



# ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

### 1996-2006: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN 10 COUNTRIES

Ten years ago, we created an organization that would support the education of underprivileged youth in Latin America and the Caribbean. We began in the Dominican Republic where we sponsored our very first student, Marcial (photo below left). Our path and Marcial's journey have been interlinked ever since. Over the years, we have celebrated Marcial's completion of high school, university and his teaching credentials, as well as his current employment as a teacher and principal in his underserved and marginalized village where he returned to help his fellow Haitians by teaching the local children and planting the seeds of hope for a better future. We are now also providing supplies and bursaries at the school where Marcial teaches and administers (photo below right). Marcial is one of many examples of how our graduates have begun to bring about change through their work and service; as the cycle is renewed, we can now bear witness that the vision born ten years ago is one that will continue for generations to come.



Within the last ten years, ACCESO International has had the privilege of accompanying the educational journeys of thousands of children, youth and adult women at all levels of education from pre-school to post-secondary in ten different countries in the Americas. Most of our students are from among the most marginalized populations who seek to move beyond very grave conditions of destitution, injustice and natural disasters. In assisting the efforts of those studying and working to bring about change within their countries, ACCESO International's collegial and consensus-based approach to collaboration has emphasized solidarity, social justice and peace. In so doing, we have attempted to render education an accessible, uplifting and liberating pursuit for our students.



Our growth over the past ten years has been made possible by the countless donors who have trusted us to steward their funds appropriately, and for this confidence, we are very grateful. Thanks to our donors' generosity, our annual income has grown from \$2,000 in 1996 to almost \$150,000 in 2006. Such a tremendous increase has enabled us to create significant educational opportunities, the impact of which will be everlasting.

Our development in both scope and depth has been enriched by the self-less dedication of over one hundred volunteers who have contributed their belief, energy, enthusiasm, creativity, emotions, talents and countless hours in service for and with our students and partner organizations. The atmosphere of collegiality and harmony in which our volunteers collaborate is indeed exemplary and I am proud and grateful for this incredible dynamic where our volunteers' way of 'being' peaceful and life-giving underlies our way of 'doing'.

Over the years, I have been privileged to meet most of our students in person. Their examples of persistence and resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges and their expressions of gratitude and joy in their moments of success have been tremendous sources of inspiration and motivation. I truly wish that all of our volunteers and donors could see first hand the glint in our students' eyes when they attend school with greater confidence as they hold their own pencil, wear their own uniform and shoes, and eventually grasp their own diploma. These are the special moments when I am so very grateful for the relations of parity and equality that enable our students, volunteers and donors to strive and thrive together towards greater dignity and humanity. It is in this spirit of solidarity and celebration that I share with you the words of the Coordinator of the Women's Human Rights Workshops in Honduras: "I want to say that we owe the success of the workshops to you, who with such generosity and trust have given us support. Oh how I wish that each one of you would have the opportunity to see the faces of these women and the glowing pride within them after the workshops."

As ACCESO International prepares for the next ten years, it is these relations of unity that we plan to prioritize in our efforts to remain sustainable, effective and profound as we accompany our students and partners on their journeys towards greater self-realization through the power of education.

*Christine Ferrais*

Since 1996 ACCESO has helped 9 preschools, 8 primary and 4 high schools, 4 women's cooperatives, 4 human rights workshops, 2 vocational centres, 2 orphanages, 5 libraries, 6 homework centres, 7 summer camps and 1 playground. Over 300 primary, 30 high school and 110 post-secondary students have received bursaries. More than 145 immigrant children have been supported in the Ottawa region. In all, in excess of 800 post-secondary, 3000 high school and 5000 primary students, 350 preschool children and 10,000 library patrons have benefitted from ACCESO's support.



## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL IS ...

An incorporated, not-for-profit, non-political, non-denominational and non-governmental, Ottawa-based, Canadian charitable organization which is completely volunteer operated. Its mandate is to promote greater access to all levels of education in Latin America and the Caribbean. ACCESO International was founded in 1996 by Dr. Christine Gervais who sought to address the disparity between her own educational opportunities and those of students in developing countries. She is now joined by over thirty volunteers who share her vision of educational equality. Together, they work to provide opportunities for socio-economically disadvantaged children, youth and women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ACCESO International works with locally-based and Canadian affiliated organizations to provide support for marginalized children, youth and women so that they may study in their own country, in their own culture and in their own language. Through these endeavours, ACCESO International provides the means through which people can gain greater control over their lives and maintain hope for a brighter future for themselves, their families and their local communities.

