



Red Wind Councils

Spiritual & social awakening through indigenous restitution

## Thanksgiving & Holiday Fundraising



Dec 12, Fiesta de Guadalupe

Dearest Friends & Supporters,

Warmest greetings from the Maya Lands!

On behalf of the Red Wind Councils of Chiapas, at this time of honoring the gifts of Life & more particularly those brought to American people by Native peoples, let's make this a time of year for a true reunion of hearts & spirits by bridging beyond cultures. These are times of great upheaval with shadows coming to the surface, & we are praying for the protection of all & calling for strength for the transformation of all shadows. Together, with unity, each doing their part to manifest the great dream of the Earth, we can all move toward a more just and conscious world.

We in Chiapas always marvel over the many thousands of indigenous lives that Red Wind Councils has been able to touch in the 31 years of this great Circle of Giving



Ohki S. Forest

**Red Wind Councils**, a charitable U.S. non-profit, fosters spiritual consciousness & a restoration of social justice through awakening into the promised return of indigenous Council Ways & the struggle of Maya people.

## Thanksgiving & Holiday Fundraising, contd.

& Receiving, & this, thanks to you. We warmly invite you to continue helping us fulfill the great dream of Mother Earth for peace, dignity & justice for all her children as we echo the moving words of the Maya in resistance: **“Nothing for ourselves, everything for everyone,”** thus creating true abundance of lives & spirits for all.

Our path of resistance to oppression towards true autonomy is a guiding star for the world in this millenary & enduring Circle of Life. Join with us to support this vital cause so that all our children & children's children, **the Coming Faces**, may walk together with hearts & spirits united in peace & respect.



We are sharing in this newsletter some examples of how your funds, for which we know you work hard, serve the Maya people. Your generous donations nourish & protect the Maya indigenous, while literally saving lives.

In return, we trust our Native prayers & ceremonies for the world nourish & protect you & your loved ones & that you may receive strength & inspiration for your life.

While extreme poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition & deep lack of proper education in Chiapas is still rampant & there is so much more work to do at all levels, indigenous autonomy is on its way & will endure for many generations, through indigenous alternative schools, micro-clinics in rural areas, women's craft cooperatives, & more, the list is long. And with your crucial help, the indigenous, as a truly self-determined people, are moving to a better, more just & dignified future.

Please support this Hope for the world!

Muchissimas gracias.

Warmly,  
Ohki S. Forest & Red Wind Councils  
in Chiapas, Mexico & the U.S.



Sacred Corn: Maya Subsistence

**Chiapas News:** *The important resistance of teachers in Mexico against the new education reform totally abolishing public schools is one reason why it's important to support the **autonomous school projects**. The education of children is vital to the future of the planet.*



**Abuelita Juana**

## Red Wind Projects 2015 - 2016

This past year we are truly privileged to have partnered with our donors & the Maya communities, families & individuals we serve in providing direct funding for the following:

- ◆ **Micro-grants** - to women for health needs, corn mills & family-based agricultural development
- ◆ **Craft projects** - for women to better use their skills
- ◆ **3 Community stores** - in remote autonomous communities
- ◆ **Renovation** - for 3 rural autonomous clinics
- ◆ **Emergency Medical Funds** - life-saving interventional support to 29 indigenous
- ◆ **Food Relief Fund** - to 30 families as the droughts & floods of climate change continue to destroy their subsistence crops
- ◆ **Maya healing & Western medicine evaluations** - ongoing at the Red

Wind Medicine Centers of Chiapas

- ◆ **Repairs & renovations** - at the Chiapas Medicine Centers
- ◆ **School supplies** - for an autonomous school serving 28 children

We warmly invite you to join us in supporting the peace, justice & dignity that projects like these provide in this important work & model of sustainability for the world.



**Medicine man  
performing a healing**



# Your Gifts are Multiplied in the Hands of the People

The projects that Red Wind Councils funds in our work with the indigenous Maya are **chosen by the members of the communities** themselves, based on their needs & their vision of sustainability. It is still astonishing to us, even after more than 30 years, how deeply resourceful & determined to make the most of their opportunities are the Maya people we serve. Even the modest funds that we provide with your donations are used in creative ways to make **long-lasting & far-reaching changes**.

Many times we have seen the Maya use the proceeds of one project to fund other life-sustaining projects for their communities. Your donations are multiplied many times by our Maya partners through their wise, careful & common-sense use

For instance:

- ◆ The building & planting of **community greenhouses** under the guidance of RWC not only increases dietary diversity & feeds entire communities, but the excess production brings funds for **supplies for the local micro-clinic** providing healthcare
- ◆ **Community stores** which receive the seed money to buy their first inventory now help purchase **supplies for Maya schools**
- ◆ The **corn mills** supplied by Red Wind free the women to work on craft projects, bringing much needed funds for food & help support **education, health & agricultural promoters** in their indispensable work



**A Family Going Forward:  
New Community Store in Remote Village**



Maya Kids: Waiting for the Sweat Ceremony

## Maya Ceremonies for Families & Children

During the Maya ceremonies & ancient teachings given at the Red Wind Center of Chiapas, **children of Red Wind communities** participate with their parents & families. One important practice at the Center is the **Sweat lodge ceremony or Temazcal**, which is a powerful healing way, a deep return to the Earth's womb, used for purification & to connect strongly with Spirits. It is an ancient custom to include children from a very early age. They learn about their Spirit animals & grow up with a close connection to them. They also participate in the **Drum ceremonies** & learn about **the Medicine wheel**. It is remarkable to notice that these children demonstrate much dignity & self worth, & a great sense of humor. They grow strong & very secure in themselves. They clearly understand at a young age the importance of the principle that the resistance & struggle for autonomy must not only be a social & cultural revolution but also first & foremost a spiritual one.

