



Annual Newsletter 2014

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Year in Review

CAFE Year in Review

Thanks to all the support and help, CAFE and our partners have had another excellent year.

We have maintained significant support for our ongoing projects including the lunch program in Barahona, Centro Anay –centre for girls in Cusco, Peru and the mobile library in Arequipa, Peru. The school in El Salvador has been able to do upgrades to the school and 4 donated lap tops were taken to them this summer to allow them to do some computer training for both students and the community.

We are pleased to announce a new project in a suburb of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where a church group are working with Haitian shoe shine boys and their families. You can read about all our current projects in the following pages.

On the administrative side, we said goodbye and thank you to Mary Lou Laramee, who left the board this past year. Her dedication and commitment were very much appreciated. And we welcomed new board member Mary Claire Brehm, who jumped right in as a volunteer at our golf tournament! Two new additions to the CAFE family were welcomed when board members Scott and Andrew became fathers to baby girls. Congratulations!!

The Learning for Hope students at St. Mary's High School, along with support from teachers and parents held 2 fundraisers to support CAFE projects. The 3rd Zumba event this past February was a high octane evening of mu-

highlighting the work of this student group under the guidance of educator Nancy White.

A very successful golf tournament was held at the end of May. The weather, a little iffy early on turned into a beautiful sunny warm day-perfect for the players. A very big thank you to our coordinator Joe Platt and his wife Lori. Thanks as well go out to our volunteers Mary Claire Brehm and Denise Falkner for organizing the silent auction and prize tables and to our photographers Adam Chow and friend from Union Marketing ,who



Golf and Zumba Events. Thanks to all who came out!

sic and exercise led by the excellent staff from the Harmony Centre. Thanks go out to Linda Raponi and the Harmony Centre Staff, the students and staff at St. Mary's and to board members Andrew and Shedia. In June parents and students ran a very successful yard sale in St. Mary's parking lot. Many thanks to all the organizers for their hard work.

A young student took it upon himself to do a bike ride to raise money for CAFE. Thank you, Aidan and all who supported him. Your commitment is most appreciated.

We also received a donation from the students at Monsignor John Pereyma High School in Oshawa. Read the article in this year's report

donated their time and materials to take pictures of every team to take home as a remembrance of the day.

The annual fashion show at LAFONTAINE also provided a fun afternoon showing the hottest trends for spring and summer and benefitting CAFE. Thank you, ladies!

And last, but certainly not least-to YOU our individual donors, the core of our support, thank you. It is your generous donations each year that has allowed us to offer financial help to communities working to provide educational opportunities to their citizens, from toddlers to adults.

Visit our website often to keep up with events and news canadianaidforeducation.ca

New Projects in 2014

New Project in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas. For many years and especially after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, thousands of desperate Haitians have crossed the border into Dominican Republic looking for a better life for themselves and their families. Many illiterate and most with no legal documentation, these families face more hardship. Many of the children beg on the street and work as shoeshine kids to help their families. Few go to school. A church group in a western suburb of the capital Santo Domingo is working to change these terrible conditions. "Fundación Niños Limpiabotas La Merced" has 5 purposes:

- Eradicate child labour in Santo Domingo West, espe-

cially among young children working as shoeshine kids

- Inform the population that child labour is against the rights of children
- Working with children and families to offer education, nutrition support, health care and recreation
- Develop their human potential through sports, recreation, arts and religion
- help to formalize their legal status in the country

This is an ambitious project which will develop over the years. CAFE, this year is supporting the purchase of equipment to outfit classrooms which the organization will run. Undocumented Haitian children are not allowed to attend Dominican schools and so getting the kids off the street and into a classroom is one of the most pressing issues.



Girls from orphanage in Bani

Support to orphanage in Bani, Dominican Republic

This small orphanage in the city of Bani in the south of the Dominican Republic offers a home, education and support to orphan girls. CAFE is providing funds this year for school supplies, uniforms and transportation. The girls range in age from toddlers to adult and are given the opportunity for schooling and support until they are able to go out on their own.

