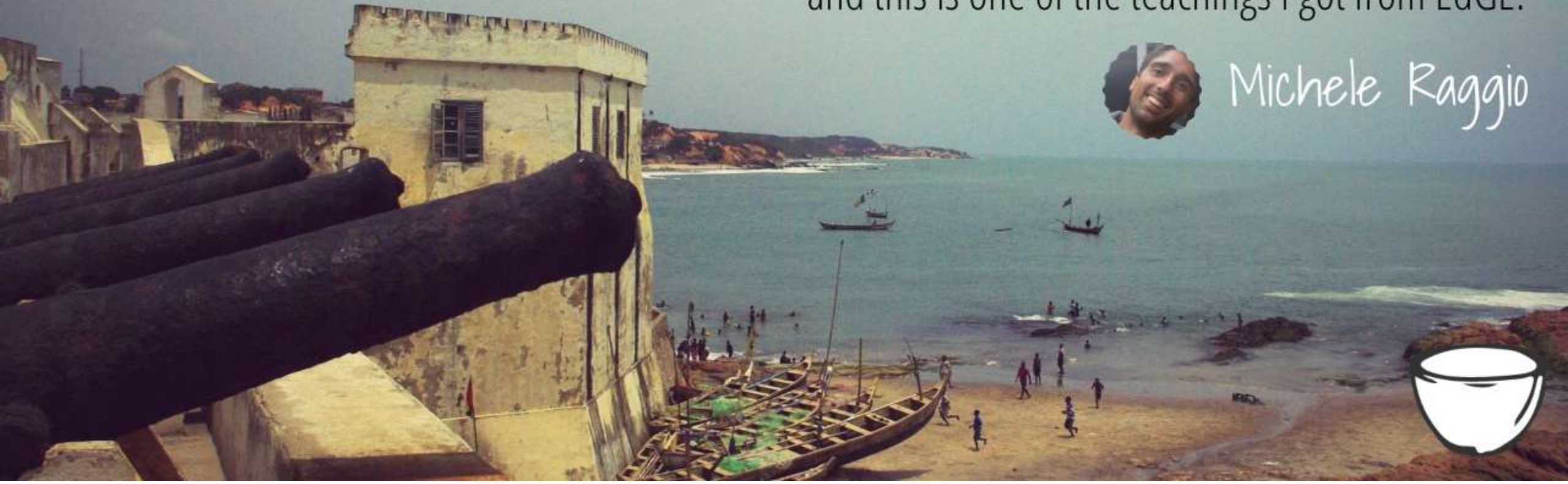


After taking EdGE, I've volunteered and worked in Ghana, Kenya and now Uganda. Next I'll go to Tanzania. The knowledge and the way of thinking that I gained from EdGE probably brought me months ahead with my job. *The way I interacted with the locals, the way we worked and took decisions together since the very first beginning, wouldn't have been the same.* I'm not saying that now I own the truth. Almost every day, I question myself and the way I behave with respect to other cultures, and this is one of the teachings I got from EdGE.



Michele Raggio



The EdGE classroom has given me the resources and mentorship to navigate the complexities of international service in an open and accepting space. Taking an online class was never something I thought would be part of my gap year, but **I am so grateful for everything I have learned through EdGE.** Going into my travels with a foundation of intentionality and reflection will make my time abroad all the more impactful.

Claire Burnet



EdGE interns are exceptional in a number of ways: their openness to learning, cultural awareness and sensitivity, good communication skills, and active participation in organizational activities. Their sense of enthusiasm and willingness to challenge themselves in a new environment was amazing! Aside from their hard work, what is even more evident is their level of commitment, passion, and sense of responsibility to every assigned role. EdGE interns exhibit their openness to learning by asking locals to explain or interpret different situations for them. This gives them the opportunity to make the most impact and be of greater help to the organization compared to many other interns.