*Ohki S. Forest's work for 31 years in Chiapas has successfully helped restore the ancient indigenous practices that are almost lost & created an important spiritual revival in this part of the world.*



# Testimonials of Maya People in Chiapas

***The women of San Pedro's village*** applied to RWC for a community store grant 21 years ago. With the resources from the store, the entire community has since built an alternative school, a micro-clinic with local pharmacy, a green house & have prospered with the craft project. These women see a decent future for their children, with dignity & respect of their Maya traditions: ***"We re-learned the old ways of working together, to listen to each man, woman & child, & now we fight no longer! Together we make a strong community. We are truly grateful for the help & training that we received through Red Wind. We know today we have a right to dream & walk the very dreams of our Mother, while before we did not know this was even possible."***

**Armando**, 18, is studying to be a health promoter. He remembers the terrible infection he had when he was 6. He remembers hearing his mother crying; there was no money, they lived far from help & they did not know what to do. A neighbor had heard of RWC's emergency medical fund. We directed Armando's family to the closest clinic where antibiotics saved his life. Armando says, ***"I am grateful for the gift of this Life that was given to me. I was dying from a preventable infection easily curable. The situation in Chiapas is so grave that through my health promoter training, I am now able to help many people with medical emergencies."***



**Maria de Jesus** is 20 & is involved in a women's craft cooperative with her exquisite embroideries. She has participated since early childhood in spiritual ceremonies at Ohki's Medicine Center. She is at an age when many young Maya women are already married with several children. She has chosen to wait. ***"I see how women are the ones suffering the most trying to support their families & communities. Their children are often hungry. I wish to first educate myself & establish my craft skills through my work. When the time comes, I will be able to properly care for my children & my community. The ancient native ways I have received from Ohki at the Red Wind Center powerfully help me walk forward in my life & inspire the next generation of young Maya women to become self-sufficient."***

# Funding for Crucial Support

The Maya people still suffer terrible discrimination & live with extremely marginal resources to support their families & their exemplary autonomy for the world. Despite living in the land of their ancestors, which is one of the most resource-rich in the world, 85% of families in Chiapas have next to nothing. *Your welcome & generous donations* to Red Wind Councils go directly to projects such as:

- ◆ **\$50 for basic medication** for a *sick child* with curable disease (fever, cold, cough, gastro-intestinal, etc.)
- ◆ **\$100 for 12 blankets** for a rural health clinic
- ◆ **\$200 for a stethoscope, ophthalmoscope & blood pressure cuff set** for an autonomous clinic
- ◆ **\$300 buys 2 large sacks of beans & corn** that can feed a family of 8 for 6 months
- ◆ **\$450 for a community corn mill** so *the women of an entire village* have more time for education & craft projects. Additionally they offer the milling service to other communities & gain income for their families
- ◆ **\$600 for school supplies** for a year in a rural school of 40 students
- ◆ **\$750 to build an eco-green house** in a rural community (building & seeds, training)
- ◆ **\$1500 to build a community store** in a remote area which profits help fund other projects
- ◆ **\$2000 to build & provide a micro clinic with basic medications** which can serve thousands



**Rosalba & her mother  
making tortillas for us**

**These are suggestions ~ Every dollar makes a difference**



Red Wind Councils, Inc. is an entirely volunteer non-profit organization with less than 3% administrative costs, so 97% of your donations go directly to the indigenous.

**Every dollar helps**  
**Please send your donations for any amount to:**

**Red Wind Councils**  
**P.O. Box 413**  
**Littleton, MA 01460**  
**(978) 633-7388 / [pathways@redwindcouncils.org](mailto:pathways@redwindcouncils.org)**

**Donate by credit card on our websites / Click the PayPal button**  
**\*To not reduce the impact of your donation to the Maya, please consider adding 5% to cover the costs of credit card processing**

**[www.redwindcouncils.org](http://www.redwindcouncils.org) ~ [www.ohkisimineforest.com](http://www.ohkisimineforest.com)**

Your contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.  
Tax ID#: 20-36339



**“Nature is my religion & the Earth is my church.”**

### **Red Wind Stands in Solidarity with Standing Rock**

Red Wind Councils, Ohki Forest & the Maya people with whom we work stand proudly with our sisters & brothers of Standing Rock in protecting our beloved Mother Earth, her natural habitat & all her children. We wish to express our strong moral & spiritual support, as well as profound solidarity with all the native nations & the international community who have joined with them to protect their sacred lands, burial grounds & sacred waters.

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