



PROJECT ESPERANZA

# **2013 End of Year Report**

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We are sending this report to donors who have donated during the 2013 calendar year, along with their giving report, as well as donors who have donated in past years, although they may not have donated this year. We hope you find it informative. Special apologies, again, to our faithful monthly sponsors who have received much less attention via journal updates this year, and I am getting caught up during this short break from law school, hopefully to last throughout the year.

### Financial Stats

Note – Income is based on 2013 calendar year which we organize for giving report purposes and expenses are based on our tax season, Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013, which we calculate for tax reporting purposes.

Total income from donations and fundraisers: \$67,594.35

This table best summarizes the sources of this income:

Summary	Total \$	%	# of Unique Donors/Events	Notes
Monthly Sponsors	\$17,524.75	25.93%	27	At the end of 2013 we have 18 participating monthly sponsors donating a total of \$1,235.83 per month. We still have yet to ever reach our \$2,600 per month goal.
Fundraisers	\$4,023.26	5.95%	12	While we did 10 monthly restaurant nights in Winchester, VA, we only received \$42.22 from 4 restaurants. In 2014 we will do this quarterly.
Random Donations	\$38,695.31	57.25%	44	Global Giving is counted here as one donor, as funds through there go through Global Giving as a non-profit and many donors are anonymous. Of the 44 donors, 12 donated on more than one occasion.
Student Sponsors	\$7,351.03	10.88%	47	Remember, this reflects the calendar year and not the school year.

And this table best summarizes how the income was spent, however, remember that these expenses are based on our tax season rather than the calendar year, so there is slight discrepancy there:

Program/Expense	\$	%	Notes
<b>Boys' Home, School, &amp; Program</b>			
Food	\$1,935.70		
House Rent, Utilities, Maintenance	\$1,180.83		
School	\$4,834.85		
Misc.	\$11,861.75		This includes a land purchase!
Total	\$19,813.13	28.30%	
<b>Grassroots Schools</b>			

Teacher pay	\$17,646.00		
Building rent, utilities, maintenance	\$6,400.61		
Materials	\$754.00		
Misc.	\$2,062.70		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,863.31</b>	38.37%	
<b>Social Work</b>			
Misc. (housing, food, school, work, medical)	\$3,810.28		
Soccer Team	\$1,080.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,890.27</b>	6.99%	
<b>Change My Stars</b>			
	\$2,843.15	4.06%	
<b>Christian Upliftment School</b>			
	\$568.75	0.81%	
<b>Community/Economic Development</b>			
	\$6,526.30	9.32%	
<b>Administrative</b>			
Bank/Transfer Fees	\$3,847.48		This still remains outrageous although we were able to start lowering it some at the end of this year, but the only full solution is to get ahead and have all funding available at one time for each month or quarter to send at once.
Communication (phone, Internet, website, mail, copying, printing)	\$1,368.47		
Transportation (in country)	\$2,847.77		
Misc.	\$440.06		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,503.78</b>	12.15%	
<b>Grand Total</b>			
	<b>\$70,008.68</b>		

### Program Updates

**Searching for Life Boys' Home, School, & Program** – This was the first program we began in 2006 where



we conducted a census, collecting information on 140 boys on the streets, average age 14. 14 year olds in 2006 were 21 year olds in 2013. Many have still needed some aid at this point, and this year we continued to provide that, whether giving them a place to stay support for a bit, helping out with rent for a month or two, gifting diapers for children, etc. We maintain the encouragement that they continue with their schooling and do what we can to support that. We ended the year with 5 in the

group home. Two (Willy and Emso) are members of the original group, therefore age 21/22, one

(Chinaider) was our youngest in the original group who just turned 18, and 2 others, (Enelbi and Sony) are 14. Sony just entered in November, after being homeless in the area for 3 years. Junior, 14, moved into our family's home in February along with his little sister. The current group home (small and rented) is maxed out at 5 and the age balance is ideal. Younger boys get more aid such as meals prepared for them, more clothing provided for them, etc., whereas older boys get either a small weekly food stipend or no help with food. However, everyone gets support with education.

