



# ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



One of the highlights of 2013 was the completion of a multi-year project in support of education for girls from 22 Lenca indigenous communities in the San Francisco de Opalaca region of Honduras. The project spanned six years and was supported by the Luke 4 Foundation and the 60 Million Girls Foundation and was carried out in partnership with Hermanas Educadoras de Notre Dame.

For the girls in the villages of this region the challenges are enormous. They are often under pressure from their families to work rather than study and few have studied beyond grade six. A community school might have only one or two teachers responsible for six different grades, leaving students ill-prepared for the more rigorous demands of larger secondary schools in distant towns. Lack of both education and awareness also leads to a high rate of teenage pregnancies, putting the completion of education even further out of reach.

In 2007, when we started the project, our goal was to provide bursaries for girls' education, to hold human rights workshops and to support the construction of two dormitories for girls who must travel from their remote villages to attend school. We are proud to report that our project was a success and has helped make a major difference in the lives of these girls.

The project has provided a total of 300 bursaries for girls in the Lenca communities. It also provided school uniforms, shoes or supplies – or a combination of all three – to 565 primary school students, 55 junior-high students and 65 high school students.

In 2012, the first group of girls who started their education in the seventh grade in 2007 in Monte Verde graduated from high school, an exceptional achievement that had been out of their reach before.

Just as importantly, the girls gained a better understanding of their rights as citizens and as young women, and now see themselves as catalysts of positive change in their communities.

One such student is Lidia, who graduated high school and has now passed her university entrance exam and is looking forward to furthering her education.

*"I had to leave my home and family in order to continue my studies. In 2012, I graduated from High School with a Secondary Vocational Diploma in Literacy and Sciences and as a result, I can now apply to go to university ... I would like to sincerely thank you and your organization for your kindness and the constant support you provide to our community."*

Olinda, a student at the residence in La Esperanza, also wrote about how having access to education has changed her outlook on life:

*"I have noticed the changes in myself. I think differently and improve each day while learning new things. I see my abilities developing with the things I have learned. When I left Santa Fe to go to Esperanza I saw many changes and that has helped my creativity and dynamism."*

This project has thus sown the seeds for future generations of girls and their families to consider education as a viable option for a better future.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2013, ACCESO International operated in seven countries supporting various projects from pre-school to post-secondary education.

In **Canada**, we provided back-to-school supplies for over one hundred low-income refugee and immigrant children and youth in the Ottawa area.

In the **Dominican Republic**, we provided educational materials, bursaries, computer programs and libraries at six primary schools in Yamasá and San José de Ocoa. We supported pre-natal and asthma prevention education for Haitian families in the Yamasá and Consuelo areas. We also assisted three youth with their post-secondary studies.

In **Guatemala**, we supported three pre-schools in the mountain Mayan villages of Sacala, Tioxya and Xenacojal.

In **Haiti**, we supported the post-earthquake reconstruction of primary schools, as well as the educational programming at a homework centre that offers literacy support to at-risk, impoverished and orphaned children and youth in the Verrettes area.

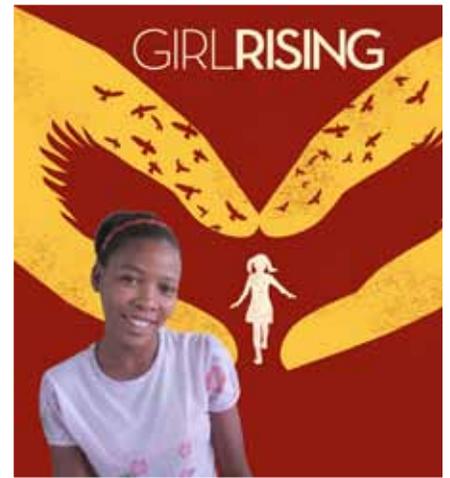
In **Honduras**, we provided supplies and bursaries for an orphanage, a daycare, women's and children's human rights workshops, a homework centre and a high school in El Progreso, for a primary school in Buen Ejemplo, and for a high school in La Lima. In Monte Verde and La Esperanza, we supported human rights workshops, skills training, a sewing centre, bursaries and two residences for Lenca girls and women.

