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Dear Friends of the Ixchel Museum,

We hope you will take some time from your upcoming holiday preparations to enjoy our latest Newsletter. There you will learn about an exceptional woman who has developed her skills while at the Museum and has just been named a curator. And also about our efforts to enable a Maya weaving cooperative here in the U.S. that can create income as well as heritage pride for the women involved.

Those of you who already donate know how important your contributions are to the Museum's research and collection management. We are very appreciative of your support and look forward to its continuation, particularly for the all-important year end. Your grants are vitally important to the Museum, especially for their ability to conduct fieldwork and to draw repeat visitors with new temporary exhibits.

But you who receive the newsletter and do not yet donate are the large majority. The newsletter is our U.S. educational outreach and single largest expense line, and many of you prefer to receive it in print rather than use our website. Please consider making a donation this year, however small. Cumulatively, it will make a big difference.

There are also other ways your actions can lead to donations or knowledge: -- Share our newsletter with those who love textiles, or Guatemala, or supporting women's traditional crafts

-- Send friends and organizations to our just-refreshed website at www.ixchelfriends.org

-- Work with us to mount eye-catching educational exhibits in local smaller venues

-- Offer us textiles for our collection; we will be generating soon a positive list of villages and clothing types that we need to create exhibit themes

-- Contact us to volunteer for a specific project...in time, you may wish to join our Board -- Include us in your estate or charitable gift planning

With many thanks for your interest and support, I wish you all the best for the holiday season and New Year,

Ana-María V. Zaugg President, Friends of the Ixchel Museum