ACCESO International was conceived not only as a charity but also as a meaningful solidarity. ACCESO International functions in a non-hierarchical way by focusing on equality, consensus building and collegiality among its members, counterparts and beneficiaries. The aim is to carry out our development work in collaboration with our students, partners and supporters so that together, we may create appropriate and relevant opportunities for learning and progress. ACCESO International's vision, the students' aspirations, the volunteers' dedication, the partners' cooperation and our donors' support have joined together in common cause for positive and lasting change. ACCESO International's founding principles of solidarity, equality, human rights, peace and social justice have enabled this collaboration to thrive in very successful and meaningful ways.

## 2006 VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

Mike Adamyk, Sarah Alderwick, Pablo Ayala, Gloria Barillas, Juliana Bravo, Olga Chavez, France Lise Colin, Jen Delaney, Susan Dolan, Jocelyne Dubois, Millie Duval, Betsy Estevez-Darling, Jordan Fairbairn, Rosa Frias, Chantal Gauthier, Maria de Guzman, Soonsim Jeong, Lisette Jimenez, Natalia Johanson, Ineke Helby, Alana Henry, Deb Johnston, Lynne Leblanc, Brian Lim, Flor Lopez, Veronica Martinez, Brandy McDevitt, Roshanne Musa, Audrey Ning, Denisia Pereira, Lisa Perry, Veronica Piñero, Kathleen Pratt, Graciela Sarasua, Michele Valcour, Amy Wilmott



ACCESO volunteers and other Ottawa Valley Service Team members helping at the Guatemala City dump

## 2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Cotter *Project Mgmt & Secretary*,  
Christine Gervais *President*, Odette Langlais *Project Mgmt*,  
Eleanor Norman *Community Relations & Assistant Treasurer*,  
Grant Perry *Treasurer*, Kim Paradis *Project Mgmt & Operational Effectiveness*, Rachel Heft *Fundraising*

*You (ACCESO International), through your work in service to the poorest and most marginalized individuals in the countries where you operate, deserve our wholehearted support and thanks for the many ways in which you invite people to change and improve their lives, with hope and joy."*

*Project Coordinator, Dominican Republic*

*Volunteer Lisa Perry applying a coat of paint to Escuela Resoli, Yamasa DR, as part of a project sponsored by the Luke 4 Foundation & the HOPE Winter Fiesta*



## ACCESO International's Amigos Club

In 2006, ACCESO International inaugurated the Amigos Club for kids ages 4-12, holding two events in its first year with approximately 20 children at each event. The goal of the Amigos Club is to educate children in Canada about the different cultures of children in the countries where AI supports educational projects and to encourage our Canadian children to become future volunteers. At each event, children gathered to learn more about the culture of children in Latin America. The children participated in finding the 10 countries on the world map where AI supports educational projects. In March, the children presented items that they brought to represent one of 4 countries, and were shown pictures and told stories about the children who are educated with the help of funding from AI. The children learned some Spanish, danced and played games. They made 2 banners: one displayed at our

Sounds & Tastes event in April and one to be sent to our AI schools in Latin America as a gesture of friendship. The children ate a Dominican inspired snack and made a "circle of friends" craft to take home along with some cultural treats. The children helped to name and fill our "OSITO DEL AMOR"; collecting donations for children in our AI assisted schools. In October, the children donned clothing representing Latin American culture. The children educated each other by describing their outfits, participated in a flag recognition game and were told a story about a 10 year old Honduran orphan named Marvin who has been influenced by donations of school supplies from AI. The children learned more Spanish and were treated to a traditional Paraguayan dance performance. The children learned a Dominican inspired dance, had a cultural snack and glued lentil designs onto pumpkins which they took home along with some cultural treats and some "helping hints" for how they can each be a contributing member of their global community.

## PROJECT VISIT AND SERVICE TEAM IN GUATEMALA

Between February 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2006, ACCESO International volunteers Christine, Grant, Jordan, Kim, Ben, Odette, Amy and her partner Mark, as well as Ted – who set up a memorial education fund for Guatemala with ACCESO International for his wife JoAnna Townsend - were part of a service team led by our partner organization Oneness through Mission. The team built furniture for a new, 120 space preschool constructed by Safe Passage, a Guatemalan-American organization providing educational services to the children of families living near, and earning a living from the Guatemala City garbage dump.

