

## Born Into Poverty

Ancelma Ortiz grew up in rural Guatemala, where 3 out of 4 people live in poverty and 1 in 3 cannot read or write. The oldest of five children, she labored in the fields alongside her father and sold produce with her mother in the early morning market to help provide the basic necessities for their family. Education seemed like an impossible luxury.



## The Cycle of Poverty: Broken

Today, Ancelma works for an international company making four times as much money as her father. She helped pay for her younger siblings' education, and now she is starting her own family with a young daughter and son who represent the first generation born out of poverty. The cycle of poverty is officially broken.

## Rise

### Youth Development Program

Right before Ancelma thought she would have to drop out of school, a kindhearted couple sponsored her placement in the Rise Program, which gives opportunities to students who have great potential but face overwhelming obstacles. As she journeyed through middle and high school on scholarship, she was given the **psychological and social support** to rise above these obstacles and build the life she had always dreamed of. She attended **workshops** on job skills and social justice. She went on **visits to businesses and universities** to expand her worldview. And she took on **new leadership roles** with her peers by implementing creative solutions to improve her community. "I was motivated to succeed because I didn't want to disappoint my family or my sponsors."

## Sponsor a Scholar: Change a Life

[www.cooperativeforeducation.org/helpkids](http://www.cooperativeforeducation.org/helpkids)

-  Break the cycle of poverty.
-  Exchange letters with your student.
-  Meet your student in Guatemala.
-  Be changed forever.



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***The Rise Program gave me the ability to develop my potential. Limits only exist in your mind.***

***— Brenda, graduate***