

Xela Aid Volunteer Vacation Summer 2011 (update 1/28/2011)

Trip Dates: July 29 (late night departure from LAX, TBA) – August 9, 2011
(alternate return dates available)

Orientation: Saturday, May 28th – 9 a.m.-Noon, Huntington Beach

Application/Deposit Deadline: **March 15, 2011 (Balance due April 15)**

OVERVIEW – Augment healthcare services offered year 'round in Xela Aid's June Russel-Glennon Clinic including (1) optometry; plus dental and/or medical clinics may be added depending on volunteer makeup. (2) Finishing work on "Tesoros del Corazon" Mercado (new building for sales of weavings). (3) *First time ever* spay and neuter clinic. (4) Day-long field trip and interaction with scholarship students and parents to a fun destination such as the beach, ecological park, other. (5) Distribution of scholarship funds (potential). (6) A variety of cultural activities including (depending on group size and desire): *volcano climb (moderate trail), volcanic hot baths, an experience of local music, weaving demonstrations.* (7) Additional R&R will include swimming, kayaking, exploring various villages at world-class destination Lake Atitlan.



A sample calendar appears on the following pages. Application included.

Dear Friend,

*Xela Aid has been described by participants as "a life-changing experience — an adventure of a lifetime." It is most certainly an experiment in giving and receiving and we invite your review of the following materials to see if this adventure is something for you. Here you will find information about Xela Aid, a sample day calendar, and an application including cost information. For more information about Xela Aid, we encourage you to visit our website. The only qualifications are that you come with **a humble heart, an open mind, and a cooperative spirit.** From the Xela Aid team, we welcome your application.*

Most Sincerely Yours,

The Xela Aid Directors

www.xelaaid.org - xela_aid@earthlink.net



(continued)

Mission: Xela Aid, a non-profit, non-denominational, humanitarian organization responds to requests for assistance from the economically disadvantaged of Guatemala in ways that restore health and wellbeing to the people and the environment, promote cultural understanding, and preserve dignity.



Funding: A private charitable organization, Xela Aid receives no government funding. Team members pay their own expenses and fund projects by way of a modest project fee that each person contributes. Many supplies are donated; some are purchased in Guatemala where local professionals are called upon to lend expertise. Because of the exchange rate and local economy, our investment is multiplied many times in the value it creates for our Guatemalan community. As just one example, we are able to ensure a gradeschool child's education for \$375 per year, build a modest building for under \$10,000, run a clinic serving a community of 10,000 people for about \$20,000 per year.

Sample Day Calendar

Note: Calendar may change slightly due to final air travel, to be confirmed.

Evening, Day 1

Those leaving from Los Angeles arrive at LAX around 9 p.m. July 29 for departure around 1 a.m. (30th) (times to be confirmed). Team members bring two bags—one personal, and one filled with supplies for the trip (pre-packed weeks earlier, potentially during Orientation). The full team unites and begins its adventure in Guatemala City early the next day. *Photos, top: Volunteers including Xela Aid PEX Director Pat Maxwell (far right) staff the clinic pharmacy.*



Day 2

Team is met at Guatemala City airport by Luis Enrique de León, long-time area Director with Xela Aid, and other friends from the village. Team travels via a comfortable bus to Quetzaltenango (“Xela” – pronounced “Shay-la”). A welcome-to-all breakfast is held at “bird park”/ garden Hotel Las Flores in Chimaltenango. Later, a snack stop at “Chichoi,” famous for hot mango and pineapple pies and a suspension bridge. Check in at the Hotel Modelo and rest until dinner. In the evening, a local money changer visits prior to our walking tour of Xela, including the historic town square and 19th Century Catholic church. (Note: Breakfasts and sack lunches at Modelo included.) *Photos: Local weaver with Xela Aid Director Luis Enrique de León at Atitlan. Volunteer Mel Dinkel meets resident birds at breakfast stop. Volunteer Dr. Flora chows down on “caldo de pollo.” Lake Chikibal, an ecological preserve we’ll visit.*



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Day 3

9 a.m. - Travel to the Mám pueblo of San Martin and tour Xela Aid's clinic and preschool with sack lunches from Hotel Modelo. All teams will assess need in order to plan projects and set-up. Team then travels by bus to the foot of Lake Chiquibal for those who wish to make the climb to reach its crater and lake. Free evening.



Days 4, 5, 6, 7 – 8 a.m. - All teams travel to the worksite in comfortable buses. Clinics, construction and other projects run 9-4 daily. *Photo: Volunteer Jim Ehlers (standing) and others, dental clinic, 2004.*

Evenings:

Day 4, 7 - Free. Walk in the town square, visit the street market, or have a refreshment in “El Balcón” which looks out over “El Parque Central.”

