

July 26, 2008

Cleves resident helping impoverished schools

Elaine Berninger of Cleves will travel with Cooperative for Education to Guatemala Wednesday, Aug. 6, with a group of 30 volunteer participants from across North America for their annual 5-day Snapshot Tour.

The group will explore the country while visiting schools that have successfully implemented CoEd textbook and computer programs.

CoEd strives to break the cycle of poverty in Guatemala through textbook, computer, and other educational programs. Through personal interaction with students and families, participants will experience a true sense of Guatemalan life and culture in the communities CoEd serves.

. remarked, "The Snapshot Tour was an amazingly in-depth yet broad experience compressed into five days," said Johnmark Oudersluys, manager of strategy and finance for Chiquita Brands International. "It affords you the chance to meet and connect with the kids CoEd serves and make an impact on their lives. I recommend the trip to everyone interested in truly experiencing the country and seeing the power of this program."

In 12 years of existence, CoEd has established 172 textbook programs, 30 computer centers, 39 mini-libraries and 284 scholarships. There are nearly 32,000 children using CoEd textbooks, 12,300 students being trained at CoEd computer centers and approximately 150,000 textbooks in circulation. The Snapshot tour is an ideal opportunity to learn more about the good things that CoEd has accomplished.

"We know how hard it is to juggle work and family responsibilities, not to mention giving back to the community," said. Jeff Berninger, co-founder of CoEd. "The Snapshot Tour is a great way to make a big difference in a short time; only missing three days of work to have the experience of a lifetime."

Spanning a Wednesday through Sunday, the Snapshot Tour is ideal for professionals can help impoverished kids, experience another culture and still get back in time for that Monday meeting.