



# ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2009, our commitment to education was renewed by several significant surprises reminding us of the potential of solidarity and generosity and offering new signs of hope. Early in the year, the 60 Million Girls Foundation in Montreal selected one of our projects in Honduras, “Educating Lenca Girls Today, Empowered Lenca Women Tomorrow”, as one of only two projects that they support annually. The \$100,000 donation, linked exclusively to our three-year project in the mountainous region of San Francisco de Opalaca, is helping to build a dormitory, provide bursaries and facilitate empowerment programs that will enable hundreds of young girls in the area to be educated beyond grade 6. Our partnership with the 60 Million Girls Foundation is a meaningful one that supports our students’ own efforts to overcome educational barriers related to gender inequality and cultural oppression. Such efforts are particularly vital given the fragility of human rights under the currently unstable political climate in Honduras.



In June, our co-founders Christine Gervais and Grant Perry travelled to Chincha Alta, Peru to visit the primary school and preschools that were reconstructed after the earthquake in 2007 thanks to the generous support of the Luke 4 Foundation. Amidst seemingly permanent ruin, they witnessed remarkable human courage, resilience and ingenuity in



homes, workplaces and education centres. The students, staff and parents at the schools invested considerable energy and detail in hosting assemblies in which their gratitude for their reconstructed learning spaces was thoughtfully expressed through personalized songs, poems and folkloric dancing. These celebrations of achievement amidst the visibly evident challenges were humbling and inspiring and they served as reminders of the life-changing impacts of our collective efforts.



On November 13th, ACCESO International’s work was recognized when our founder and president Christine Gervais was awarded the Lewis Perinbam Award by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). This annual award commends a Canadian who has made a significant volunteer contribution to international development. Although the award is for individual achievement, it is shared with all of ACCESO International’s volunteers, donors, partners and students as an affirmation of the value of our solidarity among fellow human beings. We thank WUSC for recognizing our collective commitment to education and social justice.

2009 has rewarded ACCESO International with tributes that have been humbling and encouraging. But our satisfaction comes especially from witnessing the success of our beneficiaries and knowing that even in difficult times, our donors continue to believe in our modest organization. Our solidarity-oriented partnerships among donors, volunteers, counterparts and recipients constitute a profound sharing of both the challenges and successes of our pursuit of hope-filled education and enduring human progress.

## 2009 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2009, ACCESO International operated in ten countries supporting various projects from pre-school to post-secondary education.

In **Bolivia**, we supported the library, homework centre, day care and post-secondary bursaries at Centro Integral WARMI in Cochabamba. We sponsored human rights workshops on citizenship, gender equality and the environment for women, youth and children.

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 **Colombia**, we provided computer support for a popular education primary school that serves extremely impoverished children in the Aguablanca area of Cali.

In the **Dominican Republic**, we provided educational materials, bursaries, computer programs and libraries in six primary schools in Yamasa and San José de Ocoa. We supported pre-natal education for Haitian families in the Yamasa area. We also assisted four young women and men with their post-secondary studies.

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

In **Haiti**, we supported a homework centre that offers literacy support to at-risk, impoverished and orphaned children and youth at "Timoun Tèt Ansanm" in Verrettes.

In **Honduras**, we provided supplies and bursaries for an orphanage, a daycare, women'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, we supported human rights workshops, skills training, bursaries and a residence for Lenca girls and women.

In **Mexico**, we supported the construction and furnishing of a community homework and recreational centre for youth in San Luis Potosi.

In **Nicaragua**, we sponsored computer training programs for over 300 students and human rights workshops for women at Fundación Escuela Para Todos (School for All) in Managua.

In **Peru**, we sponsored five female post-secondary students and completed the post-earthquake reconstruction and furnishing of 20 preschools in Chinchá Alta.

*"A very big hello for all of you. It was an unforgettable day in my life. Upon returning to our house, my family laughed and cried. Everything went great. Thanks a million Acceso!"*

(Graduate in Medicine in the Dominican Republic on his Graduation Day)



*"You've done so much for us, we can never be grateful enough. The library is used more and more. The children have learned to borrow and return the books. We are so grateful that you donated the library in memory of Jill-Frances Norwood so many years ago."*  
(Teacher in San José de Ocoa, Dominican Republic)



*"When I first started to attend the workshops I did not have shoes to go. I remember one day last year we had a meeting and I could not go because ... when I was going down the steps my shoes split ... I cried all afternoon because I could not go to the workshop ... Later a friend from the workshops gave me a pair of shoes when she knew what happened so I could go to the meetings. She then asked if I needed work and I started to cook the snacks for the workshops ... by selling tamales, I was able to buy my shoes."*

(Female Human Rights Workshop Participant in Honduras)

*"My understanding changed totally ... the workshops helped us to value ourselves as people ... I now have the attitude that we are all equal ... I understand and respect girls' rights better."*  
(Indigenous Adolescent Boy in Bolivia)



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.