**Reflection by Odette Langlais** The members of our mission to Guatemala share a common belief in the power of education and in the basic rights of all children to access quality education. A single and common purpose, in this case building customized little chairs, bookcases and water tables for preschoolers living in extreme poverty, united our group. We took action, in a humble and small way, to counter inequality and build a better present and a more promising future for Guatemalan children.



Many strong impressions of our trip remain, including the difficult living conditions of the families who scavenge the capital's garbage dump. On a beautiful morning, we got a panoramic view of the dump: a huge valley filled with mountains of garbage and thick with foul air, thousands of vultures circling in the sky, big trucks coming in and out and, at the bottom of the valley, men and women triaging, collecting and recycling what other richer human beings have discarded. Fellow human beings and vultures were going after the same piles of fresh garbage. We felt nauseous from the smell and scale of the dump. We were appalled by the unsanitary and dangerous working conditions of these extremely poor and desperate people who have no other choice but to work in the dump to survive.

Children are no longer allowed to accompany their parents in the dump, in large part due to the efforts of Safe Passage. But some of them are now locked home while their parents are scavenging. The preschool that we were helping to furnish will provide urgently needed safe spaces for playing and learning.

We also travelled the mountain roads near the colonial city of Antigua and circled perfectly shaped volcanoes to visit two indigenous villages, Sacala and Tioxhá, where ACCESO International has sponsored pre-schools. Happy children and proud teachers, in beautifully coloured Mayan dress, danced and sang for us. Yet the green mountains and pure air did not prevent us from seeing and feeling the poverty, inequality and political tensions. A local leader explained how these 4 and 5 years olds, because of the opportunity they have to access quality pre-school education, represent the communities' hope for renewal and guidance. ACCESO's support is helping to prepare future leaders who will contribute to a more equal and just Guatemalan society. That is our hope and dream. A lot rests on these little shoulders ... the children's bright eyes and proud smiles make us believe that this will happen one day.



**Reflection by Kim Paradis** Our trip to Guatemala was a deeply affecting experience, a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in comfort and security and of how so many must struggle to obtain but a fraction of what we so easily take for granted.

Of all that I experienced in the course of ten days of emotionally wrenching scenes of poverty, of people forced to scratch out an existence from work few of us could ever imagine having to resort to, that which has stayed with me is the sense of hope and pride amidst it all that I saw in the faces of the children at each Safe Passage location. There I discovered children proud to show me their creations, children learning, children playing, children being children. This stood in sharp contrast to what would have been their reality in the absence of these programs, working alongside their parents picking out items to resell from the mountains of trash at the dump.

Perhaps the most moving of all was the story I heard about the impact these children were now having on their mothers. At the end of the day, mothers would come and collect their children from the daycare and from the homework centres and see what their children had created and hear what they'd learned, a scene familiar to parents here in Canada. What is particularly remarkable in this setting is that these mothers were now asking to be taught what their children were learning. They wanted to read and to write in order to keep up with their children and support them, and Safe Passage responded. Where previously these women might not have seen a purpose to education for themselves or for their children, they too were now sharing in their children's hope and imagining a future for their families beyond the dump.

In that moment I witnessed the significance of having access to education and understood how giving just one child an opportunity can begin to change a family and a community. I left Guatemala inspired by one person's vision of how to make a difference, how action begets action, how change brings about more change. Thank you Hanley (founder of Safe Passage).

**Reflection by Ben Rhody** There were many moving experiences during our time in Guatemala. I recall one in particular that had an impact on me. During a break from our construction duties, we had the opportunity to accompany a social worker visiting families benefiting from the Safe Passage programs in their homes. We were introduced to a woman who lived in a small shack of wood and corrugated iron erected directly on the landfill of the dump. Despite her extreme poverty, she greeted us with a broad smile and warmly invited us into her home, displaying a grace that I doubt I would have been able to muster under similar conditions. Her generosity of spirit revealed her to me not simply as another of the poor of Guatemala, but as an individual facing the immense obstacles of her life with an admirable degree of dignity and determination. Any of us might have found ourselves in similar circumstances if fate had dealt us a different hand, and we can only hope that we would have similar strength to persevere. This experience renewed my sense of commitment to the objectives of our work to assist people like this woman and her children in forging a better life for themselves through education.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2006

In 2006, ACCESO International operated in nine countries supporting various projects from pre-school to post-secondary education.