In **Nicaragua**, we sponsored human rights workshops for women and computer training programs for marginalized students, including physically challenged individuals and youth struggling with substance abuse in Managua.

In **Peru**, we sponsored post-secondary students and health education workshops, and we replenished educational materials and equipment for 24 preschools that we helped to reconstruct after the earthquake in Chincha Alta.

## SCREENING OF THE FILM "GIRL RISING"

On December 10th 2013 (International Human Rights Day), at Library and Archives Canada, ACCESO International and the Guatemala Stove Project presented the screening of Girl Rising – a film that illustrates the power of educating girls to change the world. Over 300 guests, including many young people, attended the event which was hosted enthusiastically by Lucy van Oldenbarneveld from CBC News Ottawa. Over \$5,300 was raised in support of girls' education in Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.



ACCESO INTERNATIONAL is an incorporated, not-for-profit, non-political, non-denominational and non-governmental Canadian charitable organization that is entirely volunteer-operated. It was founded in 1996 by Dr. Christine Gervais to promote greater access to all levels of education in Latin America and the Caribbean. ACCESO International functions non-hierarchically by focusing on equality, consensus building and collegiality among its volunteers, collaborators and beneficiaries. Its founding principles of solidarity, equality, human rights, peace and social justice enable our students, partners and supporters to collaborate in relevant, meaningful and successful ways.

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## 2013 VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

Sarah Alderwick, Natalia Amiel, Olga Chavez, Colleen Cotter,  
 Jocelyne Dubois, Louise Egan, Angela Elong, Betsy Estevez,  
 Jordan Fairbairn, Rosa Frias, Christine Gervais, Jodie Golden,  
 Monique Grenon, Pamela Groh, Rachel Heft, Kendra Hughes,  
 Lisette Jimenez, Bryan Lemire, Flor Lopez, Maria Marasco,  
 Ines Martin, Brandy McDevitt, Nora McKnight,  
 Karen Mount, Rob Myers, Eleanor Norman, Kim Paradis,  
 Grant Perry, Bettman Petien, Marleen Redhead, Rudy Rivera,  
 Lauren Smithson, Jossana Souza, Amy Wilmott

Special Thanks to our Volunteers' Partners, Families & Friends  
 for their Support and Encouragement



## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL'S SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

3 Trees  
 3H Acupuncture & Chinese  
 Medicine  
 Algonquin College School of  
 Hospitality and Tourism -  
 Restaurant International  
 Arthur Murray Dance Studio  
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 Brian Atkinson Photography  
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 Girol Books  
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 Greenspon, Brown and Associates

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 La Cabaña  
 La Siembra  
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 Luke 4 Foundation  
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 Peter Beninger (Photographer)  
 Pierino Scarfo Salon  
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 Compounding Centre  
 Wellington Gastropub  
 Wilderness Tours  
 Yarns etc.



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## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Directors of Acceso International

The accompanying summary financial statements of ACCESO International, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2013, the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, of ACCESO International as at December 31, 2013 and for the year then ended.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated April 26, 2014.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements of ACCESO International. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of ACCESO International.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in note 2.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

### Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statement of ACCESO International as at December 31, 2013, and for the year then ended are a fair summary of those financial statements in accordance with the basis described in note 2.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

April 26, 2014

Ottawa, Canada

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2013, with comparative information for 2012

	2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 153,648	\$ 178,170
Prepaid expenses	309	898
	153,957	179,068
Investments	15,848	15,733
	\$ 169,805	\$ 194,801

