



# ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

## Meaningful Encounters with Students in the Dominican Republic

In February and December of 2012, our family travelled to the Dominican Republic to visit the schools, as well as the pre-natal and health education groups that we sponsor. We were welcomed warmly and enthusiastically by the students, staff, volunteers, parents and women religious who shared meaningfully about the life-changing impacts made possible by our support. It was encouraging to see our students' progress over time. Some of the greatest highlights of the trip included very special visits with three young women. The first one was with Yheimis - a young woman with an unforgettable smile (photo bottom left). Through the JF Norwood Memorial Scholarship in San José de Ocoa, we had been sponsoring Yheimis' university education; sadly, she was only one semester away from completing her degree in business administration when she was diagnosed with leukemia; she passed away less than two months after our visit. Our time with her and her family in February was precious indeed.

We also had the opportunity to spend time with Jordalis - the young girl with the memorable eyes on our home page whom we have been sponsoring since she was in kindergarten (photo second from left); she is now finishing her last year of high school. She accompanied us on many excursions throughout the country and she was both proud and humbled to show us her make-shift home built of irregular wooden slats that was still under construction

and still in need of a roof and a floor. Despite the family's ongoing financial challenges, Jordalis has become a role model for her younger brothers and neighbours whom she encourages to focus on schooling and she helps them with their homework.

One of our most fruitful encounters was with Yamileisy (photo inset). She is a young woman whom we met in 2005 when she was the head girl of her primary school. At the time, she led her school's presentation to our group. We were thoroughly impressed with this young girl's organizational capacity; it was very obvious that she had leadership potential. It was only by chance that we met her again in 2012. It just so happened that she was helping in her little sister's class on the day of our visit to the same school. I recognized her immediately and I expressed how delighted I was to see her again. As we chatted excitedly, I asked her what she was up to. She explained that she

was finishing her last year of high school and I asked her what her plans were after that. She responded that she had none because her family did not have money to pay for post-secondary education. Marcial - her former teacher and principal and the very first student we ever sponsored in 1996, proudly informed us that she was a very good student and that she had great potential for post-secondary studies. Upon hearing this, we made arrangements to sponsor her and she, along with her parents, organized her application and the accompanying documents quite attentively. As a result, Yamileisy started her university studies in communication in January 2013.

It is thanks to your generosity, trust and solidarity as donors that young women like Yheimis, Jordalis and Yamileisy have benefited from, or are benefiting from educational opportunities that are empowering and life-enhancing.

Christine Gervais



## 2012 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2012, ACCESO International operated in seven countries supporting various projects from pre-school to post-secondary education.

In **Canada**, we provided back-to-school supplies and shoes 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 young adults 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 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, bursaries and two residences for Lenca girls and women.

In **Nicaragua**, we sponsored human rights workshops for women and computer training programs for over 300 students, including physically challenged individuals, former sex trade workers and youth struggling with substance abuse, at Fundación Escuela Para Todos in Managua.

In **Peru**, we sponsored post-secondary students and educational sessions on the prevention of asthma and we provided educational materials for 24 preschools that we helped to reconstruct after the earthquake in Chinchá Alta.

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUNDS & TASTES OF THE AMERICAS

In 2012, we celebrated a very special anniversary, and like with all anniversaries, it was a time to reflect, take stock of our successes to date and to make resolutions for the years ahead. We held the 10th annual Sounds and Tastes of the Americas dinner, show and auction and like every other year, we were delighted and honoured to see over 300 people come together for a common cause - to improve access to education for marginalized children, youth and women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was hosted by Adrian Harewood and our auctioneer was Lawrence Greenspon. We had over 170 auction items and our guests were entertained by Colores Andinos, Che Paraguay, Peru Danza and Salsación.

The over \$300,000 raised through this event alone over the past decade - which is in addition to the other funds raised through donations and grants - has opened the doors to learning for thousands of people, setting them on the path to self-sufficiency.



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.

## 2012 VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

*Sarah Alderwick, Natalia Amiel, Carrie Arbuckle, 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, 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

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 A Hundred Answers Inc.  
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 Y Focus  
 Caroline Zentner

## 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 statements of financial position as at December 31, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011, the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets for the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, 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, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 16, 2013.

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 statements of ACCESO International as at December 31, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 are a fair summary of those financial statements in accordance with the basis described in note 2.

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

May 16, 2013

Ottawa, Canada

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011

	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	January 1, 2011
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 178,170	\$ 201,083	\$ 222,298
Amounts receivable	—	191	191
Prepaid expenses	898	839	278
	179,068	202,113	222,767
Investments	15,733	15,311	14,112
	\$ 194,801	\$ 217,424	\$ 236,879

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,199	\$ 3,199
Deferred revenue	76,681	124,406	143,527
	80,181	127,605	146,726
<b>Net assets:</b>			
Endowment	10,000	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted	104,620	79,819	80,153
	114,620	89,819	90,153
	\$ 194,801	\$ 217,424	\$ 236,879

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statements of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Donation	\$ 128,028	\$ 134,771
Fundraising	37,442	36,399
Interest	560	1,330
	166,030	172,500
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Project and scholarships	116,876	151,964
Fundraising	15,793	13,708
Administration	8,560	7,162
	141,229	172,834
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	24,801	(334)
Net assets, beginning of year	89,819	90,153
Net assets, end of year	\$ 114,620	\$ 89,819

See accompanying notes to summary financial statements.



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

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

Years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

### 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, 2012, December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

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, \$8,295.00 was raised by the founder, her family, volunteers and selected corporate sponsors to cover operational costs (e.g. administration, communications, fundraising) incurred during the 2012 fiscal year. This practice ensures that non-restricted received donations are allocated directly to our education projects. A complete version of our 2012 Audited Financial Statements is available upon request.