



cooperative COMMUNICATIONS

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Leaving Their Mark

You helped a town ravaged by illiteracy envision a brighter future

Traveling the long, bumpy mountain roads to the remote village of Sachán was tiring, but the trek became a distant memory at first glimpse of the enthusiastic families and students lining the path to welcome their honored guests—15 members of CoEd's February 2009 Delivery Tours—to their school.

The students' bright eyes shone with excitement when they received their new books. They hugged their visitors in gratitude, blown away that North Americans would travel this far to their little village high in the mountains of the Western Highlands.

A Book Full of Fingerprints

A young boy busily wrote in a large, thick notebook. From his expression, you could tell that this must be a very important job. This wasn't just any notebook—it was Sachán's Community Book of Acts, documenting major events in the history of the village.

Each entry was followed by a page full of fingerprints. Since so many of the community members cannot write their own names, they "signed" with their fingerprints. Two-thirds of the community council—the leaders of this small, rural village—are illiterate.

Hope for Sachán

The parents and community leaders in Sachán knew that the textbook project was a crucial first step towards what they most desired for their children—a future with more opportunities than they themselves had. "Seeing the book really highlighted for me why we're doing what we're doing," recalls Gretchen Liebenberg, who sponsored the school with her husband, Stan.

"They Gave Us Their Prized Possession."

Overwhelmed with gratitude, the school principal took the Guatemalan flag right off the wall and presented it to Stan and Gretchen. "They gave us their prized possession," commented Stan, equally moved by the touching gesture.

The community is grateful because the Textbook Project gives them hope for the next generation. Because of your support of CoEd programs, when the youth of Sachán one day lead this small town, fingerprints will no longer fill the pages of their Community Book of Acts.

Gretchen Liebenberg holds the Guatemalan flag given to her during the school's Textbook Project Inauguration, February 2009.



The village of Sachán's Community Book of Acts (above) tangibly reminds us that 14 of the town's council members cannot even sign their name with anything other than a thumbprint. Your support through the Textbook Project gives the community hope of a better future for the next generation.



Your Involvement Makes a Difference!

Your commitment to ensuring that kids in Guatemala don't go without textbooks, well-trained teachers, and computers gives hope of a better life to Ancelmo and thousands of his peers each year.

Here are five easy things you can do right now to give many more kids the education they deserve.

Make a difference in just . . .

5 days

Meet the kids in CoEd's programs by visiting Guatemala on a Snapshot Tour. Spend your next vacation doing something good: www.coeduc.org/tours.htm.



2 hours per month

Join CoEd's Fall Fiesta Committee and make this year's event the best ever. Call Emily at (513) 731-2595 x101.

1 hour

Name CoEd as a beneficiary in your 401(k), will, or insurance policy. For easy step-by-step directions and wording, contact Holly End at (513) 731-2595 x104.

5 minutes

Help put one child through a CoEd program by contributing just \$37.27. Donate online at www.coeduc.org/donate.htm

1 minute

Tell your friends! Spread the word about CoEd Tours in your blog, become a fan of CoEd on Facebook, or "tweet" about us on Twitter.

Ancelmo Says, "Thank You!"



Thirteen-year-old Ancelmo Vicente doesn't remember his father. "My dad left home when I was very young to try to find work in the U.S.," Ancelmo says. "I try to remember what he looks like but it's hard. He sends us letters and money when he can, though."

The Only Sibling Allowed to Attend School
Ancelmo, his mother and his 11 brothers and sisters live in San Vicente Buenabaj,

Guatemala, a small village in the mountainous Western Highlands. Ancelmo's mother is illiterate and doesn't have a job. She can only afford to send one of her children to school, and Ancelmo is the lucky one.

Ancelmo Gets the Opportunity to Explore the World Through Computers

Ancelmo seems shy. That is, until he talks about the brand new CoEd computer lab at his school. "I love science and math," he beams. "With computers I can learn more about these subjects and use my knowledge in new ways." He adds that he hopes to be a teacher someday and help other kids like himself.

Polar Bears in Guatemala?

Ancelmo sits at a computer and immediately turns to a friend standing near by. "What is your favorite animal?" he asks. Thirty seconds later, Ancelmo has found a video on Encarta of polar bears frolicking on a frozen tundra...a world away from his own, sun-drenched home. The boys laugh out loud.

You Give the Gift of Education

Your gifts to Cooperative for Education support Ancelmo and hundreds of children like him, who now have the tools they need to make life better—for themselves, for their families, and for their country.

Five Days May Just Change Your Life!

In just five days on a CoEd **Snapshot Tour**, you will:

- ❖ Immerse yourself in breathtaking Guatemala, from small Mayan villages to colonial Antigua, recently named "Top City" by Wanderlust Travel Magazine.
- ❖ Experience each of CoEd's projects in action and provide much needed educational materials to the schools.
- ❖ Interact meaningfully with the students and their families.

Go Free!

Recruit three new people for a CoEd Tour and your trip is free!



Tour registration is now open!

- ❖ **July 29-August 2, 2009**
- ❖ **August 5-9, 2009**
- ❖ **February 10-14, 2010**

For info, photos, testimonials, itineraries and much more, visit www.coeduc.org/tours.htm