**In Bolivia**, we continued to support the library, homework centre, day care, music room and post-secondary bursaries at Centro Integral WARMI in Cochabamba. By providing books, computer resources, educational materials, tutoring services, skills training and bursary support, we are helping to provide greater educational and employment opportunities for the marginalized children, youth and women at the centre. This year we supported the implementation of workshops on human rights and gender equality for women and youth as well as a supplementary bursary program. This initiative, funded by the Luke 4 Foundation and Mary's Pence, provided creative workshops on human and legal rights that address community leadership and the prevention of violence and disease, including HIV/AIDS. This project educated and empowered underprivileged, underserved and displaced indigenous women and youth through services in their own language and within their own cultural environment.



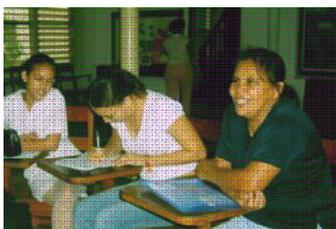
**In Canada**, we maintained our project entitled "Solidarity with Students: Making Education More Accessible for New Canadians" in partnership with the South-East Ottawa Centre for a Healthy Community. In July and August, kits of school supplies and gift certificates for shoes were distributed to 60 students in the Ottawa area to help prepare them for their academic year. The project offsets the expenses of school supplies for students from low-income families that have immigrated recently to Canada. New this year was a means to cover a portion of the cost of new shoes, an essential back-to-school item. Very positive feedback was received from the recipients on the inclusion of this much needed item. Gifts of supplies and shoes allow the children and youth to attend school with greater dignity and confidence, and to experience greater social inclusion within the school environment.

**In the Dominican Republic**, we supported the renovation and replenishment of three primary schools in the Yamasa area, two of which were located in Haitian bateys (Guasumita and Antonci), which are extremely remote, marginalized and underserved villages; this major undertaking was supported by the Luke 4 Foundation. We continued to provide educational materials and student bursaries for three primary schools near Yamasa: Escuela Guasumita in the batey of Guasumita, Escuela Basica Buenos Aires in Reparadero and Escuela Primaria Rural Doña Maria Petronila Rojas de Payano in the community of Resoli. We also continued to support the library, classrooms and bursary program at Centro Educativo Padre Arturo in San José de Ocoa which we funded in memory of JF Norwood, our Former Co-Founder and Vice-President. We also supported two young women and two young men who are studying at Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo and at Universidad Dominicana.



**In Guatemala**, we have maintained our partnership with Oneness Through Mission to complete the furniture and resources for the four pre-school classrooms at Camino Seguro's Early Intervention Centre beside the dump in Guatemala City, a project supported by the Luke 4 Foundation. This centre will ensure that the young children, who usually harvest the dump alongside their parents, will have a safe, clean and stimulating educational alternative. In February 2006, a team of nine volunteers worked for a week in Guatemala to help build the furniture for this centre. We also continued to support two pre-school classrooms in the remote mountain Mayan villages of Sacala and Tioxya.

**In Haiti**, we supported two education projects which are located in Verrettes and in Gonaïves. In Verrettes, we provided educational supplies and education-oriented equipment for a homework centre that is part of a project entitled "Timoun Tèt Ansanm." This project offers literacy support to at-risk, impoverished and orphaned children. Activities include tutoring sessions, basic literacy and pre-school classes, as well as summer camps. In Gonaïves, we provided educational supplies and a much needed meal program at a primary school: École Emmaus Centre St. Joseph which was severely damaged by a hurricane in 2004.



**In Honduras**, our projects in memory of human rights activist José Eduardo López have continued to provide educational materials and bursary assistance for an orphanage, two homework centres and a high school in El Progreso, a primary school in Buen Ejemplo, as well as a high school in La Lima. The human rights workshops and skills training for women in El Progreso which began in 2005, with the support of the Luke 4 Foundation, evolved into their second phase in 2006, where the original participants shared their knowledge and skills with other women in their communities through focus groups and accompaniment initiatives. They also organized a daycare to support their human rights work and employment endeavours. A further set of workshops focusing on labour rights, particularly in the maquila industry, and the impacts of globalization on the Honduran economy were initiated at the end of 2006 and are continuing in 2007.