Centro Anay, Cusco, Peru

2014 was a year of learning and growing for Carmen Muñoz, Director and the many girls who attend this centre. The girls have thrived under her tutelage and the training offered. So much so that one of the girls recently got a job as a



Computer Lab at the Centre

receptionist in a doctor's office. Seeing one of their peers get a job has inspired the other girls to work even harder and given them the belief that they will have a way to earn a living when they turn 18 and have to leave the orphanage.

In June, Carmen also began working with a group of boys from another local orphanage. The boys have begun computer classes at the centre which has given them an outlet for their seemingly endless energy.

Inspired by Carmen's commitment and the energy of the girls and boys, several other women in the community have begun volunteering with Carmen.

This year, the girls have had dance classes, yoga classes and baking classes. The baking classes in particular have been a huge success, as the girls have been able to sell their baked goods in the neighbourhood. The fact that local volunteers are contributing to the growth of the centre is what makes Carmen's work so special.

The crowning achievement for the centre came on Saturday, Sept. 5th, when the municipality invited the girls to participate in an exhibition of local projects.

Carmen and the girls provided glimpses of their talents in both aesthetics and the culinary arts for the people of Cusco. More importantly, the girls were given the opportunity to feel proud of



Getting their nails done at the Centre

their skill; everyone who supports CAFE should feel proud of the fact that they are helping these inspiring girls and boys to learn how to help themselves.

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting

Thursday October 16, 2014 at 7:30 PM

926 Byron St.N. in Whitby.

Enjoy delicious international desserts, meet our board members and learn about our hopes for the future.

RSVP to cafe.newsandevents@gmail.com or leave a message at 289-800-3122

*“...workshops
coming to
Santiago in
the summer
of 2015!”*

Lunch Program in Barahona, Dominican Republic



Our oldest partner, the lunch program in Barahona, Dominican Republic continues to provide a nutritious meal to over 300 students in “Batay Central” barrio. They have had a wonderful year, moving the program to a new facility beside the local school. It provides much more room for the children and a bigger kitchen for volunteer staff to prepare the lunch. There is also plenty of secure space to store food. This year, CAFE has provided funds to purchase a freezer that will allow the storage of perishable food, as well as our regular support for the program. The previous lunch facility had no electricity or running water. The facility opened before Christmas in 2013

and they were able to celebrate both the new building and their Christmas gathering.



Christmas gathering in new building

TMA/CAFE Partnership

No funds were sent to Teacher Mentors Abroad this year, but our collaboration continues. With 7 teachers having attended the workshops in Santo Domingo over the last 2 years, there is now a core team in Santiago working to

bring the workshops to this area. Juan Pablo and Betty Anne are meeting with the planning group here in Canada this fall and the team on the ground in Santiago is ready to scout out facilities and promote the workshops coming to Santiago in the summer of 2015. They have all been sharing their knowledge with their colleagues and are excited that the opportunities for teachers' continuing education is coming to their city.



Santiago group at TMA Workshop

Learning for Hope Trip to Cusco

This July, a group of Learning for Hope community members traveled to Peru. The group spent ten days living in the Cusco area, where they were exposed to the diversity and richness of the Andean culture and traditions. More importantly, group members had the privilege of participating in a community work project with the people of Huaran, a small town located in the Sacred Valley. By joining forces with the members of the community, we were able to



Learning for Hope group with community members in Cusco

lay the foundation for a new kindergarten. (The young children

have been studying in a stable). Group members worked side by side with the people lifting rocks and laying the foundation; the locals were astonished by the work ethic and spirit of our group. Since the departure of the group, community members have worked tirelessly to complete the project. The building and the learning that will take place in the future are a testament to the power of community and collaboration.

**CAFE
distributed
\$22,202 to
our project
partners in
2013.**

*For detailed
financial
statements
please visit our
web site.*

CAFE Support of SEPADE Student Workshops

Chilean Group “SEPADE” with support from CAFE is again offering workshops to students graduating from the local technical school in Concepción. These new graduates receive training in leadership, working together and conflict resolution and will take these skills along with their technical training to the workplace and the communities where they live. CAFE has supported a number of

initiatives run by SEPADE, a local organization in Concepción, Chile since 2010 when we supported efforts to help students deal with the trauma of the earthquake and tsunami that hit the area. SEPADE works mainly with high school and technical school students providing additional skills to help them make their way in the world.



