

SOMBRILLA

International Development Society



fostering partnerships for community development



Annual Report 2012

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Report from the Chair- submitted by Kirsten van der Meer

Sombrilla has enjoyed a very successful year building strong relationships with our partners in Latin America and strengthening ties to Albertans through our outreach and engagement work. Our volunteers and our Board of Directors have worked very hard to support our vision of fostering partnerships for community development. Together, we are dedicated to the Sombrilla mission of reducing poverty through building self-sustaining communities and enhancing quality of life with our Latin partners.

Tierra Colorada project leads Paul Layte and Nancy Cowle completed the final reporting for their grant from the Alberta Community Initiatives Program. The Tierra Colorada school improvement project included building additional classrooms, installing bathrooms and bio-water filters. At the conclusion of their project, they reported increased enrolment in all grades and more children staying in school from year to year. Improved school facilities have also enabled them to start up a junior high program in 2012 with 37 students registered for Year 1. Years 2 & 3 will start up in 2013 & 2014 respectively.

The Yurac Yacu Community Centre Project is continuing to flourish. Sombrilla funding is supporting construction of the community centre as a hub for local development, education, and income enhancement. Construction of the prechool classroom, meeting room, library, and computer room are completed. The Roosevelt School in Lima will be donating books and computers and setting up the library in March, 2013. Work will soon be started on the income-generating terrace including a kitchen, bakery, café and guiding office and installation of plumbing and sanitation systems. Our partner organization, Andean Alliance, estimates that another \$15,000 will need to be raised to finish the project. Local residents supplied all of the labour for this project.

Throughout the year, Sombrilla has participated in local events to engage with Albertans. We have travelled with our display to Seedy Sunday, Just Christmas, and the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation AGM. In May, we hosted our annual International Dinner attended by over 120 people. We aim to increase our public engagement and outreach to Albertans over the next year.

We are now seeking a new project with ADIM (Association para el Desarrollo Integral de Multiservicios), an organization that we have a long history with in central Guatemala. We are currently reviewing project proposals, and we will work with ADIM to scope out the new project over the next few months. We will move forward with fundraising of our selected project in 2013.

Many thanks to all of you who support Sombrilla, and our ongoing work.

Kirsten van der Meer

Sombrilla's 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Kirsten van der Meer (President)
Richard Heikkila (Vice President)
Tracy Tanasichuk (Treasurer)
Jeff Goldie (Secretary)
Katrin Hoffmann, Member

Rick Berube, Member
Sarah Cashmore, Member
Stephanie Garcia, Member
Vanessa Kohut (Chair – Projects)
Natashya Shewchuk

A Short History... 25 years of Sombrilla

Rick Berube, Sombrilla board member

In 1985 a group of journalists from the Edmonton area gathered together to see what they could do about the founded Sombrilla horrendous human rights violations in Guatemala that they they had become aware of. They felt compelled to become involved. Two years later, and now 25 years ago their group, now named Sombrilla Refugee Support Society became a registered society in Alberta. The original objectives of the Society they formed were clearly focused on providing sponsorship to refugees fleeing these human rights violations in Guatemala, and Sombrilla was given a 'charter' by the Federal Government to conduct these resettlement activities. An impressive collective of Edmonton and area sponsorship/support groups (journalists, educators, lawyers, social workers, restaurateurs, etc) were organized under the "umbrella" of Sombrilla to raise the funds needed to safely bring Guatemalan refugees to Canada and to provide them with settlement services at their arrival and beyond; their efforts were guided and monitored by the Sombrilla Board of Directors which in good part was itself made up of representatives of these various Edmonton professional groups. Several families were provided asylum in Canada (mostly in the Edmonton area) as a result of the enormous commitments made by these founders and early members.

Five years into its existence, a partnership with another small development organization in Edmonton (Pueblo Partisans, headed by Tom Grauman) was established in 1991, and Sombrilla began to look closer at the politico-socio-economic circumstances within Guatemala which lead to the continuous flow of people seeking asylum. Our Society decided to redirect its energies towards overseas development, with the belief that in the long term, its efforts would be more effective and sustainable. This new visioning was nicely supported by the likes of journalist Jim Witte and ecologist John Chan and many other thoughtful, dedicated members who helped bridge our transitions from refugee sponsorship to overseas development. A major three-year development project located in the Comitancillo community of Guatemala was conceived based on local community needs, and Arturo Avila and Adrienne Wiebe (and their two children) were dispatched as volunteers to support the leaders of this marginalized community in their development needs.

