



ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

February, 2012

Dear Owner / Manager,

On April 28th, 2012, ACCESO International is holding its 10th annual dinner, auction and show, Sounds and Tastes of the Americas, at the Ukrainian Hall on Byron Avenue in Ottawa with host Adrian Harewood (CBC News) and Auctioneer Lawrence Greenspon. We would appreciate if your business could contribute an item for either our live or silent auction during the event. In return, it will be our pleasure to highlight your business in our event program, in our annual report and on our website. Your business will also be promoted on the night of the event through the display of your item on our auction table. In addition, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that 100% of the money raised by your donation will help fund our education projects in Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada.

ACCESO International is an Ottawa-based, Canadian incorporated, volunteer-operated, charitable organization that promotes and enables greater access to education to all levels of education for disadvantaged children, youth and women in twelve countries in the Americas: the Bahamas, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. As a testament to our commitment to solidarity with our recipients, all receipted donations are allocated to our projects; administration is covered by our founder, her family, the volunteers and corporate sponsors.

Sounds and Tastes of the Americas is an event that attracts 300 guests from the diplomatic, corporate, education and grassroots charitable communities in Ottawa and since 2003, it has raised over \$275,000.00. We hope to make this year's event an even greater success and your contribution is vital in helping us to reach that goal. I invite you to browse our website at www.accesointernational.ca to find out more about this event, view our poster and learn more about our organization.

Should you require further details regarding ACCESO International or the Sounds and Tastes of the Americas, please contact our office by phone or email. On behalf of our board of directors, volunteer collective and especially our student recipients, I thank you in advance for supporting our efforts and for contributing to the success of this event.

Rachel Heft, LL.B., B.C.L.
Vice President of Fundraising
ACCESO International

Christine Gervais, Ph.D.
Founder and President
ACCESO International



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

- ACCESO International is entirely volunteer-operated.
- 100% of all receipted donations are allocated directly to our projects; administrative costs are covered entirely by our founder, her family, the volunteers and corporate sponsors.
- ACCESO International's volunteer collective is a group of dynamic and life-giving humanitarians, educators, students and social activists from diverse backgrounds and professions who contribute their time and talents to improve equality of access to education in the Americas.
- ACCESO International operates on the basis of non-hierarchical and consensus-based decision making in a collegial and peaceful atmosphere.
- ACCESO International began as a small group of dedicated volunteers helping three students in the Dominican Republic in 1996. Now in 2012, we are an organization composed of over thirty volunteers supporting thousands of children, youth and women in 12 countries in the Americas.
- ACCESO International's directors, members and volunteers are proud of the ethical decisions they make and the just actions they take in striving towards educational equality.



MEANINGFUL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 1996, ACCESO International has worked in 12 countries helping:

- 42 pre-schools and daycares
- 22 primary schools and 6 high schools
- 20 women's human rights workshops and cooperatives
- 2 vocational centres & 2 orphanages
- 2 dormitories
- 6 libraries and 6 homework centres
- 10 summer camps and 4 playgrounds
- Over 1,500 primary students with bursaries
- Over 350 high school students with bursaries
- Over 1,500 post-secondary students with bursaries
- Over 750 immigrant and refugee children
- Over 3,000 post-secondary students
- Over 5,000 high school students
- Over 12,000 primary students
- Over 1,300 preschool children
- Over 13,000 library patrons

