



Volunteer!

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions:

- Marketing & Tourism
- Development & Fundraising
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Store Systems
- Product Design
- Translation

[Apply Today!](#)

Job Opening

Be a part of an inspiring team and an exciting time in OB's development. We are now recruiting for a *Development & Public Relations Manager*. View the [job description and apply today!](#)

Fall 2011 News

August 6th Celebration!

International Days of the World's Indigenous People

On August 6th, Oxlajuj B'atz' celebrated International Day of the World's Indigenous People at the [Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade Store](#) in the historic Casa Kaqchikel building.

A panel of experts, including women's and human rights activist [Rosalina Tuyuc](#), was assembled to talk about the importance of indigenous Maya representation in political life, and in particular the upcoming national elections. Over 100 women members attended the event, listened to the diverse speakers and asked questions of their colleagues and panelists.



After the discussion, guests were treated to typical Guatemalan food, marimba music, dancing from Vasconcelos group members, tortilla making, displays of traje, a linguistic map, and much more! A wonderful time was had by all and seeing democracy in action was really amazing and meaningful for our team!

Upcoming Events

U.S. Rug Hooking Exhibition & Tour - Happening NOW!

This year's focus artisan project, *Rug Hooking: A Catalyst for Social & Economic Development for Maya Women*, funded graciously by the Delta Family Foundation, has seen remarkable achievements, to include:

- Unique, one-of-a-kind boutique rugs with striking elements of Maya culture;
- Through partners at [Cultural Cloth, LLC](#), a featured exhibit at [The Anderson Center](#) in Minneapolis, MN as part of *Mary Anne Wise & Friends: The Art of the Hooked Rug*;
- Invitations to attend the [Exhibition and a 10-day whirlwind tour](#) of the U.S. for Field Supervisor Lucia Chavez, Rosa F. Garcia of Patanatic, Yolanda Calgua of Queijel, and OB Executive Director Ramona Kirschenman;
- And so much more!

We are excited about the continued joint venture with [Cultural Cloth, LLC](#) on the next

Wishlist

The following are much needed items. Shipping to Guatemala can be tough, but luckily our team is currently in the U.S. and can receive donations until September 27th to bring back with us!

- Digital cameras
- Printer/Copier/Scanner or Fax combination
- Laptops
- Cell phones
- Ipad (great for in the field!)
- Binders & folders with dividers
- Staplers
- Hole punchers
- Calculators
- Flashlights
- Rain jackets/ponchos
- LCD Projector

All donations are tax-deductible. If you are interested in donating any of the items above, please [contact us](#) today!

OB in the News!

Que Pasa's [Non-Profit Index](#)
[The Republican Eagle](#)
[WARP Newsletter](#)

Gracias!

Thank you to all of our continued supporters! We welcome and appreciate your donations, emails and encouragement!

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phase of this project: *Teach the Teachers: Building Capacity of Indigenous Maya Women through Rug Hooking* ([donate to this project now!](#)). Starting in January 2012, this project will include classes for advanced rug hookers, sessions on teaching selected rug hookers to be teachers to their group members, and an enhancement of our monitoring and evaluation system to standardize for best practices in being guided by empirical evidence. Likewise, students will enjoy an international "buddy" rug hooking component that will involve participants of our **February 17 - 26th 2012** tour [Get Hooked on Guatemala: A textile-focused rug hooking tour of Guatemala](#). Spots are limited! Click on the [brochure](#) and book your tour today for a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

October 7 -9th: Patzun Conference, Lucia Chavez and "Mas que Desarrollo"

We are proud to announce that Field Supervisor, Lucia Chavez, will co-present on a panel discussion at this year's [Futuros Colectivos](#) conference to be held in Patzun, "Mas que Desarrollo." The focus of the presentation is *Economic Development Programs for Women*, and Lucia will discuss how all members of a community benefit when women's economic opportunities are expanded, and use examples from OB's programs as evidence. OB staff will also be on hand at our table to talk with attendees. Hope to see you there!

October 18th: Rainbow Cafe in Antigua, 5:30pm

OB is thrilled to be invited back to The Rainbow Cafe in Antigua. Join Community Facilitator Mirna Leticia "Lety" Juracan and Development Director Andrea Branchaud as they share stories of remarkable women making amazing strides to overcome poverty. [Rainbow Cafe](#) is located at 7ma Avenida, Sur No. 8.

Current Workshop: Political Participation



As a follow up to our March Leadership Assembly, Community Facilitators have been out in the communities during the months of August and September for workshops on political participation and making a conscious vote. These workshops came at a pivotal time just before national elections, and just after our August 6th celebration of International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

With the inspiration of speakers like Rosalina Tuyuc, members were eager to discuss - both amongst themselves, and with the Facilitators - topics such as the history of indigenous Maya women voting in Guatemala, legal rights of indigenous Mayas, voting logistics particularly for illiterate women, transparency of the political process, and the value of one's vote. The women were energized during these workshops, and nearly all reported their intention to vote on election day. We are excited to follow up next month to confirm the numbers of women who were actually able to vote!

Community Workshops

Over the past few months, OB's education workshops have focused on building capacity of the women members through these in-Center and community sessions:

Store Management

Taught both in the OB Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade Store and in the women's communities, these workshops aimed to provide a base of knowledge about what



Special Thanks

We wish to extend a special thanks to the [Daniels Augusting Dental Foundation](#) for its commitment to helping us reach our goals through a sustained grant of five years!

components are critical in the setup and management of one's own store. Store and Production Manager Reyna Pretzantzin led these efforts. Monitoring data showed that these skills continue to be a challenge for the women, but they approach the workshops with enthusiasm for the hope of having their own store one day.

Catalogs

Product catalogs are always an exciting topic for the women as they think about how to better market their weavings, rugs, baskets and other products. The workshop agenda included topics such as the importance of a catalog, suggested categories, group consensus strategies for publishing prices and client-artisan contract elements. We hope to secure funding for a follow-up workshop to assist the groups in creating their own catalogs! [Donate today](#) to help us achieve this goal! *OB thanks [The COMO Foundation](#) for their continued support of our small business workshops!

Medicinal Plants

Our popular medicinal plants project is in full swing, and our Facilitators are focusing their efforts on intensive monitoring of the gardens and evaluation of the knowledge attained from the first phase. Early empirical data shows that initial implementation of the gardens has been successful, and nearly 85% of the women have sustained a healthy level of maintenance of their gardens. We are developing the next phase of this project to reinforce the knowledge obtained and ownership of the plants to impact quality of health outcomes. [Contact us today](#) to find out how to contribute to this important initiative! *Special thanks to the [UN Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues](#) for funding this project.

New Volunteers!

We are thrilled to have Beth Davis and Shilpa Kothari as Fall volunteers. Beth travels to OB from Washington, D.C. where she worked in the World Movement for Democracy Initiative at the National Endowment for Democracy and is studying towards a Master's degree in International Development & Gender at George Washington University. Beth will focus her energies on marketing and tourism for our [Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade Store](#). Shilpa Kothari comes to us from working at Villa de Vallecas in Madrid, where she worked with Roma students in language and culture. Shilpa completed her M.A. in Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures from New York University, Madrid, and will be assisting OB with development and fundraising. Come on by the office to say hello if you're in town, and be sure to check out their weekly [blog](#)!

Oxlajuj B'atz' Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade Store

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