Day 5. – At 7 PM after dinner, meet at the Modelo to travel to the hot sulfur baths at Almolonga.

Day 6. – 7 PM Enjoy local music with soda or cocktails. (Place TBD – Optional)

Day 8. – 9 a.m. – After breakfast, pack up. Travel with the group for a last visit to San Martín to celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy a local-made lunch. Enjoy a weaving demonstration and shop at a fair-trade weaving sale and support Xela Aid's weaving cooperative. Travel on to Lake Atitlan, described by many as one of the most beautiful places on earth! Stop at a market overlook for the view and local crafts then spend an hour or so in Panajachel, the regional market that is the gateway to the lake. Participants travel by boat to Casa del Mundo, arguably the loveliest accommodation on the lake. Enjoy a candle-lit dinner at Casa del Mundo (all dinners included). *(See Photos, bottom, last page of Application)*

Days 9, 10, 11 – Free days to relax or explore around the Lake. Enjoy the views from the lovely hotel La Casa del Mundo (<http://lacasadelmundo.com/>) where every room has a heavenly view room. Get up early, or late. Enjoy *pitaya* fruit, granola and yogurt and many other delicious dishes to choose from. Snorkel, kayak, lay around, travel to Kakchiquel and Tsutuhil villages by boat, walk to the hill-top village of Santa Cruz to explore the 19th Century Catholic church with its ever-burning candles and antique carved icons. A group, candle-lit dinner is served at the hotel each evening. Evening of the 9th day is our farewell dinner at Atitlan.

Day 12. – 11 AM – For those leaving with the main group, after packing and a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shore boat to Panajachel where you can walk, shop, enjoy the sights through early afternoon. Between 2 and 3 PM, travel back to Guatemala City to catch our homebound flight.



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Participants will be lodged during project in Quetzaltenango. Projects will take place in San Martín Chiquito, a Mám-Maya village an hour northwest of Quetzaltenango. Participants will work side by side with villagers. The project matches volunteer skills with need, so each project is customized to take advantage of the interests and skill sets of volunteers. Applicants needn't be Spanish speakers. R&R will be at Lake Atitlan, La Casa del Mundo, with alternate return dates available for extended stay.

APPLICATION AND DEPOSIT DEADLINE: March 15, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ (Note: Email access is required)

City _____

Best Phone _____

State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Tell us briefly about yourself and in what ways you wish to be involved in this Xela Aid project:

(continue on back)

Why have you elected to participate in the program?

(continue on back)

Is there someone you'd like to have as a roommate (or as roommates) this trip?

In Case of an Emergency Notify (name and phone):

Costs Worksheet



Included: Round-trip airfare from Los Angeles, all chartered ground transportation, in-country project coordination, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), entrance/honorariums to sights. Hotel Modelo: Breakfast and sack lunch included. La Casa del Mundo: Dinners included.

Please Note: *Friends, included in your costs is a \$500 project donation, which is also your deposit. This deposit is integral to our planning since it is used to purchase supplies and as a deposit on airfare. Additionally, there are costs associated with cancellations. Your deposit is therefore non-refundable should your plans change. A tax receipt is provided in any case. Thank you for your understanding.*

— The Xela Aid Directors

Note: I request the following alternative return date: _____ (prefer, circle) AM PM

- | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Subtotal:</i> | \$ | 1,690 |
| 2) Securing your own flights? (Subtract \$450) | \$ | _____ |
| 3) <i>Second Subtotal:</i> | \$ | _____ |
| 4) Desire a single room? (+\$295) Xela Aid T-Shirt (+\$20 ea) | \$ | _____ (Size: M/W sm m l xl xxl) |
| 5) <i>New Subtotal (3+4)</i> | \$ | _____ |
| 6) Round-Up Total/Additional Donation (optional!)
(Applied to Clinic operations. Thank you!) | \$ | _____ |
| 7) Minus Your Deposit \$500 (included with application) | \$ | 500. |
| 8) Your Balance Due: April 15, 2011 (6 minus 7) | \$ | _____ |

(Please Note: Balance MUST be received by this date to hold reservations. Thank you for your assistance.)

Tax Deductibility - Xela Aid operates as a charitable project and a donation receipt will be provided. Costs associated with this trip may be fully tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.

Please return this Application with your \$500 non-refundable project donation and deposit to "Xela Aid" with "XA Volunteer Vacation Summer 2011" in check memo to:

Xela Aid • 3571 Windspun Dr. • Huntington Beach, CA 92649

We look forward to sharing this adventure with you!

Questions? Call Leslie at (951) 733-2588



xela_aid@earthlink.net