Eric Opoku Agyemang
Director of Patriots Ghana



Hannah Zettel



I decided to take a year off hoping to gain new experiences, meet new people, travel and develop new skills. *Omprakash and my field position with Seeds of Hope Peru enabled me to realize all of these goals.* I began the EdGE program because I wanted to learn about the possible issues surrounding international volunteering and thought I might be interested in studying International Development in university, but did not know what that might entail. My EdGE mentor was fantastic. I ended up learning a lot and loving the program.



I'm working as a volunteer at Fundación por la Educación Multidimensional. It is the first time in my life that I feel that I am learning in practice things that can really change the world. I am able to learn in practice because I had excellent theoretical preparation at EdGE. It's interesting how the themes covered on the platform are occurring here in reality. Omprakash has [partnered with] an excellent NGO, I am really proud of them and the work that we are doing empowering afro and indigenous communities.

Victor Henrique
Rodrigues Jeronymo



This past March I found Omprakash, and through it the Refugee Youth Service NGO, and I am now volunteering as their Outreach Officer in Calais, France. The EdGE course and my current position are unique experiences that allowed me to transition from the academic and polished Washington, D.C. world to the field abroad.

The EdGE course helped prepare me by teaching me how to see myself, the nonprofit sector, and the intersectional issues that complicate our work.



Anat Berday-Sacks



Thank you for helping us to be the change we want to see in this world. I am deeply grateful to Omprakash because they have created a great course, exceeded my expectations and encouraged me to learn about methodological tools for my field position that I had not considered.

Lina Rojas



The Partner Development Grant is a great way for organisations to have access to expertise and information in area(s) that the organisation is grappling to address. We won expert support for Grant writing and editing our Impact stories booklet. The support and insightful suggestions provided enabled us to rethink our strategies on how best we can package ourselves in a grant application. It was good to have someone who could objectively look at some of our current Grant application(s) and enable us to bring substance and uniqueness to our Grant writing.



Project Why, India



The Edge platform not only provides curriculum but experiences of those that have walked the path that I wanted to walk... Listening to the news from my side of the world is one thing but being a part of it in real time gives you a whole different sense of connection to the people's story. I've made friends in India from all over the world and grown attachments to them. Some of their homelands are under siege or in distress and I am just as worried for them as they are for themselves. The world is a lot bigger once you're outside of the United States.



Jailel Barr



This class questioned and humbled my intentions in the world around me. Put me in my place, in the best sense of the phrase by making me understand how complex the world actually is. EcoSwell (the org I was working with) accepted me with open arms. It boosted my confidence and gave me a determination in my work that I had been lacking for a long time. Conversations I had from day to day challenged me and questioned my reality.



Ana Villamizar



They brought a lot of knowledge and expertise. We believe the Edge training played a huge role in preparing the volunteers for their role, especially in rural areas. The program offered them the necessary skills to be respectful, flexible and adapt to the community's culture.



Natalie Tingo

Director of Msichana Empowerment Kuria, Kenya



Paula Galán Sanz



My most sincere gratitude to all those people who make possible that I and other students and volunteers had been able to enroll in EdGE.

Through these experiences and the themes we discussed on EdGE, I realized it's impossible to be neutral. Just because we live we are taking a position in the world, therefore, it's our own responsibility to be aware of our causes and consequences as individual and as a community and being awake and strong to follow our philosophy of life. Let's keep on maintaining our flame and others'.

