

# Cooperative for Education

*Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Guatemala through Education*



*Students at El Aguacate celebrate the inauguration of their school's new Computer Center. Mixco, Guatemala, 2016.*

## Third Quarter Report: 2016

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*Thanks to the new CoEd Computer Center at her school, Brenda is gaining the skills she'll need to achieve her dreams of a professional career. (Read more at [www.cooperativeforeducation.org/brenda](http://www.cooperativeforeducation.org/brenda).) Mixco, Guatemala, 2016.*

**L**ike most students in rural Guatemala, Brenda Sequen Cux had never touched a computer in her life. Tasks we take for granted—like sending an email, adding a calendar appointment, or typing a letter—once seemed completely out of reach for Brenda. But she knew she'd need those skills if she ever was to achieve her dream of becoming a bilingual secretary.

Now, thanks to Cooperative for Education (CoEd), Brenda is learning how to do those things, and so much more. In the new CoEd Computer Center at El Aguacate middle school, Brenda and her classmates are learning basic programming and coding skills, which are internationally-recognized as the skills needed for the next century. They're also learning the Microsoft Office Suite, typing, and web navigation, as well as how to connect to the outside world through Encarta.

"I am learning lots of new things I didn't have access to before," Brenda says. "Now I have access to a whole new world!" Not only that—her dreams of achieving a professional career that will allow her to earn a decent salary are finally within reach.

### **Opening the Doors**

We are now working on bringing a whole new world to 610 additional students just like Brenda, as we plan our

2017 Guatemala Computer Centers Program. We've chosen San Luis and Chitay Las Rosas middle schools to receive the new centers in 2017.

One of the chief benefits of CoEd programs is that we work "cooperatively" (hence the name) with parents, teachers, principals, and students to create strategies for educational development in their communities. Families must commit to paying a small fee into the revolving fund that makes our programs sustainable, and the schools commit to collecting the funds—but it's not just a one-way street. We're also responsive to what the school community needs from us. That's why we're introducing a new tool into our toolboxes in the 2017 iteration of the program.

### **Expanding Access**

Although San Luis and Chitay Las Rosas were the two candidates that demonstrated the most impressive commitment to the program, both schools lacked an appropriate space to house the new centers. But we're not letting that keep these worthy schools from being able to provide vital technological training to their students.

Instead, we're tweaking our program design to provide this year's candidates with mobile labs.

Laptops will be purchased instead of desktops, and they'll be stored on a charging cart that is kept secure when not in use but able to move around to many different classrooms as the need dictates. This not only enables these schools to offer computer classes, but also creates the potential to use technology in other classes as well.

This isn't just a model that will benefit these schools—and other centers in the future that may have similar needs. We're also leveraging the flexibility that laptops offer in the Innovation Lab at our new Education Center campus in Guatemala. Instead of setting up a traditional computer lab in the center, we decided it would be best to have the flexibility that laptops provide, which will allow us to rearrange the room as needed and use the space for additional purposes.

### Finishing the Remodel

Many similar decisions that balance various organization and beneficiary needs have already been made for our new Education Center. The major renovations are nearly complete, and we're getting close to being able to move in. We're still working on interior decorating and other finishing touches, but by the time of the campus's inauguration in February 2017, we'll be operating out of the new center.

We've even started to offer some programming in the new center. In September, 80 scholarship students attended a professional skills workshop in our brand new conference room. We've also been utilizing the center during tours as a space for participants to spend time with scholarship students. (To read more about the latest developments at the center, visit [www.coeduc.org/blog/theres-no-place-like-home/](http://www.coeduc.org/blog/theres-no-place-like-home/).)



The new conference room is just the right size for a Scholarship and Youth Development Program workshop. *Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, 2016.*



Volunteers get to know scholarship students during a recent tour's visit to the Education Center. *Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, 2016.*

### Other Exciting Computer Centers News

We're excited about the progress we've made with the Education Center—just like we're excited about being able to offer a more flexible model in our 2017 Computer Centers. This November, the teachers selected for the new centers will join teachers from our 43 existing Computer Centers for a three-day seminar. We're partnering with one of Guatemala's foremost training providers, INTECAP, to offer in-depth instruction on constructivist methods that computer teachers can use to make their classes more engaging.

Finally, this year marks our largest ever number of Computer Centers renewing their equipment. Thanks to the revolving funds that each student studying at these centers has dutifully paid into over the years, EIGHT schools have saved enough money to upgrade their equipment—with no further investment needed from CoEd!

To our supporters, **thank you** for helping make these incredible opportunities possible. With your support, what started as a single school and a dream 20 years ago has grown beyond our wildest imaginings to serve tens of thousands of students in need each year, and it's all because of you. The Education Center and the new developments in the Computer Centers Program are good examples of how we're well poised to move into the next 20 years of service—and of how YOU are helping our beneficiaries in rural Guatemala break the cycle of poverty once and for all.

Yours in service,

Handwritten signature of Joe &amp; Jeff Berninger

Joe & Jeff Berninger, Founders



# Financial Highlights

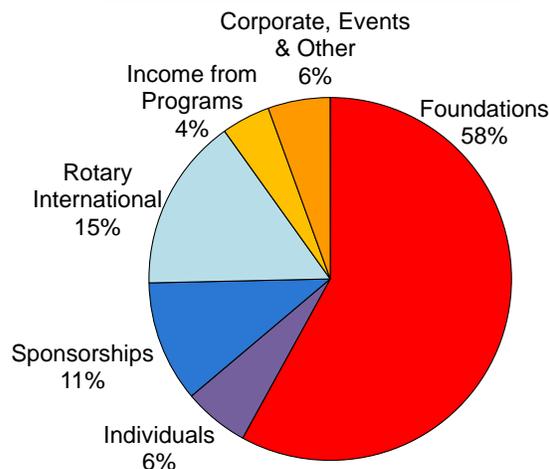
(January 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016)

CoEd is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1996.

YEAR TO DATE INCOME	January - Sept 2015	January - Sept 2016
Foundations	\$1,863,754	\$1,407,577
Individuals	\$113,957	\$141,492
Sponsorships	\$257,990	\$262,310
Rotary International	\$204,118	\$374,856
Income from Programs	\$354,833	\$105,443
Corporate, Events & Other	\$89,165	\$134,626
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,883,817</b>	<b>\$2,426,304</b>
YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES	January - Sept 2015	January - Sept 2016
<b>Program Services</b>		
Textbook Cooperatives	\$260,589	\$224,224
Computer Centers	\$339,454	\$316,545
CORP	\$302,438	\$257,939
Direct Education (Bridges Program)	\$536,643	\$671,984
Other Educational Programs	\$184,803	\$380,671
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$1,623,927</b>	<b>\$1,851,363</b>
Mgmt & General	\$182,484	\$87,420
Fundraising	\$161,699	\$228,211
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$344,183</b>	<b>\$315,631</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,968,110</b>	<b>\$2,166,994</b>
Contribution to Net Income	\$915,707	\$259,310

Note: Year to date spending is not always representative of annual spending. For a more precise financial picture over the course of a year, please see our most recent Annual Report at [www.cooperativeforeducation.org/annualreport](http://www.cooperativeforeducation.org/annualreport).

Year to Date Income



Year to Date Expenses

