

Carls Help Carls eNewsletter

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Summer internships can help strengthen a resume or even launch a career. But many internships are unpaid—a hardship for students who can't afford to work for free. Carleton helps level the playing field with special scholarships to cover their lost earnings.

Meet one of the students who took advantage of these scholarships to pursue an amazing summer experience.

Reed Jordan '12: Building Stoves, Improving Lives

Some summer interns get to type, file, and fetch coffee. Reed Jordan '12 got to change lives.

Jordan worked with the organization ProWorld in the impoverished communities surrounding Urubamba, Peru. ProWorld's oldest and most successful program is the Clean-Burning Stoves project, an initiative to replace traditional Peruvian open-fire stoves with a healthier alternative.

This project isn't about upgrading a kitchen appliance, Jordan explains. It's about improving lives and health.

"These traditional stoves do not have chimneys," he says. "It's an open fire with no venting. Sometimes it's just an overturned bucket, or a couple of rocks. The ceilings in these homes are covered with black soot, and people are breathing this every day. They are at high risk for respiratory illnesses, blindness, and decreased lung capacity."



The stoves installed by ProWorld workers have a chimney to vent 99% of the smoke to the outdoors. They're also dramatically more fuel-efficient, saving families up to \$70 per year (a significant sum in these impoverished areas).

"It was so great meeting the people whose lives we were improving," Jordan says. "Each project is headed by someone from the community, and every day we'd go out together to interview families and prepare stoves. We would also test their lung capacity, measuring it at one week, one month, and three months after the installation of the stove."

"What impressed me most about this project was seeing that regular people have real power to bring change and innovation," Jordan says. "It's not overseen by somebody in a big corporate

office. These are people on the ground, right there in these communities. If you have a good idea, you can make a real difference. It's a powerful feeling."

Jordan, a Political Science major, hopes to join the Peace Corps or work with Teach for America after his graduation from Carleton.

Reed Jordan's internship was funded by [The Initiative for Service Internships in International Development](#), established in 2003 with a gift from Stephen R. West '53 and his wife Phyllis M. West.