



Progress in Haiti

École Dumarsais Estime, an elementary boy's school in Verrettes, Haiti now "has the right to call itself a real school".

Those were the proud words written in a thank you letter from the Director at one of the six schools ACCESO reached out to in 2011 with post-earthquake assistance.

The school, located just north of the capital Port-au-Prince in an area where most families live in mud huts with no running water or electricity, received 101 students fleeing the horrors of the city after the January 2010 earthquake.

With ACCESO's support, the school was able to offset the costs of taking in the extra students - most of which had no money - as well as build an expansion and buy some used computers.

The flood of refugees after the quake caused a severe strain on schools in outlying regions and that is where ACCESO chose to focus its efforts in Haiti in 2011. The goal was to keep kids in school despite the massive disruption in their lives caused by the quake. In some schools, this meant fixing a collapsed wall or building new classrooms; in others, it meant making sure there was one hot meal a day.

We all witnessed the humanitarian crisis in Haiti after the natural disaster but less attention has been paid to the long-term impact on the Western Hemisphere's poorest country from the near-total destruction of the school system in Port au Prince and the resulting overburdening of already fragile schools outside of the capital.

When survival is a daily struggle, education is often the only hope of a better life for many families. ACCESO International's volunteers and supporters helped to keep that hope alive for the 663 students, including over 300 refugees, who benefited directly from the projects in the towns of Verrettes, Damier and Desarmes.

The schoolhouses themselves are a far cry from what we're used to in Canada, rudimentary structures made of cement blocks. But our Haitian friends have expressed pride at the accomplishments, reminding us of the miserable and almost inhuman conditions there.

"When you realize that each of those cinder blocks was made by hand right on the construction site and that all the rocks were carried up from the surrounding valley on the heads of women, children and grown men, you get a whole new appreciation for what is involved in building a real school in such a remote location." Diane Roche (rscj) with partner organization Timoun Tet Ansanm (Children Working Together)

A new set of wooden cabinets is a source of joy at the only one of three schools in Desarmes left standing after the quake. ACCESO funds helped the school cope with the influx of students from the one of the destroyed schools plus 61 refugees,

paying teachers' salaries, supplies, a copy machine and the beloved shelves.

École Dumarsais Estime in Verrettes built two new classrooms and an office to accommodate an additional 101 students, as well as acquiring a copy machine and several computers.

At the Centre de Formation Pédagogique (a teacher training college), ACCESO provided full three-year scholarships to three young men whose education had been disrupted by the quake.

Girls at École Saint Michel, an elementary school, now have a paved area to play in instead of a muddy yard. ACCESO helped fix a wall and rotting roof and upgraded the kitchen and dining area where the girls eat a hot meal each day. The school received 110 refugees after the quake.

École Bon Samaritain, a co-ed elementary school in the mountain town of Damier received 38 refugees. It built two new classrooms, purchased uniforms, paid teacher salaries, as well as food and other supplies.

Timoun Tet Ansanm (Children Working Together), which runs an after-school and summer programme, received assistance to help cover the cost of food for 350 children, teenagers and adults with one meal a week during the school year and two meals a day during the four-week summer programme.

It is always a challenge to know how best to use limited funds to address the needs, both chronic and acute, in countries and cultures so different from our own; how to help in a way that strengthens existing institutions and the local people who run them. By listening carefully to input from people on the ground and judiciously channeling funds exactly where they were most needed, we and our partners (Luke 4 Foundation and Timoun Tet Ansanm) have not just responded to a disaster, but have left these six schools better positioned to serve their students in the years to come.



2011 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2011, ACCESO International operated in nine countries supporting various projects from pre-school to post-secondary education.

In **Bolivia**, we supported post-secondary bursaries and human rights workshops for youth and women at Centro Integral WARMI in Cochabamba.

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 young adults with their post-secondary studies.

In **El Salvador**, we helped to complete the post-hurricane reconstruction and replenishment of a primary school in Canton Joya Grande.

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 four female 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.



Visit by Honduran and Nicaraguan Partners

In July 2011, ACCESO volunteers hosted project partners for the first time in Canada. Rosa Maria Trochez, a project coordinator with the School Sisters of Notre Dame in El Progreso, Honduras and Martha Hernandez, Director of Fundación Escuela Para Todos in Managua, Nicaragua joined volunteers Christine Gervais and Betsy Estevez at the 2011 Women's Worlds Conference held in Ottawa between July 3rd and 7th. Together, they presented on the accomplishments of our education projects and they spoke courageously about the profound challenges that women still face in Latin America. During their visit, Rosa Maria and Martha met with numerous ACCESO volunteers and supporters. Our gatherings provided our visitors with an opportunity to share with volunteers the multiplying effects of their efforts and it gave our volunteers the chance to show our project partners how we collaborate simplistically and successfully at the grassroots level through our 'kitchen table' approach here in Canada. The opportunity to exchange ideas between Rosa Maria, Martha and ACCESO volunteers inspired creativity in project development for all those who were able to participate.