In Mexico, we supported summer learning programs in three different regions: San Luis Potosi (SLP), Leon (Guanajuato) and Ayutla (Guerrero). The 3-week programs, held during the school break, serve to reinforce reading, writing, communication and critical thinking skills acquired during the regular academic year, to enhance the children's sense of cultural identity and to raise awareness of the role they play in the community. This is achieved in an environment where learning is fun, creative and interactive with plenty of time for recreation. The activities are accompanied by a critical reflection process that focuses on gender, justice and on the preservation of peace and the environment, contributing to the children's integral human growth. In 2006, some 600 children from 13 communities participated.



In Nicaragua, we continued to sponsor Fundación Escuela Para Todos (School for All) in Managua which is a school that provides computer training to individuals who are unemployed, physically challenged, struggling to exit the sex trade, seeking to escape street gang life and/or trying to overcome substance abuse. Thanks to a substantial grant from the Luke 4 Foundation, 40 students received full bursaries in order to obtain diplomas in Computer Programming, Computer Operator and Cash Register Computer Skills, while an additional 300 students were able to benefit from reduced tuition costs. As a result, these students are able to overcome the obstacles of exploitation, discrimination, marginalization, displacement, unemployment and underemployment. Our bursary program with Escuela Para Todos is vital to the employment potential of marginalized individuals who are struggling with so many social, human rights and physical challenges. We congratulate the staff and students for their dedication and vision.

In Peru, after celebrating the graduations of seven post-secondary level students, we began new sponsorships for four young women who are studying at various universities in Lima and Ica. They are studying in the areas of nursing, education, engineering and science. A visit to Peru in May and June 2006 confirmed that the seven graduates were working in their fields of study in Lima. The four new students are enjoying their post-secondary experience and seem to be very dedicated to their studies and career goals. Our support of these young women is in keeping with our commitment to gender equality.



*“The information brought to over 100 people and the process developed with them in the reflections and analysis of our national reality, about their family relations, and principally the possibilities to exercise their rights and to search for more equal relations gives us the certainty that the work has fallen on fertile ground.”*

*Human Rights Workshop Coordinator in Bolivia*

## PROJECT VISIT AND SERVICE TEAM IN GUATEMALA (continued)

**Reflection by Amy Wilmott & Mark Mueca** We have both worked in the child-care field and this experience encouraged us to think about how lucky we are in Canada to have a relatively organized system for child-care. We are now more thankful for all the planning, work and resources that go into a child care centre. After Guatemala, not only will we be careful not to take our Canadian system for granted, but we are inspired to continue to help communities in developing countries achieve opportunities for early childhood education for their children.

It was clear that the preschool we helped to build was a sign of *hope* for the children and families of Guatemala City. It was inspiring to feel and see the hope in these children. Through their eyes and their signs of affection, hope resonated and grew with each day we were there. That was our biggest lesson while in Guatemala... to have hope. Hope for a better future, hope that everything will be okay and hope that our lives will be lived with dignity and compassion. Perhaps as volunteers we helped to inspire the feelings of hope inside of the children living around the Guatemala City garbage dump, but for *us*, it was the children of Guatemala who helped us to have hope for our own lives and hope that communities like Guatemala City will have the passion and determination to improve.

ACCESO has a special way of inspiring hope in its volunteers and in the communities they work in. We are so thankful to have been part of this process of building hope through education.

**Reflection by Jordan Fairbairn** Traveling to Guatemala with ACCESO was a powerful experience, and I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity. As a university student, no class could have prepared me for the helplessness I first felt when visiting the Guatemala City dump. The poverty and injustice present in the area were enormous, yet the smiling faces of the children and staff in the daycare were both heartwarming and inspiring. The wonderful energy of our group combined with the work that was being done helped to turn my feeling of helplessness into one of hope. The experience was challenging, humbling, and thought-provoking and I feel very lucky to have been able to travel to Guatemala with ACCESO.

**Reflection by Grant Perry** The little we were able to give through the building of furniture for the pre-school will give the children who live in the vicinity of the city dump opportunities which never existed before in their community. The time that we spent in Guatemala on this project, while very positive and productive, also made me realize how there is so much more to be done. How can we not strive to do more?

