



# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2011

HELPING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION

## YEAR IN REVIEW

**2011** has been a wonderful and busy year for CAFE. Thanks to all of our donors and supporters for helping make this a very successful year.

We want to acknowledge and thank teacher organizations who have given CAFE significant support over the past year. Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association gave CAFE 2 grants of \$1,000.00 each for the lunch program in Barahona and the mobile library in Peru.

As well, Retired Teachers of Ontario, District 28 gave us \$500.00 at the end of 2010 for Barahona and also sponsored an application to the Retired Teachers of Ontario-Service to Others program. This resulted in a \$3,000.00 grant for the lunch program. These wonderful donations help us maintain stable funding for these very important programs.

LAFONTAINE in downtown Whitby once again held their spring fashion show with proceeds

going to CAFE- a wonderful afternoon showing the latest fashions, many gifts won and a chance to purchase that perfect outfit. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers at LAFONTAINE for their continuing support.

Thanks to board member Kasia for arranging a family night at Boston Pizza. We had over 50 supporters attend and 10% of the receipts were donated to CAFE by Boston Pizza. Adding in a 50/50 draw, it was a successful night for CAFE.

Out and about in the community, board members staffed 2 tables at local events. We were at Canada Day at Lakeview Park in Oshawa, giving out candy to the kids and bringing CAFE's message to the many people attending. Thanks to Clara, David, Peter, Juan Pablo and Betty Anne for their attendance. And in Kingston, board member Scott arranged for us to have a table at their second annual Multicultural festival. Peter, Juan Pablo and Elyse sold hot hats from Peru and donations from

LAFONTAINE as well as providing information about CAFE and our work.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to board member Ryan Harlock after six years with CAFE. We thank him for his many contributions and wish him well in all future endeavours.

Our future looks bright and exciting as we are in the process of joining together with 'Learning for Hope', a Durham based organization working mainly in schools in the Durham Region. Headed by Andrew McLaughlin, a teacher, this organization funds educational projects mainly in Latin America. With common goals and objectives, we feel that we can be stronger if we work together.

We look ahead with enthusiasm and hope and trust that your support will continue.

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting at 7:30 PM, November 15, 2011 at the Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas St.

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Tom presents cheque from Retired Teachers of Ontario to Juan Pablo for Lunch Program in Barahona



Scott, Peter and Elyse at Kingston Multicultural Festival



David, Clara, Patricia & friend enjoy the evening at Boston Pizza Fundraiser

## BARAHONA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF THE LUNCH PROGRAM



The young ones having lunch

**This November 30, 2011** marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lunch program. It has come a long way since its beginning in 1991.

Then, a group of lay missionaries from Puerto Rico, led by Father Victor Raul Ortiz came to Barahona to explore where the most need lay. It was decided to focus on the barrio Nuevo Amparo, a community in need of nutrition and education.

Two programs were started in the community and at the church. Sister Juana, then a Franciscan nun was coordinator of both programs. She eventually left her order, but continued to run the program in Nuevo Amparo as a lay person.

The barrio was a difficult area, as people were arriving from all over the south looking for work. There was no sense of community and the unemployment rate very high.

The program started with 100-130 children. The facility was very small and poor. At first, there were no tables or chairs. Mothers from the community have always done the cooking. For the past 9 years,

she has relied on the same three ladies for lunch preparation. Recently another woman, abused at home, was added to these three. The lunch preparation is now much more coordinated and Sister Juana can rely on these women and does not have to be there everyday.

From these early beginnings the program has grown and has made a positive impact on the community. There are now almost 350 children registered and approximately 300 children fed each day. Since CAFE began its support in 2003, she has been able to include all children of elementary school, up to age 14, where before those over 11 could not be fed.

Most children in the community now finish elementary school and many go on to high school. And from that group about 1 in 5 go on to university.

In the early days, many young children would die of hunger or malnutrition. Others were unable to concentrate on their school work. Girls as young as 11 would leave school, marry and start having babies, perpetuating the despair and poverty.

Sister Juana, herself, rescued a toddler named Donaldina, abandoned in the street with ants eating at her eyes. She is now a healthy young woman finishing high school and with dreams of a career.

The community, as well, has changed for the better. Still issues arise, but Sister Juana can call the community together to address problems and work together on solutions.

There are many positive personal stories from over the years and it is imperative that this important program continues.

Raisa, one of the volunteer moms started coming when her children were babies. Now her four ranging in age from 13-19 years are all still in school and hopefully can break the chains of poverty.