Chinaider and Willy were our first two to pass the national exam after 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Haiti in June. Beginning in August, everyone was integrated into public school with a teacher/ counselor visiting daily for private tutoring, counseling, and weekly group meetings. While some have odd jobs, everyone does not, so we began a Nintendo business this year with a few systems where neighboring kids pay 20 pesos to play for an hour. This continues to be a work in progress, but has provided some income and experience. In March, we received a very generous donation in response to the 2012 "Dear Santa" letter, which outlined a plot of land that would be ideal to purchase and construct the home and school. We were able to purchase the land, but are still in need of funding to be able to construct.

In February we were also visited by International Justice Mission, an organization that is currently setting up a field office in the country, and who works largely in human trafficking. Two boys gave their testimonies on the subject, which helped this organization to see the great need for their work in the country. Willy, Emso, and three others from the original group volunteered all summer and throughout the fall to run our soccer team, which consists of 40 players age 7 to 18.

***Puerto Plata Social Work*** – We continue to care for Elisenia, who is now 3, was born without a tibia, has



asthma, and who lost her parents to AIDS. We think that adoption may be the best option for her, especially given her special needs. We took in her sister Yenilove, 7, in February, who was being passed from home to home after tragedy struck her family. We paid a caregiver to foster another baby, Angelina, for one month while her family was undergoing turmoil. We also provided counseling and some legal aid for the parents, as well as housing aid. We provided some medical aid to Wendel, a two year old with hydrocephalus, and hoped to help him get necessary surgery, but his mother left the area and fell out of

contact. We went on a wild goose chase around the country, searching for a man's family who was dying from diabetes, only to find an aunt that refused to take him in. We then observed the community he was living in do their best to care for him until he passed away. Also included in this program is Supesta soccer team. Three days a week during the summer we bussed boys from the boys' home and neighbors, as well as boys from the Padre Granero school and area, to the soccer field in town to practice. During the school year, practice and games took place just on Saturdays. We provided random meals and other aid to others in need on occasion. Visit <http://tilimyesa.blogspot.com> for more updates.

***Project Esperanza Grassroots Schools*** – This year we were finally able to fairly consistently provide



meals for students in the United Brothers School of Munoz. For our school in the community of Padre Granero, we were blessed with an

amazing new building to rent with a very large yard and even a playground! For this current school year, 65 of our 150+ students have been sponsored so far. This means that the schools continue to lack adequate materials for the amount of students, and this will remain the case until all are sponsored. Help us make this year be the year that we get all of our students sponsored! We are preparing to send 5 students to the national exam in Haiti, which students take after completing their 6<sup>th</sup> grade exam. After 6<sup>th</sup> grade, our students either integrate into a Dominican school, or are sent to stay with family in Haiti to continue with their schooling there. It depends on the family. We do our best to prepare students for either route. We have made many efforts this year to learn more about the legal issues with running the schools and practices other NGOs use in running similar schools. We are still unaccredited by the Dominican government, and are unable to become accredited until we own our own land and building. We continue to develop a vision for the future of these schools so that they can best serve the students and the communities.

**Grassroots Schools Global Affiliates** – This program was set up to serve the many schools which do not



receive any aid, but seek it. We provide a platform by creating a blog to present the school and their needs to potential sponsors, then facilitate sharing of important information between the schools and their sponsors. We do not take on full responsibility of these schools or make any promises, but provide this platform. We currently channel funding to the Christian Upliftment School in Kampala, Uganda, and the Maranatha School in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. While we are not anywhere near Kampala, this connection came through

volunteers and others serving in the Dominican Republic who had a connection with this school. After another group ended their involvement with this school, we were able to give already existing sponsors a way to continue supporting, and the school a way to continue receiving aid. We have created blogs for 3 more schools to give them a chance as well. The page for this program is [www.grassroots-schools.org](http://www.grassroots-schools.org).