## PROJECT VISIT TO BOLIVIA Reflection by Christine Gervais



My travel to Centro Integral WARMI in Cochabamba, Bolivia between May 30th and June 6th 2006 amidst the spectacular Andean mountains consisted of a long-awaited and much cherished visit with our project partners and student recipients. "Warmi" is a Quechua word that means "woman." Fellow volunteer Betsy Estevez and I were hosted warmly and generously by Warmi's Education Coordinator, Ruth Mery, as well as by WARMI's Founder and Director, Elena. Our attendance at the human rights workshops on gender equality and women's legal rights for both youth (female and male) and adult women gave us great insight into both the struggles and the initiatives of the

participants. Our dialogues with the women and youth in both individual and group settings revealed how significant the workshops were in their lives. We felt a shared sense of hope that the participants were not only becoming aware of their rights, but they were also beginning to take steps to claim them with greater confidence and excitement. It was so meaningful to share the women's moments of enthusiasm, courage and concern. We presented a figurative sculpture of two women interlocked back to back as a gift to the women of the centre - a symbol of the solidarity and sisterhood between ACCESO International's volunteers and WARMI's staff and clients. Our time spent in the daycare, library, legal aid office and the cooperative soap factory at the centre showed us how comprehensive, integrative, sustaining and organized WARMI's programming is for the children, youth and women.



## PROJECT VISIT TO BOLIVIA Reflection by Betsy Estevez Darling

Christine and I traveled to Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in South America, in May and June 2006. The purpose of our trip was to conduct a series of evaluation interviews for our human rights project for women and to visit the education project sites funded by ACCESO International. I would like to emphasize the role of ACCESO International in empowering women and young students in Bolivia. It is remarkable to witness the positive change in the women and the students who have participated in the human rights training. My experience working with the Centro Integral WARMI in Cochabamba, will always remain special in my heart as it helped me to understand that the best way to build a better society is to give people the opportunity and the tools to build a better world by themselves with dignity. The professionalism and compassion of the staff and the dedication of the young students make this center an example

of dedication to the principles of inclusion, equality and solidarity. Working at WARMI Center was a great experience because everyone was able to contribute in different ways, and we really worked as a team, all equally passionate about what we were doing to make a little difference in the world. I will be always thankful to ACCESO International for giving me the opportunity to share laughter, tears and solidarity with all of these amazing women and young students. Truly this experience has enriched my knowledge of and commitment to international development work. Last but not least, thanks to all the wonderful people I met in Bolivia. They have made such an impact on me and I will never forget them. The Bolivians I met appreciated the true value of life. Despite their poor living conditions, they were generally happy with what they had: family, solidarity, friendship and love. Thank you, Merci and Gracias.

## PROJECT VISIT TO PERU Reflection by Christine Gervais

My brief visit to Peru from May 31st to June 3rd 2006 on my return to Canada from Bolivia proved to be a very remarkable time with both our graduates and our new students. In addition to hosting a graduation celebration with all of the university students whom we supported since 1998, I was able to accompany some of them to their workplaces and to visit them in their homes. It was very rewarding to see how well they are doing despite the daily struggles of remaining gainfully employed in the Peruvian economy. It was a delight to spend time with these dedicated young people with whom we have built mutually life-giving friendships over the past eight years. It was also a pleasure to meet the four new young female students, as well as their families. Visiting with both the former and current students reminded me that ACCESO International is now supporting another generation of students.



As with every visit I make, I again was both encouraged by our successes and left contemplating the realities of those we serve. The cab rides left me deep in thought and full of conflicting emotions, witnessing the desperate plight of child and adult vendors, feeling a great admiration for their resourcefulness in eking out a living selling everything from musical talents to recycled items and pondering the challenges still remaining on the long road ahead towards providing sustainable opportunities and restoring dignity for marginalized Peruvians. Nevertheless, I was very touched by the laughter-filled send off that I received at the airport upon my departure. Over ten students, relatives and friends gathered to bid me farewell and I was truly grateful for their presence and I was energized by their enthusiasm.



On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006, ACCESO International presented its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sounds & Tastes of the Americas dinner, show and auction at the Ukrainian Hall in Ottawa. We welcomed over 300 guests and raised in excess of \$35,000. It was an evening filled with exciting entertainment by Colores Andinos, Che Paraguay, Tira Faluma: The Honduran Embassy Dance Group, Ottawa Multicultural Dance Group Ruben Dario and Venezuelan Folklore Dance Group “Churún Merú”; the final performance by The Dominican Republic Embassy Dance Group even had the crowd on their feet. Guests were treated to an abundance of delectable cultural dishes that were served with the help of students from the K.E.Y. Club of Sir Robert Borden High School. We were pleased to have Toni Francis return as our emcee as well as Lawrence Greenspon, our auctioneer. The silent and live auctions showcased over 150 donated items. ACCESO is very grateful to all the donors, guests, entertainers and volunteers who helped to make our fundraiser such a resounding success!