Students participating in workshop

“To Change the World-Wear the World”

Students and staff at Msgr. J. Pereyma C.S.S. in Oshawa, ON. Making a difference!

Nancy White, educator and coordinator of this group shares her thoughts.

Zumba nights. Latin Markets. Meetings with Andrew McLaughlin (2011)..Betty Ann Platt and Juan Pablo Liriano (2012).

What is CAFE? What is Learning for Hope?

Here are a few links in a chain of events that helped us decide to help fundraise for Learning For Hope/CAFE.

An Educational Assistant, Shawna Murphy, a vivacious, busy mother of two, with Andrew and students from St. Mary's C.S.S. were going to Cusco Peru! (2013). Our past principal, Patti Wilson had been. I met Betty Ann and Juan Pablo. I asked myself and then my school community -

What can we possibly do to help support CAFE and Learning For Hope and the Career Centre (Centro Anay) for young women who have been terribly exploited and mistreated in the sex trade in Cusco, Peru? A long question!

Why do we have an alliance against child labour? How can we help?

We hear from and then I get to meet Carmen Muñoz here in Canada (Dec 2013) the woman who builds on the community of care and love for these young women every day in Cusco.

So here is what we do within



Baked goodies at the Latin Market

our high school. We first saw the need to build leadership and community within our school.

How do we build community within our school?

On the last Wednesday of each month we meet and welcome all staff and students to join us so-

cially to "Bead It Bracelets" where we hand paint, gloss and string-world wooden beads onto leather bands.

A kind of labour of love. One of our students came up with a catchy slogan, "To Change the World-Wear the World".

We use this in our Latin Market fundraiser events outside our cafeteria! We sell our bracelets and have a sale of baked items and treats.

Our bracelets are also available for \$2- at LAFONTAINE in downtown Whitby.

This is a wonderful support and extension of our goals.

Two young women welcomed the bracelets to sell at their Christmas store.

The money raised so far has helped the young women in Cusco's Education and Career Centre as they learn marketable skills such as hair dressing and office skills.

CAFE sends out a big thank you to this school group for their continued support.

Keep up the "Good Works" !

"They also toured the new permanent facility which CAFE helped finance, providing funds for windows and doors"

Mobile Library, Peru

Victor Manuel Pinto, a founding Board Member of CAFE, visited the mobile library project in Arequipa, Peru in February 2014. He met with Director Father Joel Palomino, along with 3 members of the library team. They shared with him the project format, traveling to the barrios providing library services and resources to these under served communities. They also toured the new permanent facility which CAFE helped fi-

nance, providing funds for windows and doors. He noted that the



Victor Manuel (left) visits with the library team

facility needs to build resources, such as books, magazines, newspapers and computers. Victor Manuel shared his ideas with them and told them of some of CAFE's other projects. They were especially interested in CAFE's collaboration with TMA (Teacher Mentors Abroad) and continuing teacher training, a need they identified in their school system.

Thank you Victor Manuel for your visit to this project and for sharing with us.

El Salvador

In 2014, Canadian Aid for Education and Learning for Hope continued its work in El Salvador. In July, members of Learning for Hope visited El Salvador and hosted a reunion with teachers and principals from across the country. As an act of unity amongst colleagues, we had a picnic together and climbed the volcano of Izalco. By the end of the day, everyone

involved committed to launching Teachers for Hope in El Salvador. The plan is to host a day of Hope every year, where teachers from across the country get together and help to renovate a school.

In the town of Armenia, CAFE continued its support of the elementary school in the community of Buenos Aires. Thanks to the kindness of the many people who

support CAFE, we were able to deliver six used laptops to the school and a computer lab has been established for the students. CAFE also funded the refurbishing of a classroom.

Clearly, in a country mired in turmoil, CAFE is sharing and building hope.