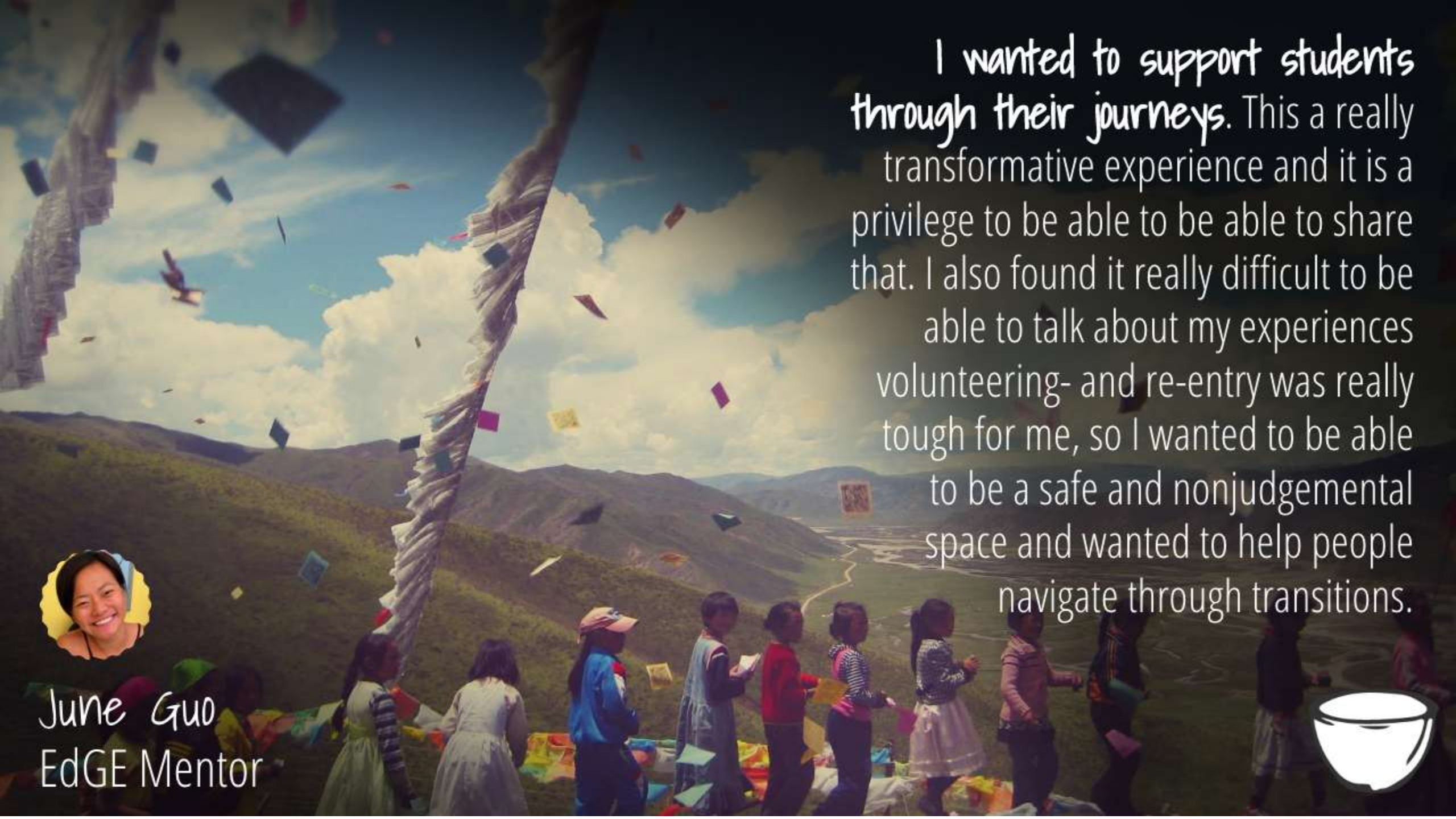


We observed that the EdGE volunteers were well oriented and sensitized by Omprakash to the social and cultural setting, and were academically prepared for the assignments and challenges in the cause. *This has also edged us on to identify more innovative and interesting opportunities for their involvement.*



Team of Udayan Care, India





I wanted to support students through their journeys. This a really transformative experience and it is a privilege to be able to be able to share that. I also found it really difficult to be able to talk about my experiences volunteering- and re-entry was really tough for me, so I wanted to be able to be a safe and nonjudgemental space and wanted to help people navigate through transitions.



June Guo
EdGE Mentor



The Edge program has educated me on the complexities of international volunteering which I will forever be grateful for. This program gave me a purpose and...I believe my organization, the community and I were able to grow and learn together.



