Alcalde (mayor) agrees to pay for other half of librarian's salary beginning in January.

#### **January, 2002**

Return to Tiquisate. Interview of librarian candidates, with Clariza Contreras hired as librarian. Four students receive scholarships and continue their education in Basico (Middle School). Alcalde gives books and furniture from municipal library to the Biblioteca Popular. Clariza to visit the library in Panajachel

#### **April, 2002**

Return trip to Tiquisate. Arrange for Clariza to receive training in Antigua. Norma Guzman, Panajachel's librarian, to train Clariza.

#### **July, 2002**

Return trip to Tiquisate. Extensive discussions re building of new library building and expansion of scholarship program for 2003 school year. Meeting with Alcalde, who agrees to pay for labor in building new library.

#### **October, 2002**

Return trip to Tiquisate. Meetings with alcalde and contractor building the new library. Visit rural school where Clariza does outreach. Scholarship program expanded to 10 recipients for 2003. Other schools agree to raise money and institute additional registration fees to benefit the library. A second (half-time) librarian is lined up to begin work in January to facilitate classroom and rural school outreach.

### Activities of our Guatemalan partners

Rigoberto Zamora, director of Probigua, begins legwork to identify school and personnel with whom we can work in Tiquisate. In late March, he buys the books for the new library.

In August, Probigua returns to catalog the new collection. With no one in charge, Library has very little use.

The Guatemalan School year ends in the middle of October.

Israel Pichardo, principal of the morning session, advertises librarian position.

Clariza Contreras begins work as librarian January 8, as new school year begins; library opens 8 hours/ day, M-F. Scholarship recipients return to work in the library in the afternoons.

Probigua arranges for teachers in both morning and afternoon sessions to receive training in Antigua.

Only four months after Clariza is hired, library use is up to over 1,000 clients a month.

Library committee rallies community to support construction of new library, holding telemarathon, parade lead by Alcalde, raffles and other fundraising events.

Construction of new library building begins August 12, 2002.

Clariza initiates outreach program to four rural schools, bringing books and educational games and puzzles

Clariza selected by Guatemala National Library to represent Guatemala's public librarians at week-long reading workshop in El Salvador.

School year ends in the middle of October.