



## Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Guatemala - And Seeing it First-Hand!

Former Intern Shaye Worthman helped CoEd reach new levels in grant writing and measureable results. Inspired by our mission and vision, she applied for the "Ohio's Coolest Co-ops Contest" during her intern year. The text below is her winning essay. Congratulations Shaye!

How many interns can say that they not only work for an international cause that they truly believe in, but actually get to see their efforts pay off by touring the country? Through the international non-profit organization Cooperative for Education (CoEd), interns work to break the cycle of poverty in Guatemala and then see their projects in action. With the mission of helping schoolchildren break the cycle of poverty through education, CoEd creates textbook, library, and computer center programs within impoverished schools in Guatemala's beautiful Western Highlands. These programs improve the quality of education and give poor, rural Guatemalan students the skills they need to acquire better-paying jobs and break out of poverty. What makes CoEd projects cool and unique from other non-profit endeavors is their self-sustainability. Over 90% of CoEd projects are self-sufficient, which means that after you make that first donation to help a school afford books, you will never have to return to that school and make another donation again. In this way, CoEd's projects affect real change in this war-torn country. Besides gaining first-hand experience in a successful international non-profit organization, interns have the opportunity to actually see CoEd projects first-hand during 10-day project tours in Guatemala. Accompanied by existing supporters and people interested in the organization, interns serve as guides on the tours while witnessing how their hard work in the United States has changed thousands of lives for Guatemalan schoolchildren. There is no better reward than seeing a child with their very own textbook or use a computer for the first time—and knowing that you worked to make it happen...



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