Niki Hadighi



Thanks to the EdGE Grant, I have been presented with many opportunities to enter dialogue with peers and mentors who challenge me to think critically about how I may or may not be contributing to social change. I hope that—equipped with the knowledge and perspectives from this course—I can enter more critical interactions with individuals during my time abroad, become more aware of how these issues can and should be approached, and benefit these communities through developing greater global awareness. I believe that the EdGE curriculum is the beginning of a deeper understanding of the world and the role that I play in it.

Eugenia Chow



I was initially drawn to Omprakash for its rock-solid values and no-nonsense truth-telling... I can say with certainty that Omprakash and the EdGE learning platform will supply the tools and opportunity to do so in bigger and better ways than I ever could've thought possible. It pushes me to hold myself to the highest standard and begin truly doing the work of digging myself out of my singular perspective and prioritizing equality, respect, and humility. Most importantly, Omprakash and the EdGE curriculum put the responsibility on me to create the change I wish to see.

Arryn Owens



The Partner Development Grant was helpful in that it clarified how the organization should structure its grants, donors and other partners within its strategy. It was very helpful with strategic planning. *We are very grateful for you having awarded our organization this grant!*

Sani Foundation, Zambia



Through the entire experience, I learned a great deal about myself, the world around me, and the connection between the two. I also learned that I have a lot left to learn and understand. Through EdGE, I gained a deeper understanding of the implications of volunteering abroad and of what my purpose should and should not be during such experiences. While EdGE taught me about service and how to serve, volunteering with LOHYI and staying in Machakos added experience to the academic knowledge.

Riddhi Patel



When I began my Gap Year, I had ideas of what I wanted to do but wasn't sure how to get there, and in the right way. **Omprakash was the "connector" I needed.** I volunteered online for Refugee4Refugees for several months while I worked to save money in my hometown in Upstate New York. Then I came here to Peru to volunteer as a photographer-videographer for Seeds of Hope. The Ethical Global Engagement Grant I received from Omprakash also helped to make this a reality!



Maeve Bremmer



I find that as I go through the EdGE units, I am continuously reading materials about topics, concepts or theories that not only affirm my beliefs and values, but also **challenge me to think deeper about certain topics**, or introduce me to topics or concepts I had not thought of previously.

Jaclyn Wilke



The EdGE program got me thinking about essential questions of what it means to be an international volunteer — and a member of society. These questions of intentions, preconceptions, and privileges are very difficult to uncover alone and are key to approaching the idea of volunteering from a constructive vantage point. *EdGE is adept at covering these topics in a funny, inviting way that never becomes too abstract or removed from the coming volunteer experience* (in fact, it includes a lot of practical help for organizing a trip). The EdGE pre-departure course is intriguing and illuminating and it was one of the best parts of my Omprakash experience.



Ian Davis



EdGE Mentors are also a great **asset** for addressing your questions and concerns, and they are all well-informed people who help you to challenge your ideas throughout the course. Omprakash EdGE is a wonderful program to go through because the staff and Mentors truly care about your experience and will support you in any way they can.



Sarah Young



I wanted to join the Mentor Team in order to further develop my own critical consciousness by learning from those who are just starting their EdGE journey, and those who have been walking the path longer than I have. I've been a teacher in some capacity for a while now, and I've never forgotten the magic that happened in EdGE. I wanted to be on the other side.

I feel that between my Omprakash internship and subsequent return to India through a Fulbright grant, I have a lot of experience to offer.

Brendan Rempert
EdGE Mentor



Honestly, at the beginning, I wasn't sure whether or not to take EdGE. I'd already spent almost 3 years working in the rainforests of South America, so I thought "what more could this course teach me?" But call it instinct, intuition, or whatever you want to call it, I realized that there is always something new to learn, and to open your mind and heart to. So I enrolled. *I can tell you that this was one of the best calls I've made regarding my own education and self-learning process.*



Daniel Couceiro