## 2009 VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

Sarah Alderwick, Natalia Amiel, Sonia Bouffard (VP Programs), Olga Chavez, Colleen Cotter (Secretary), Jocelyne Dubois, Betsy Estevez (VP Projects), Jordan Fairbairn, Rosa Frias, Chelsey Gervais, Christine Gervais (Founder & President), Jodie Golden, Pamela Groh, Rachel Heft (VP Fundraising), Alana Henry, Ana Jimenez, Lisette Jimenez (VP Community Relations), Nick Jimenez, Janine Knight, Marilyne Landry, Lynne Leblanc, Flor Lopez, Danielle Lord, Brandy McDevitt, Nora McKnight, Rob Myers (VP Marketing), Eleanor Norman (VP Volunteer Coordination), Kim Paradis, Grant Perry (Treasurer), Jordan Perry, Lisa Perry, Kathleen Pratt, Rudy Rivera, Rudy Rivera Jr., Jossana Souza, Michele Valcour, Amy Wilmott

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



## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL'S SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

- |                                   |                                    |                                     |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 60 Million Girls Foundation       | CUPE                               | Hotel Indigo Ottawa                 | OWL Rafting                                     | The Keith Press - Copiexperts               |
| 45 Blades                         | Embassy of Guatemala               | Isaac's 6400                        | Pardo Travel                                    | The Papery                                  |
| 3H Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine | Embassy of Honduras                | Isztin Photography                  | Peacock Family Foundation                       | The Stamp Barn                              |
| Absolute Comedy Club              | Embassy of Mexico                  | Karma Hair Studio                   | Pirie Foundation                                | The Works                                   |
| Air Canada                        | Embassy of Peru                    | Kim Martinuk (State Farm Insurance) | Pretty Pots Flowers & Gifts                     | Todric's Catering                           |
| Airmetrics Inc                    | Embassy of the Dominican Republic  | Kinaxis                             | Quichua International                           | Toronto Raptors                             |
| Aqueduct Foundation               | Embassy of Venezuela               | KPMG                                | RCMP-NCPS Staff                                 | United Way of Greater Toronto               |
| Autoimport                        | Equator Coffee Roasters            | La Siembra                          | Restaurant E18hteen                             | United Way of Ottawa                        |
| Big Bend Pottery                  | Esprit Rafting                     | Le Nordik Spa                       | Rink Pro Sports                                 | University of Ottawa Alumni Association     |
| Bradley's Insurance               | Euro-Sports                        | Luke 4 Foundation                   | Rogers Wireless Inc.                            | Vera Adamovich (Independent Planning Group) |
| Brian Atkinson Photography        | Ezipin Canada                      | Lieutenants Pump                    | Ron Engineering                                 | VIA Rail Canada Inc.                        |
| Bridgehead                        | Fair World Sports (Y-Focus Ottawa) | Mann & Partners LLP                 | Sacred Heart Catholic High School (Stittsville) | Walkerworks Picture Framing                 |
| Bushtukah                         | Fred Astaire - Megadance           | Memory Mosaics                      | Salon Visions of Style                          | Western Union (Canada)                      |
| Cambridge Design Gallery          | Girol Books                        | Mrs Tiggy Winkles                   | Society of the Sacred Heart                     | Windsor Home Cleaning                       |
| Canadian Linen & Uniform Service  | Grace Monuments                    | Myobalance                          | SOS Children's Villages                         | World University Service of Canada (WUSC)   |
| Caress Electrolysis               | Great Canadian Theatre Company     | Mystara Boutique                    | St. Elmo's Fire                                 |   |
| Cartier Place Suite Hotel         | Greenspon, Brown & Associates      | Natural Food Pantry                 | St. Francis Xavier School (Brockville)          |   |
| CBC Radio 1 All in a Day          | Happy Tree Yoga Studio             | Neal Brothers                       | Stampin' Up                                     |   |
| Chilly Chiles                     | Here We Grow Again                 | Ottawa Citizen                      | Starbucks                                       |   |
|                                   |                                    | Our Lady of Mount Carmel C.W.L.     | The Davis Agency                                |   |





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### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position and operations are derived from the complete financial statements of ACCESO International as at and for the year ended December 31, 2009. In our audit report on the complete 2009 financial statements, dated February 12, 2010, we expressed a reservation of opinion in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards because we were unable to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of donation and fundraising revenue. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Accountants

Ottawa, Canada

March 23, 2010

### ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 223,441	\$ 131,309
Amounts receivable	159	417
Prepaid expenses	250	373
	223,850	132,099
Investments	13,193	12,611
	\$ 237,043	\$ 144,710

### Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,299	\$ 2,901
Deferred revenue	148,605	46,277
	151,904	49,178
Net assets:		
Endowment	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted	75,139	85,532
	85,139	95,532
	\$ 237,043	\$ 144,710

### Summarized Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
Revenue:		
Donations	\$ 79,373	\$ 210,368
Fundraising	36,680	41,790
Interest	660	3,887
	116,713	256,045
Expenses:		
Projects and scholarships	109,625	225,528
Fundraising	11,086	14,768
Administration	6,395	5,909
	127,106	246,205
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (10,393)	\$ 9,840

(Complete financial statements are available on written request to ACCESO International).

### Treasurer's Discussion On Accountability And Authenticity

In 2009, ACCESO International's income before deferrals and endowments was \$217,601.99. As a reflection of ACCESO International's commitment to accountability and responsible charitable business, \$9,675 was raised by the founder, her family, volunteers and selected corporate sponsors to cover operational costs (e.g. administration, communications, fundraising) incurred during the 2009 fiscal year. This practice ensures that non-restricted receipted donations are allocated directly to our education projects. A complete version of our 2009 Audited Financial Statements are available on our website.



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