

Dear Class of '55,

Thank you so much for your generous gift! Because of the travel award created through your donations, I was able to travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia for a month to study Spanish. While in Cochabamba I had two separate internships. The first was at Manos Con Libertad, an organization which provides job opportunities to women who were recently released from prison. The women create handmade items, greeting cards, clothing, purses, and then the organization helps the women sell them. None of the women working there were violent criminals; several had been put in jail for debt because their husbands had run off and left them with no source of income and several children to feed. Even though each of the women had a sad history, they were some of the most welcoming and friendly people I met during my whole trip. They generously shared lunch with me every day I was there, and that impressed me like nothing else.

My second internship was at Colegio Tiquipaya, a private bilingual high school. I am a chemistry major and Spanish minor at Cornell, so I was very excited when I was allowed to assist with the chemistry classes. I was able to combine my two interests and help teach chemistry in Spanish. It was a great experience to see how education is handled in another country.

This experience in Bolivia is one I will never forget. I learned the valuable lesson of how to relate to both the very poor and the very rich. Not only that, but I did it all in a language that is not my first. My future career goal is to join the faculty at a small liberal arts school as a chemistry professor, and this experience will help me relate better to my students. Thank you again for helping to provide me with this extraordinary opportunity!

Cordially,
Teresa Beary '08

