

# Jolom Mayaetik

## *Information about Our Cooperative and Our Products*



In January of 1996, 250 craftswomen from the mountains of Chiapas created a new life for ourselves. We founded the Jolom Mayaetik Cooperative, which in Tzotzil, a highland Mayan language of the region, means “Mayan Women Weavers.”

The organization is composed of women from the municipalities of San Andres, Chamula, Huixtan and Oxchuc. This diversity allows us to produce all of the traditional designs of the region. Though the majority of us weave with the backstrap loom, some of us embroider as well. For weaving and embroidery, all of us use cotton and self-produced wool.

The Jolom Mayaetik Cooperative is made up of 10 groups of craftswomen from 9 different communities. Two representatives from each group form the “General Assembly of Representatives” which meets to discuss and make decisions based on each community’s needs. All of our members elect the President and the Secretary of our organization, and it is their job to assist in administering our store in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, México.

In 1999, we began creating the Center for Production and Training of Indigenous Women. In this Center, women are able to take courses in administration, bookkeeping, and the use and handling of the pedal loom and sewing machine.

We learn to adapt ourselves to the demands of the market without forgetting the traditional designs we weave and embroider. Production, Commercialization, Training, and Administration; all of this we take into our own hands to better the quality of our lives. The growth of the Jolom Mayaetik Cooperative and the Training Center has shown us that the creation and use of collective spaces for women allow us to develop relationships of a more equal nature, both within our communities and the larger public. Our work thus contributes to the development of a more just society.

For more information on solidarity/fair trade marketing of textiles in the U.S., health, reproductive rights, women’s and indigenous rights, anti-globalization work, or for info on Mexico solidarity networks and social justice delegations, please contact Kate O'Donnell at Hartwick College. (607)431-4894, [o\\_donnellk@hartwick.edu](mailto:o_donnellk@hartwick.edu)