Pedro Julio has been a volunteer at the program since he was 10. Now an adult, he is an elementary school teacher, still living and working in the neighbourhood. He still comes back to volunteer as do many of the graduates of the lunch program.

This program provides a decent meal for at risk children, giving them the energy to learn. It also builds community and gives hope to families who struggle for a better life.



Lunch Program in 2003

**This program ...  
builds  
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better life.**

**20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY BUILDING IN BARAHONA**



Some of the high school kids who participated in the program as youngsters return to volunteer



Left to right; Sister Juana, Pedro Julio, Juan Pablo from CAFE, and Raisa one of the volunteer moms



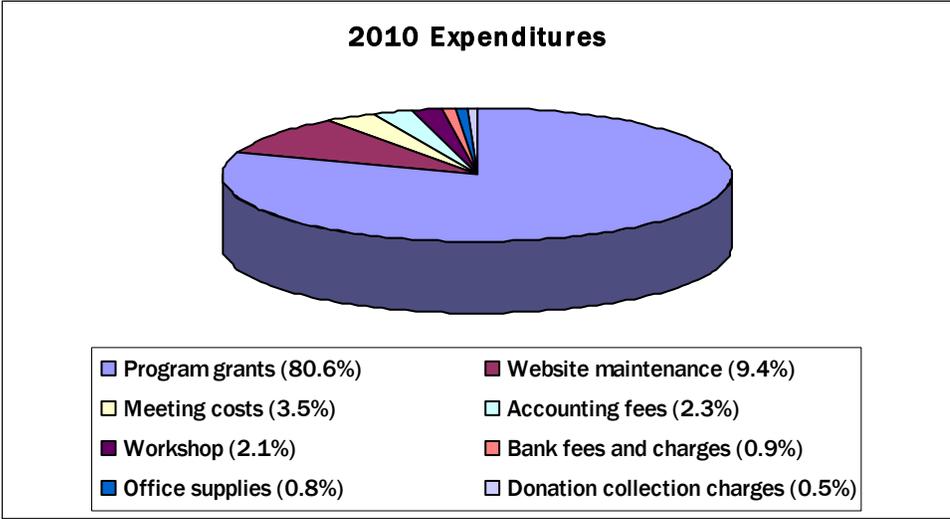
Children from the lunch program

**Come to our Annual General Meeting.  
7:30pm Nov. 15th,  
2011 at the Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas St.**

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

For the financial period of 2010, CAFE received \$10,039.00 in donations and grants.

Expenditures for 2010 totaled \$12,920.00. 81% of expenditures (\$10,415.00) were used for program grants for the mobile library in Peru, the lunch program in the Dominican Republic, and the student rebuilding program in Chile.



## CHILE: YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR RECONSTRUCTION



A student plants a garden as part of the rebuilding efforts



Rebuilding homes in Chile



Canadian Aid For Education

After the devastating earthquake that struck Chile in February of 2010, CAFE partnered with a local agency, named SEPADE, to support student-led reconstruction efforts.

Your support helped fund a project that created an opportunity for high school students to take an active and leading role in their community, by proposing, organizing and following-through on seven different micro-projects, with the aid of family, friends, and teachers. Ten project proposals were made, seven of which were executed.

Four of the projects addressed rebuilding houses, two focused on community infrastructure and

one addressed the psychological well-being of the children affected by the earthquake. Seventy students took part in the proposal and planning of the projects which benefited over 1000 people in the community.

By contributing to rebuilding efforts with local families and communities, the students became conscious of ongoing and new social problems, learning empathy. They learned team work, communication skills, and conflict resolution. And having the responsibility for the completion of the projects, added a practical element to the students' education, as they learned how to design and implement projects successfully.



Watching the new multimedia projector

## PERU: MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library continues to do great work for the children in Arequipa. Contributing to the social and cultural development of the student population, the library organizes different cultural and educational activities such as, workshops on reading, grammar, public speaking, dance and drama. They also offer the youth access to educational resources not available in their community.

The library operates by setting up in different 'barrios' throughout Arequipa, for four consecutive Saturdays. They locate strategically so that nearby communities can also benefit from the program. This set up, which they

began last year, allows the program organizers to increase the amount of time the children have with the program. It also makes it easier to identify the education problems in the community.

Thanks to your donations, the mobile library was able to purchase a multimedia projector and screen to aid in the delivery of their program. The projector is used to show presentations and films on culture and religion, and will be very valuable and useful in their future work. Your support also helped the library with purchasing materials and transportation costs.



Children participating in the library program show off their creations

For more information: [www.canadianaidforeducation.ca](http://www.canadianaidforeducation.ca)

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