**Fair Trade Art Shop** – June marked two years since we opened our fair trade art shop, and October marked two years since we opened our online shop. This year the average gross income of total sales from both shops was \$251.31. The breakdown is of where these funds go is: artists – 60%, shop workers handling sales – 7%, guides bringing in customers – 15%, maintaining the shop and funding for the organization – 18%. This year we were not able to do much to work

toward maximizing the potential of this program, as we merely did our best to keep it open, but weren't able to consistently focus on growing it. However, we solicited for an economic development Peace Corps volunteer and were visited several times throughout the year. We finally received a volunteer to have this project as her focus in December. She was switched from another site that didn't work out and has 1.5 years left of her commitment. We have never had such long term help and that has been a big weakness. So we hope that next year the numbers will be much higher!

[www.esperanzameanshope.storenvy.com](http://www.esperanzameanshope.storenvy.com)

**Internet Center in Muñoz** – Six computers donated by a company in CT have arrived. One is being used in the school in Padre Granero, but the others remain in storage. This is an endeavor we have planned for years, and always had a section of the school planned to designate to it, but we have continued to have one challenge after another as far as electricity is concerned. We have lighting 27/4, but the surges are especially bad. For example, because of these surges, one light bulb burst, fell on a student's notebook, and lit it on fire! We are making a final attempt to see if we can solve this problem, or will have to use the computers in another location.

**Change My Stars English Education & Scholarships** – We ran an English immersion pre-school with



some students sponsored and others paying a fee to participate, and had three different American/Canadian teachers come over the course of the 7 months that the school ran. It was an amazing time but we didn't get enough students registered to be able to cover our costs, so we had to shut it down in February. We did our third year of English immersion camp, but this year, rather than doing it in town, we did it in the Padre Granero school. It was a huge hit, everyone learned a

ton, and even got camp t-shirts! This school year four students have received Change My Stars scholarships, which send disadvantaged students to high quality private schools, drastically changing their educational experiences, and therefore lives. These students are Freddy Jean Piet, a university student, Eriverto Bien-aime and Miguelina Joseph, middle school students, and Aniverca Bien-aime, a special education student with cerebral palsy who at age 11 is attending school for the first time in her life! Maybe one day we can use lessons learned to more successfully execute the English immersion pre-school, but for now, this program consists of the English camp and scholarships. We hope to have enough volunteers this summer to do the summer camp in both Padre Granero and Muñoz. Please consider joining us! <http://changemystarsschool.blogspot.com>

**International Volunteers & Visitors** – This year we had 7 long termers, 19 short termers, and 75 day



visitors or volunteers. Everyone mainly helped out with English education, art shop management and development, some teaching in grassroots schools, and we began doing "eco-construction" projects such as a human compost toilet, solar ovens, and more. We moved the volunteer house from city stay to an immersed Muñoz stay and received great feedback from doing this, but would love to one day offer both options/experiences. Again, we hope you can join us sometime soon!

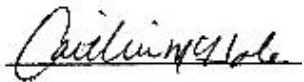
**Budding Partnerships** – Education First, Peace Corps, The School Fund, Hopsie.com, and Peaceworks

**Special thanks to:** Kathy McHale, Crystal Fox, Larissa Mihalisko, Alexis Wells Carpenter, Adam & Cole Salvitti-Gucwa, John Misselwitz and Team H2H, Carla and Joe Gorman, Michele James-Deramo, Edna May King Hermosillo, Pastor Milien Dieufils, Katie Matthews & Markie Harwood, Alex Denis (Willy Pierre), Kristi Rodgers, Oreste François, and Nanie Telemaque.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered, prayed, advocated, etc. We went through some hard years there but have come out on the other side much stronger. May each year be better than the last. May we continue to learn and grow and strengthen and create positive change. May his kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.

May God bless you richly this new year. Thank you again, immensely, for your support. We couldn't do it without you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlin McHale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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