



Appreciating Volunteers in Canada While Visiting Preschools in Peru

by Chelsey Gervais

Since I was 3 years old, I have been volunteering with ACCESO International, either by attending events (like walk-a-thons while still in a stroller) or by helping with fundraising or educational activities as soon as I was old enough, including the Amigos Club. Yet I was 20 years old by the time I was able to visit ACCESO's projects in person. In June of 2014, I travelled with my Aunt Christine (ACCESO's founder) to Chincha Alta, Peru where we visited many primary schools and early childhood education centres that ACCESO helped to rebuild after the 2007 earthquake. I was able to see first-hand how all the hard work by volunteers in Canada directly affects the people we support. Observing how school, for so many people in need, is a refuge for safety, shelter and nutrition was so enlightening.

The children we met warmed my heart with their amazing smiles and positive energy. It was refreshing to see how they truly enjoyed going to school and I cherished our one-on-one conversations with teachers who shared their views on the project successes and on the areas that required improvement.

I now better understand how hands-on work and in-person communication are essential for effective project management. The importance of face-to-face contact also became evident when we visited the neighbourhoods benefiting from our health education projects. Speaking directly with project recipients about their experiences in the workshops and about the health issues that concerned them the most showed me the importance of ACCESO's inclusive efforts to consult project participants in order to ensure greater efficiency in project coordination.

In addition to opening my eyes to more readily appreciate the relative privileges of Canadian students, this trip was an amazing opportunity that taught me important lessons in international development - my area of study at the University of Ottawa. It was especially incredible to see how much a volunteer-based organization like ACCESO International can accomplish. I now have no doubt that the combined efforts of volunteers, partners and donors have an undeniable effect on the educational well-being of all the students we support in Peru.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2014, ACCESO International supported projects from pre-school to post-secondary levels in seven countries.

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. We supported pre-natal and health 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 sponsored health education workshops in Port-au-Prince, 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 a daycare, women's and children's human rights workshops, a homework centre and a high school in El Progreso. 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 provided office equipment for a computer training school for marginalized students in Managua.

In **Peru**, we sponsored health education workshops, and we completed the replenishment of educational materials for the 24 preschools that we helped to reconstruct after the earthquake in Chinchá Alta.

Alfredo: A Peruvian Boy Who Inspired Me

by Chelsey Gervais

One of the most valuable lessons that I learned on my trip to Peru had less to do with project efficiency in international development work and more to do with heartfelt inspiration and reciprocity. During one of our primary school visits, we first encountered the students, not in their classrooms, but on their neighbourhood streets as they led a walk promoting the environment. At the very end of the parade of students, I noticed a boy whose participation in the walk was laboured by a visible limp, yet his enthusiasm was energizing. Upon witnessing his determination, I immediately chose him as the boy to whom I would give my brother's favourite sweater which he asked me to share while in Peru. When we arrived at the school, we requested to meet the boy; we learned that his name was Alfredo. Through a tearful, yet joyful, exchange translated by my Aunt Christine, I explained to Alfredo how special it was to meet him and to share my brother's favourite



sweater with him. We spoke about his experience in school and his access to education overall. Sharing the sweater became so much more than an act of giving. It represented a memorable moment where I was inspired by a boy's perseverance against considerable odds.



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.

ACCESO INTERNATIONAL P.O. Box 11395 Station H Ottawa, Ontario K2H 7V1 Canada
 (613) 831-9158 www.accesointernational.ca info@accesointernational.ca Charitable Org. # 89229 1501 RR0001

2014 VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

Marcia Adams-Aston, Sarah Alderwick, Natalia Amiel,
 Olga Chavez, Colleen Cotter, Jocelyne Dubois, Louise Egan,
 Angela Elong, Betsy Estevez, Jordan Fairbairn, Rosa Frias,
 Christine Gervais, Julia Goodman, Rachel Heft,
 Rosa Hinojosa Sarmiento, Lisette Jimenez, Flor Lopez,
 Maria Marasco, Ines Martin, Brandy McDevitt,
 Nora McKnight, Karen Mount, Rob Myers, Eleanor Norman,
 Kim Paradis, Grant Perry, Lisa Perry, Marleen Redhead,
 Rudy Rivera, Amanda Robertson-Smirdle, 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 Sisters Bakeshop
 Community Foundation of Ottawa
 Confederation Park School (Saskatoon)
 École Secondaire Publique De La Salle
 Elder Skatesmen Hockey Fest
 Giant Tiger Corporate

Good Shepherd Barrhaven
 Anglican Lutheran Church
 Healthwise Ottawa Magazine
 Kairos Spirituality for Social Justice Centre
 Ottawa Triathlon Club
 Our Lady Of Grace C.W.L.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel C.W.L.
 Pirie Foundation
 St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church
 United Way of Greater Toronto
 United Way of Ottawa
 Staples (South Keys)





KPMG LLP
 Suite 1500
 150 Elgin Street
 Ottawa ON K2P 2P8
 Canada

Telephone (613) 212-KPMG (5764)
 Fax (613) 212-2896
 Internet www.kpmg.ca

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, 2014, 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, 2014 and for the year then ended.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated April 28, 2015.

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, 2014, 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 28, 2015

Ottawa, Canada

KPMG LLP is a Canadian limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.



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

ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014, with comparative information for 2013

	2014	2013
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 93,382	\$ 153,648
Prepaid expenses	309	309
	93,691	153,957
Investments	16,424	15,848
	\$ 110,115	\$ 169,805
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,153	\$ 3,500
Deferred revenue	10,353	54,709
	14,506	58,209
Net assets:		
Endowment	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted	85,609	101,596
	95,609	111,596
	\$ 110,115	\$ 169,805

See accompanying notes to summary financial statements.

ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2014, with comparative information for 2013

	2014	2013
Revenue:		
Donation	\$ 74,444	\$ 107,020
Fundraising	1,284	40,126
Interest	696	243
	76,424	147,389
Expenses:		
Project and scholarships	80,032	124,310
Fundraising	4,711	17,737
Administration	7,668	8,366
	92,411	150,413
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(15,987)	(3,024)
Net assets, beginning of year	111,596	114,620
Net assets, end of year	\$ 95,609	\$ 111,596

See accompanying notes to summary financial statements.

ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2014

1. Mission:

ACCESO International (ACCESO) 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. Effective June 18, 2013, ACCESO continued its articles of incorporation from the Canada Corporations Act to the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. ACCESO is a registered charitable organization under paragraph 149(1)(f) of the Income Tax Act and is exempt from income taxes.

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, 2014 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, \$7,451.00 was raised by the founder, her family, volunteers and selected corporate sponsors to cover operational costs (e.g. administration, communications, fundraising) incurred during the 2014 fiscal year. This practice ensures that non-restricted received donations are allocated directly to our education projects. A complete version of our 2014 Audited Financial Statements is available upon request.