At their return to Edmonton five years later, the Avila/Wiebe duo continued to inspire, manage, lead and support Sombrilla's efforts in many ways, and along with the dedication and leadership skills of John Chan (who also remained active with Sombrilla for many years), Sombrilla has been able to manage and support an impressive array of development projects implemented not only in Guatemala, but in Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, Honduras and Peru as well.





Our solidarity with the many communities touched by those development projects was strongly enhanced and affirmed by the extraordinary commitment and dedication of volunteers like the Avila/Wiebe team, Elene Berube, Tara Kemp, Diana Coumantarakis, Paul Layte/Nancy Cowle, Alvaro Loyola and members of Christian Peacemakers International (CPI) who dedicated themselves in direct service overseas to support the development of so many marginalized, struggling communities –principally in Guatemala and Honduras.

So as we celebrate twenty five years of service as an organization, we want to thankfully acknowledge all the many special, generous and passionate contributors who make possible our continued existence. Among these are many members of the Board of Directors who remained faithful to the cause, even through some of the more challenging times we had to face as an organization. Special mention should be made of people like John Chan, Arturo Avila, Newell Hudson, Sarah Cashmore, Alvaro Loyola, Tim Martin, and Giri Pulingula, who put forth extraordinary effort on our behalf. The high spirited and passionate activist Enneke Lorberg was very instrumental in raising our organization’s profile in the local Edmonton community and we are very appreciative of her contributions as well as those of like-minded people such as Katrin Hoffman, Ros McCue and David Hubert.

All of you who have joined with Sombrilla over time have helped in advancing the cause of peace and justice through your acts of kindness, of solidarity, of compassion and through your hard work.

Sombrilla will continue, in solidarity with non-violent peoples’ struggles, to support grassroots partner organizations in Latin America through various interconnected spheres such as literacy, micro lending, food security, environmental protection, water resources, health, women’s empowerment and social justice. Without question, these overseas projects continue to deliver significant impacts on the quality of life of families and communities affected, and we should take great pride in this solidarity.



Tierra Colorada, Guatemala Projects

Progress Report November '11 to October '12

From information supplied by Paul Layte, Project Administrator

This year saw the completion of the Tierra Colorada School Construction Project. A second story has been added to the Tierra Colorada Primary School greatly reducing crowding in the classrooms and at this point, no classes need to share space. Five new classrooms were added as well as a new kitchen and bathrooms. The additional classrooms have enabled additional students from Tierra Colorada to attend school in their community. School enrollment at all grades has continued to grow between eight and ten percent.



Not only are more children staying in school from year to year, but, while construction was underway, some volunteer teachers, inspired by a Grade 6 teacher, prepared a submission for the Department of Education to start a 'Basico Institute' [Grades 7 thru 9] at the school in 2012. Approvals were slowed up because of National elections; but, verbal approval was received last November and written confirmation arrived about Dec 1st.

The first year of secondary school, with classes held in the afternoons, started in January this year. There are 37 students enrolled in the first year of the secondary school with 32 students from Tierra Colorada. The Tierra Colorada Basico Institute' [junior high program] will continue next year adding year 2 secondary programming in 2013 and year 3 in 2014. By providing higher educational options within the community, more students will be able to participate. Through Sombrilla, Paul Layte has committed to fund this project for three years at an annual rate of twelve to fourteen thousand dollars. Based on precedent, the Guatemala Department of Education will assume funding for this school in 2015.

Nancy Cowle & Paul Layte visited the community and conducted an on-site visit to the school during the month of February 2011, at which point the construction of the second floor was well underway. Nancy Cowle returned in February 2012 to wrap up the project, attend opening ceremonies' and collect financial records.



In the upcoming year work will continue on developing the Secondary Program and with building water filters for the Tierra Colorada Community. The Government of Guatemala will take over all operational costs after the initial three years. Parents in the community will contribute \$20Q/month for each student.

Yurac Yacu Project, Peru

Prepared by Sarah Cashmore, Project Manager



It has been another really strong year for the Yurac Yacu Project. Work has continued on the Community Centre, we have added a new project, The Yurac Yacu Education Project, and this summer we hosted the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation Change Your World Youth tour.