### Liabilities and Net Assets

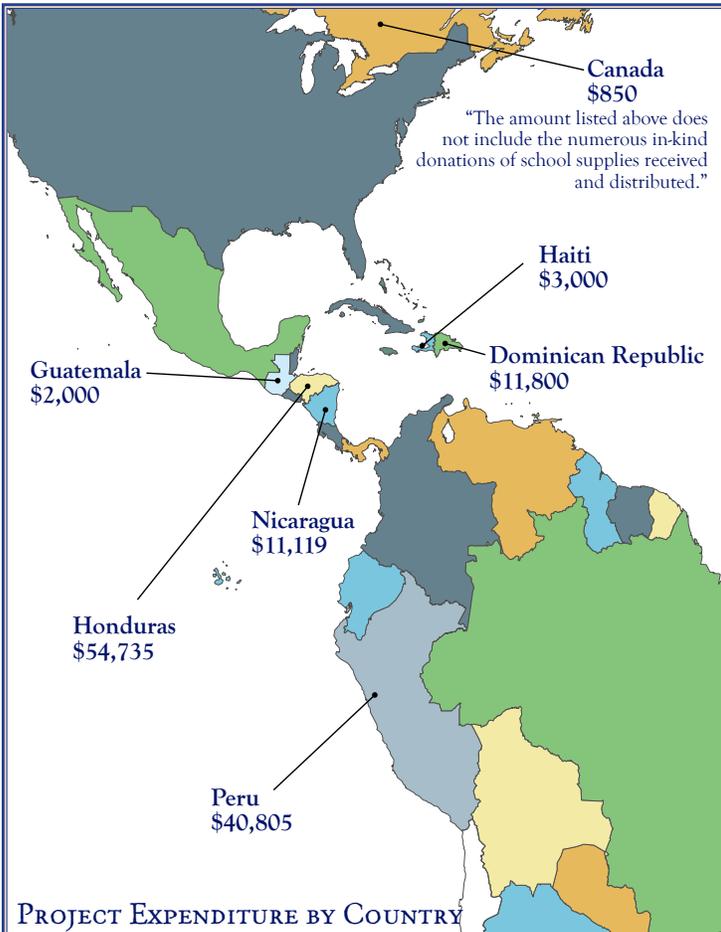
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Deferred revenue	54,709	76,681
	58,209	80,181
Net assets:		
Endowment	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted	101,596	104,620
	111,596	114,620
	\$ 169,805	\$ 194,801

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2013, with comparative information for 2012

	2013	2012
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Donation	\$ 107,020	\$ 128,028
Fundraising	40,126	37,442
Interest	243	560
	147,389	166,030
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Project and scholarships	124,310	116,876
Fundraising	17,737	15,793
Administration	8,366	8,560
	150,413	141,229
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(3,024)	24,801
Net assets, beginning of year	114,620	89,819
Net assets, end of year	\$ 111,596	\$ 114,620



The design and colour printing of this report have been donated by volunteers.

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2013

### 1. Mission:

ACCESO International is a non-governmental charitable organization that promotes and enables greater access to education in Latin America and the Caribbean by providing bursary assistance to individuals, as well as supplies and books to schools, libraries and education centres. It was founded in 1996, and was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act effective March 21, 2003.

### 2. Summary financial statements:

The summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, as at December 31, 2013 and for the year then ended.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

These summarized financial statements have been prepared by management using the following criteria:

- whether information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete audited financial statements; and
- whether, in all material respects, the summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete audited financial statements, including the notes thereto.

Management determined that the statements of changes in net assets and cash flows do not provide additional useful information and as such have not included them as part of the summary financial statements.

The complete audited financial statements of ACCESO International are available upon request by contacting the management of ACCESO International.

### Treasurer's Discussion On Accountability And Authenticity

As a reflection of ACCESO International's commitment to accountability and responsible charitable business, \$9,710.00 was raised by the founder, her family, volunteers and selected corporate sponsors to cover operational costs (e.g. administration, communications, fundraising) incurred during the 2013 fiscal year. This practice ensures that non-restricted received donations are allocated directly to our education projects. A complete version of our 2013 Audited Financial Statements is available upon request.