I'm very grateful for having the opportunity to get to know your country and your family. It was an experience that I never imagined possible in my life, it was like a dream, a height I thought I could never reach. Thanks to our creator and to you all for making it a reality. The conference attended by so many women from different countries was like an explosion of emotions, intelligence, knowledge and sharing of experiences in which you could only hear one voice. The sharing of all the work and research that is being done in the different countries motivates us to stand our ground and continue in our struggle for the dispossessed of the world. It fills us with courage to go on and overcome the numerous obstacles put in our path. Thank you to the volunteers of ACCESO International who donate their time and skills to this noble work.
(Martha Hernandez)

ACCESO for me was like getting to know a big family, full of enthusiasm, strength, trust in each other and above all, I saw in you a great desire and struggle to make this world more just and more humane. I saw a group of men and women with a missionary spirit. What a gift! The Women's Worlds Conference, well, I hope the world always has men in it, we need them to walk beside us. That meeting filled my heart, gave me hope and made me feel we're not alone. There are many women fighting like you and I for a more liveable world. I'm impressed by the number of women leaders in the world and by the creative strength we hold. In difficult moments, I remember those faces and smile. To say thank you is not enough, there are no words. May all your acts of solidarity be returned to you in the form of blessings and abundance.
(Rosa Maria Trochez)



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.

2011 VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

*Sarah Alderwick, Natalia Amiel, Carrie Arbuckle,
Sonia Bouffard, Olga Chavez, Colleen Cotter, Jocelyne Dubois,
Louise Egan, Angela Elong, Betsy Estevez-Darling,
Jordan Fairbairn, Alana Fontelio, Rosa Frias, Christine Gervais,
Jodie Golden, Monique Grenon, Pamela Groh, Rachel Heft,
Kendra Hughes, Lisette Jimenez, Bryan Lemire, , Flor Lopez,
Ines Martin, Brandy McDevitt, Nora McKnight, Karen Mount,
Rob Myers, Eleanor Norman, Kim Paradis, Grant Perry,
Rudy Rivera, 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	Fred Astaire Dance Studio- Megadance	SOS Children's Villages	The Silver Rose
3H Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine	Girol Books	Starbucks	The Table
ACCESO Amigos Club	GoodLife Fitness Club	Starwood Hotels and Resorts	Todric's Catering
Airmetrics	Good Shepherd Barrhaven Anglican-Lutheran Parish	St. John Bosco Catholic School	Toronto Raptors
Autoimport	Great Canadian Theatre Company	Studio Gissoo Hair Design	Trinity Development Group
Big Bend Pottery	Greenspon, Brown & Associates	Survivor Bootcamp Ottawa	TummyThyme
Bradley's Insurance	Heritage Public School	Tabitha Cottage Industry	United Way of Ottawa
Brian Atkinson Photography	Hillbilly Honey	The Green Door	Vera Adamovich (Independent Planning Group)
Bridgehead	La Siembra	The Home Depot - Orleans	Via Rail Canada
Brookfield Power Inc.	Luke 4 Foundation	The Keith Press - Copiexperts	Wilderness Tours
Cambridge Design Gallery	L & F Montego Place	The Papery	
Canada Helps	Milano's Pizza		
Canadian Linen & Uniform Service	Mrs Tiggy Winkles		
Capital Hearing Clinic	Mystara Boutique		
Cartier Place Suite Hotel	Neal Brothers		
Casa Luna	NetSuite		
CBC News Ottawa	Orleans Running Room		
Chilly Chiles	Ottawa Citizen		
Church of St. Thomas the Apostle	Ottawa Senators Hockey Club		
Chutes Coulonge	Our Lady Of Grace C.W.L.		
Ciena Canada Inc.	Our Lady of Mount Carmel C.W.L.		
CSC Jeanne-Lajoie, Élémentaire	Pancho Villa		
CUPE	Pembroke Regional Hospital		
Dawn King Rustic Cedar Furniture	PenneyReid Financial		
Embassy of Guatemala	Pirie Foundation		
Embassy of Mexico	Pretty Pots Flowers & Gifts		
Embassy of Peru	RCMP Canada East Region		
EMC Your Community Newspaper	Rogers Wireless Inc.		
Equator Coffee Roasters	Sabores Mexicanos		
Ezipin Canada	Sacred Heart High School Students		
Fair World Sports (Y-Focus Ottawa)	Sandra Carranco		
Family Jewellers	Scissors Hair Studio		
Fédération des Femmes Canadiennes (Pembroke)	Singing Pebble Books		





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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Acceso International

The accompanying summary financial statements of Acceso International, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2011 and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, of Acceso International as at and for the year ended December 31, 2011.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 26, 2012.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles 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 and for the year ended December 31, 2011 are a fair summary of those financial statements.

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

May 26, 2012

Ottawa, Canada

ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Summary Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 201,083	\$ 222,298
Amounts receivable	191	191
Prepaid expenses	839	278
	202,113	222,767
Investments	15,311	14,112
	\$ 217,424	\$ 236,879
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,199	\$ 3,199
Deferred revenue	124,406	143,527
	127,605	146,726
Net assets:		
Endowment	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted	79,819	80,153
	89,819	90,153
	\$ 217,424	\$ 236,879

Summary Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Revenue:		
Donation	\$ 134,771	\$ 127,804
Fundraising	36,399	34,976
Interest	1,330	995
	172,500	163,775
Expenses:		
Project and scholarships	151,964	133,718
Fundraising	13,708	18,202
Administration	7,162	6,841
	172,834	158,761
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (334)	\$ 5,014

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

Year ended December 31, 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 generally accepted accounting principles, as at and for the year ended 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 statement 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 the December 31, 2011 are available upon request by contacting the management of ACCESO International.

Treasurer's Discussion On Accountability And Authenticity

In 2011, ACCESO International's income before deferrals & endowments was \$153,379.60. As a reflection of ACCESO International's commitment to accountability and responsible charitable business, \$10,070.00 was raised by the founder, her family, volunteers and selected corporate sponsors to cover operational costs (e.g. administration, communications, fundraising) incurred during the 2011 fiscal year. This practice ensures that non-restricted received donations are allocated directly to our education projects. A complete version of our 2011 Audited Financial Statements is available upon request.