



# ACCESO INTERNATIONAL

Nov 15, 2011

Dear Friend of ACCESO International,

As 2011 draws to a close, it is time once again to reflect on the year gone by and to prepare for the work ahead of us. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, ACCESO has continued to help numerous partners move a step closer to achieving their dream of a better life through education. This fall, we're asking you to help us keep the momentum going by donating to our annual campaign.

Recently, transformational events around the world have captivated people's attention, resonating with those who have a desire for change and for a more caring society. And that is what ACCESO is about. Change. We're working in peaceful collaboration with our partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to change lives, support dreams and build hope through grassroots education projects.

The extraordinary people we support through your donations are standing up every day against all odds, organizing themselves and overcoming huge obstacles to guarantee that right in their communities. At ACCESO we are proud to be working with these unsung heroes. We'd like to share with you the gratitude expressed by some of our beneficiaries who wrote to us this year.

"I want to thank you for supporting me in my studies. I'm very happy to belong to this organization and without your help it would have been very difficult to keep studying. That's how I've been able to participate in this women's group that gives so much support to our community." - Honduran female workshop participant and bursary recipient.

"It's nice to know there are people who dedicate their time and are fighting for me to be able to go to school. They should know their work and effort is worth it." - Honduran female workshop participant and bursary recipient.

We're making progress but there is much work to be done. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 36.5 million people are illiterate. And even as we make gains with our projects, the inevitable occurrence of natural disasters and conflicts continues to take a toll on the daily lives of those we try to help.

Since 1996, we have partnered with numerous organizations in the region to provide student bursaries and school supplies, to build schools and computer labs as well as to hold skills training and human rights workshops. We are a solidarity group and remain exclusively volunteer-based, so you can be assured that all your donations are allocated directly to our projects.

Please contribute to our 2012 projects by returning a cheque payable to ACCESO International in the enclosed envelope. Credit card payments can be made by phone: (613) 831-9158 or through [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). Please respond by December 23, 2011 so that we can finalize our project budget. Of course, we appreciate donations year round! We thank you for helping us in the struggle for accessible, safe and peace-affirming education for all.

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 28, 2012!

web site: [www.accesointernational.ca](http://www.accesointernational.ca) telephone: (613)831-9158 email: [info@accesointernational.ca](mailto:info@accesointernational.ca)

P.O. Box 11395 Station H Ottawa, Ontario K2H 7V1 Canada

Charitable Organization # 89229 1501 RR0001

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2011

- Post-earthquake reconstruction of primary schools for displaced children in Haiti
- Completion of post-hurricane reconstruction of a primary school in El Salvador
- Pre-natal education for Haitian families in the Dominican Republic
- Completion of residences for junior and high school girls in Honduras
- Human rights education for women, youth and children in Honduras, Bolivia & Nicaragua
- Computer training in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua
- Preschool education in Guatemala and Peru
- Library development in the Dominican Republic
- School supplies for refugee and immigrant students in Canada



## 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.
- 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 2011, 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.