The construction of the second building in the Yurac Yacu Community Centre took place last fall and early winter. This room houses the library and computer centre as well as being used for community meetings, youth gatherings, summer school, and community events such as movie nights. The community Centre was opened in January with a gathering of the community, much ceremony and huge amounts of food. I was lucky enough to be able to attend the opening and to share with the community the excitement of seeing this project that we have worked toward for so long nearing completion.



The construction of the community centre entered its third phase in July with the excavation of the next building site and the pouring of foundations and the production of 1000 adobe blocks.



The community is presently working on the community kitchen and café, and the water and wastewater systems for the whole of the centre are being installed. Indoor washrooms will be a part of this stage of the centre and will utilize a dry composting toilet system with minimal water use and discharge and with all solids composted into a soil amendment to be used on nearby pastureland. We expect the construction to be completed by the end of the year.

This spring Sombrilla entered into a new project with Andean Alliance to help support the ongoing educational programs. Sombrilla will contribute to paying staff for the preschool program and to supporting volunteers who will work with the summer school program and community programming. With the help of a donation from the Monsignor Irwin Foundation we have also been able to provide computers and audiovisual equipment for the community centre.



Public Engagement

by Sarah Cashmore

In late July Sombrilla and Andean Alliance hosted the ACGC Change Your World Youth Tour. Our wonderful team of five Alberta high school students, Chance, Julie, Kianna, Ross and Sarah along with Joelle Badman from ACGC and myself left Canada to spend two weeks in Peru learning about how Alberta organizations contribute to development in Peru.



We spent about 10 days in Ancash visiting Yurac Yacu and taking part in a homestay in the nearby community of Vicos. We were joined on our first day in the highlands by five Peruvian youth from the Yurac Yacu community. Yesenia, Mitchel, Marichris, Javier and Eduardo were with us until our final evening as we prepared to return to Lima. They were wonderful hosts and guides sharing their insights on the culture, the region the community and the project. It was very sad for all of us to say goodbye.

As well as visiting Sombrilla projects, the group travelled to Chincha on the coast of Peru to visit projects by Rainbow of Hope for Children and to Lima where we visited still more projects by CUSU. Sarah, Ross, Kianna, Julie and Chance are all busy now taking all they have learned from the tour out to their fellow Albertans. All this fall they will be doing presentations and showing the short documentary they made of the trip. We are very grateful to all of them for spreading word of the work Alberta organizations are doing in the developing world.

Sombrilla thanks our major donors for their ongoing support

The Government of Alberta
The Monsignor Irwin International Development Fund
The Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association

Sombrilla International Development Society
Summary Statement of Operations (Unaudited)
For the Year Ended August 31, 2012

	2011-12	2010-11
REVENUE		
Contributions ¹	29,855	11,110
Grant funding ¹	21,229	34,075
Fund raising	11,947	11,843
Other	404	319
	63,435	57,347
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Program travel	2,970	2,246
Program funding	41,300	44,370
Sub-total	44,270	46,616
OTHER EXPENSES		
Fundraising	9,688	5,597
Administration	483	625
Sub-total	10,171	6,222
Repay Prior year Grant Funding	0	0
NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	8,994	4,509

Summary of Financial Position As at August 31, 2012

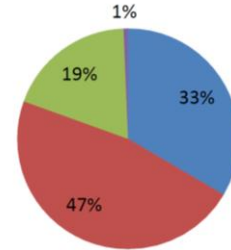
	2012	2011
Cash	53,477	47,297
Inventory & Equipment	500	500
Total Assets	53,977	47,797
Deferred Revenue ²	26,022	24,764
Unrestricted Net Assets	18,960	18,524
Current Year Income (Deficit)	8,995	4,509
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	53,977	47,797

1. Grants and contributions that are designated to specific programs are recognized as revenue when the funds are spent. Unspent designated grants and contributions are held as Deferred Revenue.

2. \$26,022 in donor specified contributions are deferred for future programming.

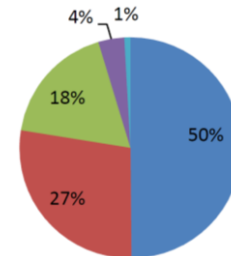
Current Year Revenue

■ Grants ■ Donors ■ Fundraising ■ Other



Current Year Spending

■ Program - Yurac Yacu
 ■ Program - Tierra Colorada
 ■ Fundraising
 ■ Program - CAMP
 ■ Administration



Deferred Revenue

■ Tierra Colorada ■ CAMP