#### ACCESO INTERNATIONAL'S SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

ACCESO International Amigos Club, ATFCAN, Alumni Association of the University of Ottawa, Arcanum Wholistic Clinic, Authentic Wine & Spirits Merchants, Autoimport, BAU Solutions, Belgian Friends of Nora Lopez and Members of Amnesty International Local Group 160 Ghent, Big Bend Pottery, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League, Bloomfields Flowers, Blue Cactus, Bradley's Insurance, Bridgehead, Bytowne Cinema, C.A. Paradis, Cambridge Design Gallery, Camille Churchfield, Canadian Linen & Uniform Service, Canada Helps, Canish Insurance, Cartier Place Suite Hotel, Che Paraguay, Chilly Chiles, Churún Merú, Club Caliente, Coldwell Banker Sarazen Realty, Colonnade Golf and Country Club, Colores Andinos, Continental Promotions, CUPE Local 4600, CUPE National, Delta Hotels, Don Alfonso, Dovercourt Recreation Centre, Dow Honda, École élémentaire Jeanne Lajoie, Embassy of Bolivia, Embassy of the Dominican Republic, Embassy of Guatemala, Embassy of Honduras, Embassy of Mexico, Embassy of Venezuela, Empire Theatres, Equator Coffee Roasters, EuroCopies, Feleena's Comida Mexicana, Fruits & Passion (Bayshore), Gary's Food Basics, Girol Books, Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub, Graffiti's Italian Eatery and Saloon, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Greenspon, Brown & Associates, Harmony Hearing Group, Hermanos Guillen, Hope Volleyball Ottawa Carleton Inc., Huntley Centennial School (Kinburn), Iberica Travel Agency, Independent Planning Group, Ineke Simons, Isztin Foto, K.E.Y. Club Sir Robert Borden High School, Kellco Car Care, Kevin Haime Golf Centre, Kinaxis, La Cabaña Restaurant, La Cache, La Colonia Groceries, La Siembra Co-operative, LADCOMM Corporation, Laurentian Financial, Lauri's Boutique, Le Cordon Bleu Paris, Lisette's Esthetics, Little Latin America, Lorne Montgomery Equipment, Luis Garage, Luke 4 Foundation, Magpie Jewellers, Manor Park Barber Shop, Mary's Pence, Medaglia Auto Imports, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Mi Casita, Motionware Source for Sports, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Mud Oven, Mulligan's Florists, Mxi Technologies, NC Cameron, Nicaraguan Dance Group Ruben Dario, O'Connor's Irish Pub, O.E.C.T.A. (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association), Oscar de la Renta Fragrances, The Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa Senators Hockey Club, Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, Ottawa Textiles 2000, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League, Our Lady of Grace Elementary School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Women's League, Pancho Villa, Paper Inspirations by Danielle, Pardo Travel, Payless ShoeSource, Pirie Foundation, Ruben Dario, St. Stephen's Broadway Foundation, Sanford Corporation, Santosha Yoga, Singing Pebble Books, Society of the Sacred Heart, SOS Children's Villages Canada, Staples Business Depot (Barrhaven), Starbucks, Starwood Hotels & Resorts CANADA, Steve's Music, Student Academic Success Services at the University of Ottawa, Ten Thousand Villages, The Green Door Restaurant, The Grey Sisters of Pembroke and Ottawa, The Keith Press, The Stamp Barn, The Table Restaurant, The Works, Tira Faluma (Honduran Dance Group), Todric's Catering, Toronto Raptors Basketball Club, United Way of Greater Toronto, United Way of Ottawa, University of Ottawa Music Department, Vincent Walsh, Hairstylist, WaterLife Products, Wilderness Tours, Windsor Home Cleaning, Y Focus Fair Trade Sports (Ottawa), Zoom Airlines





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## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2006, with comparative figures for 2005

	2006	2005
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 122,296	\$ 91,494
Amounts receivable	3,462	762
Prepaid expenses	364	1,329
	126,122	93,575
Long-term investments (market value - \$11,550; 2005 - \$5,702)	11,795	5,808
	\$ 137,917	\$ 99,383

### Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,310	\$ 2,000
Deferred revenue (note 2)	69,118	44,530
	72,428	46,530
Net assets:		
Endowment (note 4)	10,000	5,000
Unrestricted	55,489	47,853
	65,489	52,853
	\$ 137,917	\$ 99,383

### Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2006, with comparative figures for 2005

	2006	2005
Revenue:		
Donations	\$ 76,621	\$ 49,204
Fundraising	37,508	40,030
Interest	867	100
	114,996	89,334
Expenses:		
Projects and scholarships	91,619	62,966
Fundraising	9,707	9,645
Administration	6,034	5,713
	107,360	78,324
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 7,636	\$ 11,010

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2006, with comparative figures for 2005

	Unrestricted	Endowment	Total 2006	Total 2005
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 47,853	\$ 5,000	\$ 52,853	\$ 52,853
Excess of revenue over expenses	7,636	-	7,636	11,010
Endowment contribution	-	5,000	5,000	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 55,489	\$ 10,000	\$ 65,489	\$ 63,863

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of ACCESO International

We have audited the statement of financial position of ACCESO International as at December 31, 2006 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, ACCESO International derives revenue from donations and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of ACCESO International and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation and fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, current assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the donation and fundraising revenue referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ACCESO International as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Canada Corporations Act, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Accountants

Ottawa, Canada  
March 16, 2007

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2006

## ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Notes to Financial Statements, page 2

Year ended December 31, 2006

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.

### 1. Significant accounting policies:

#### (a) Revenue recognition:

Donation and fundraising revenue is recognized when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment revenue is recorded when earned.

Restricted donations and endowment interest is deferred and recognized in the year in which the related expense occurs.

#### (b) Endowment:

Endowment contributions are recorded as a direct increase in net assets when received.

#### (c) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from these estimates. These estimates are reviewed annually and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the year in which they become known.

#### (d) Contributed goods and services:

ACCESO receives an indeterminate number of volunteer hours and donors contribute goods and services each year to assist ACCESO in carrying out its charitable activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, these goods and services are not recognized in these financial statements.

### 2. Deferred revenue:

Deferred revenue represents externally restricted amounts received but unspent at year end. Deferred revenue is comprised of the following amounts:

	2006	2005
Luke 4	\$ 63,865	\$ 42,168
Mary's Pence	2,246	2,362
St. Stephen	3,000	-
JoAnna Townsend Endowment Fund	207	-
	\$ 69,118	\$ 44,530

### 2. Deferred revenue (continued):

Deferred revenue is designated for specific purposes in the countries as follows:

	2006	2005
Honduras	\$ 17,486	\$ -
Haiti	15,150	-
Bolivia	11,086	23,357
Nicaragua	10,000	9,309
Dominican Republic	10,000	-
Mexico	5,189	-
Guatemala	207	11,864
	\$ 69,118	\$ 44,530

### 3. Long-term investment:

The long-term investment is stated at cost plus accrued interest and is comprised of a bond with a maturity date beyond the next fiscal year.

### 4. Endowment:

The JoAnna Townsend Endowment Fund was established during the year for the purpose of supporting projects in Guatemala. Investment income earned is restricted to the above purpose and is deferred until the related expense is incurred. The endowment principal is required to be maintained and is funded by long-term investments. At December 31, 2006, \$207 (2005- \$NIL) of endowment interest is included in deferred revenue.

### 5. Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities:

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, amounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate their fair market values.

The fair value of investments is disclosed in the statement of financial position.

## TREASURER'S

## DISCUSSION

In 2006, ACCESO International's income before deferrals and endowments was \$144,524.93. Fortunately, this amount exceeded the organization's target of \$100,000. As a reflection of ACCESO International's commitment to accountability and responsible charitable business, over \$10,000 was raised and allocated to cover expenses incurred during the 2006 fiscal year. This practice ensures that non-restricted received donations are allocated directly to our education projects.

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUTHENTICITY

As a testament to our commitment to accountability, authenticity and simplicity, ACCESO International ensures that received donations are allocated directly to the education projects because operating costs (including administration, communications and travel) are covered by ACCESO International's founder, her supportive family, the generous volunteers, selected corporate sponsors, foundations and certain small-scale fund-raising activities. As an organization that is non-governmental and is completely volunteer-operated, ACCESO International is proud to maintain an authentic and modest foundation upon which to demonstrate its shared commitment to educational equality.