

MAYAN FAMILIES

December 16, 2019

Dear donors, friends, colleagues and volunteers;

As of today you can see the IRS Form 990 for years ending September 30, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively on this page. All 501c3 nonprofit organizations are required to file and make public 990's annually. This letter serves to explain the delay in posting the 990s for fiscal years 2016-2018.

I was asked to join the Mayan Families board and did so on May 12, 2018 becoming board treasurer on August 12, 2018. I have been an active donor and volunteer since 2013.

A little background:

Mayan Families under founders Dwight Poage and Sharon Smart Poage was a US registered nonprofit and as such chose to create a Guatemalan based foundation (using the name Fundacion de Familia Maya) to run its operations in Guatemala. Though the existence of two separate organizations wasn't exactly hidden, many of us assumed that Familia Maya (which was written on the side of the Mayan Families Calle Rastro location) was simply Spanish for Mayan Families. That assumption was not actively corrected by the founders or the board of directors of Fundacion de Familia Maya on which both of the founders served.

Today, to be perfectly transparent, Mayan Families operates in Guatemala with a newly created and registered Guatemala association, Amigos de Mayan Families. I am treasurer of both so I can, with an auditor in both the USA and Guatemala looking over my shoulder, see how all our donations are used. A representative of Mayan Families' largest donor has a seat on the Amigos board.

Until June, 2018, leadership and the majority of Board seats were held by friends and family of the Founders who did not accept their fiduciary responsibility to operate in compliance with 501c3 standards. No recorded minutes were kept until October of 2017. No 990's were filed with the IRS for the years 2016, 2017, or 2018, and the annual registration with the state of California was also delinquent by three years.

After repeated failed attempts to work with Fundacion de Familia Maya, separation of Mayan Families and Fundacion de Familia Maya took place in December, 2018. Mayan Families was denied access to Fundacion de Familia Maya accounting records. With only slightly more than bank records, board members spent over 1000 volunteer hours to recreate books that were accepted and used by our independent auditor to create and file 990's for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

We are now current and look forward to serving the communities around Lake Atitlan in a caring efficient, transparent and professional manner.

Sincerely,

Mark Vorobik, Treasurer