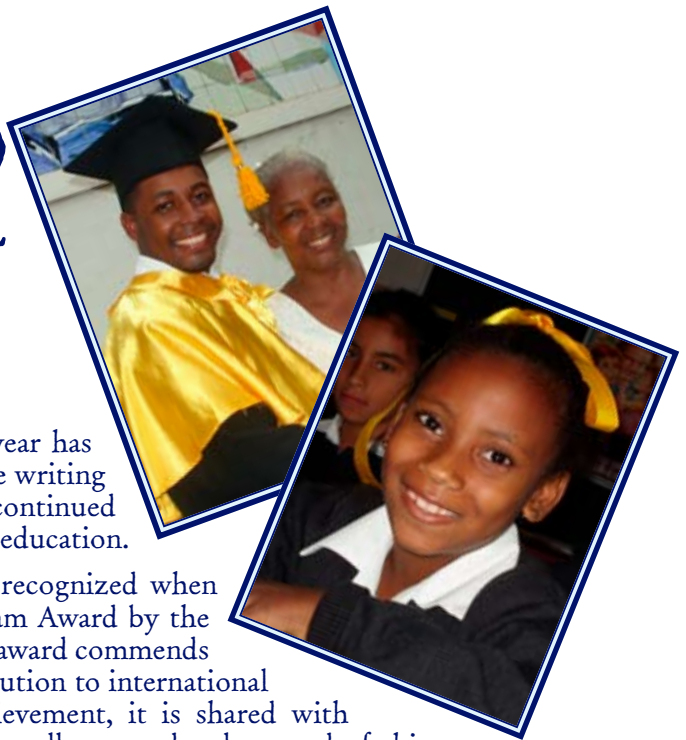




ACCESO INTERNATIONAL



December 5, 2009

Dear Friend of ACCESO International,

We hope that this letter finds you and yours well. This year has held many blessings for ACCESO International and we are writing to share a few of our successes and also to ask for your continued support on our journey of solidarity and freedom through education.

On November 13th, ACCESO International's work was recognized when our founder and president was awarded the Lewis Perinbam Award by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). This annual award commends an individual who has made a significant volunteer contribution to international development. Although the award is for individual achievement, it is shared with the ACCESO International volunteer collective and we are all tremendously proud of this recognition of our commitment to education, development and social progress.

Earlier in the year, one of our projects in Honduras, "Educating Lenca Girls Today, Empowered Lenca Women Tomorrow", was selected as one of only two projects to receive support from the 60 Million Girls Foundation in Montreal. These funds, linked exclusively to our project in the mountainous region of San Francisco de Opalaca, will help build a dormitory to enable young girls in the region to be educated beyond grade 6. This has been one of our most promising ventures in recent years, and we are proud to be partnered with the 60 Million Girls Foundation to strive to make this dream of a dormitory a reality and to thus help hundreds of girls to complete high school.

Despite the progress made with this project, there are still many hurdles to overcome in Honduras. The political climate has made a fragile situation even more dangerous and chaotic. We are very concerned with the human rights violations related to the ongoing unrest especially because those most affected are also those who are already extremely marginalized. Our project recipients in Honduras are suffering devastating economic and security repercussions and our continued support of education, skills training and human rights initiatives is now more vital than ever. As we continue our initiatives in Honduras and the many other countries that we serve, we ask for your continued help in providing education and hope for thousands of children, youth and women.

Your donation not only enables greater access to education, but it also contributes towards increasing literacy, educational equality, poverty relief and enhanced employability. Our commitment to serve in solidarity motivates us to remain exclusively volunteer-based; it also ensures that donations are allocated directly to the education projects. If you choose to donate, please make cheques payable to ACCESO International and mail them to P.O. Box 11395 Postal Station H, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2H 7V1. Credit card payments can be made by phone: (613) 831-9158 or on-line through CanadaHelps.org. Please respond by December 30, 2009 so that we can finalize our project budget for 2010. Late donations will be accepted gratefully!

We are very thankful that you share our vision of development, equality, progress and hope; your continued support will be a sustaining source of encouragement and inspiration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Heft
Vice President of Fundraising

Gratefully,

Christine Gervais
Founder and President

P.S. Mark your calendars for our next Sounds & Tastes of the Americas on April 24, 2010!

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Completion of 20 reconstructed preschools in Peru after an earthquake
- Pre-natal education for Haitian families in the Dominican Republic
- Computers for a primary school in Colombia
- Graduation of a medical student in the Dominican Republic
- Funding to construct two residences for junior and high school girls in Honduras
- Human rights education for women, youth and children in Honduras, Bolivia & Nicaragua
- Daycare organized by women, past participants of human rights workshops in Honduras
- Computer training in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua
- Homework support for children in Haiti
- Construction of a homework centre in Mexico



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, MEANINGFUL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 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 cover administrative costs.
- 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 2009, we are an organization composed of over thirty volunteers supporting thousands of children, youth and women in 11 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.

