

Rundle Travels The World



trips of spring break 2011



Guatemala

Ali Droppo

Coming from the life I live, meeting my basic needs is a given; obtaining the things I want takes priority in my mind. It's not about whether I'll be able to afford an education, food, or

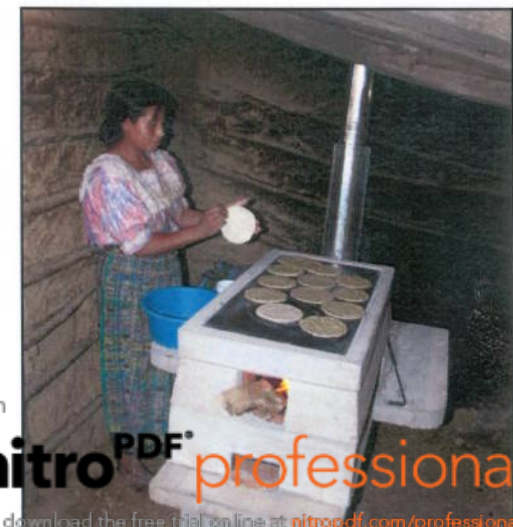


even shelter. It's about whether I'll get those Alexander Wang sandals I've been drooling over for weeks, or front row tickets to the Lil' Wayne concert. Living in a city like Calgary, and going to a school like Rundle, gives us very different priorities from many people in this world. Guatemala was an eye-opener. It gave us some much-needed perspective.

Over March break, twenty-one students flew to Guatemala with four chaperones to join forces with the Hearts & Hands Foundation and provide humanitarian aid to the underprivileged by installing efficient and healthy stoves in their homes. Going into it, I knew I

would be changing the lives of many Guatemalans, but what I didn't know was that they would also change mine. Sure, Guatemalans don't have fancy houses, Range Rovers in their garages, or the ability to buy something just because it catches their eye, but what they do have is so much more valuable. They have a community and an overwhelming sense of hope, which in turn brings them true happiness. They have nothing, but they have everything. Walking down the street, everyone makes sure to greet you as they pass, with a smile, a nod or even a short honk of their horn. Many stove-building groups arrived to fully prepared meals waiting for them at the homes they visited. When was the last time you cooked your electrician a meal for fixing a few loose wires? To us, it was a couple hours of our time moving around a few cement blocks. To them, it was the start of a better life.

How refreshing it is to leave behind the





materialism that creates such a shallow happiness and enter a world where there is so much more to life. Being in Guatemala taught me that a little hard work will take me so much further in life and give me a much greater satisfaction than any item ever could. This country and its people truly are diamonds in the rough, and I will carry this experience with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you so much to the sponsors, and especially the teachers who made this trip possible.



Created with

 **nitro**^{PDF} professional

download the free trial online at nitropdf.com/professional