



Annual Report 2009-2010

La Salle International Foundation, Inc.



The De La Salle Christian Brothers operate institutions in 80 countries around the world, including this orphanage in Genguvarpatti, India which cares for almost 100 destitute boys between 6-12 years of age.

Highlights of the Year

- *Obtaining legal status as a non-for-profit*
- *Linking with other Lasallian NGOs*
- *Supporting Solidarity with Southern Sudan*



Obtaining Legal Status

In January of 2008, a decision was made to create a North American development office which would support Lasallian efforts around the world with particularly sensitivity to third world countries. Such assistance would help our Lasallian partners work in the areas of education, health, and human service as well as in their work providing humanitarian relief. Foundation assistance would be provided without discriminating on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality or sexual orientation.

In targeting a niche for development operations, the business plan for La Salle International included seeking a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service that the Foundation would operate as a



A team of lawyers from Sutherland assisted La Salle International in the appropriate filings for its 501(c)(3) determination status.

501(c)(3) entity exempt from Federal income tax. Additionally, contributions to La Salle International would be deductible under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, thereby making the Foundation eligible to receive tax deductible bequests, devices, transfers and/or gifts under appropriate sections of the Code.

Four lawyers from a prestigious law firm in Washington DC, Sutherland, offered their services *pro bono* to help procure the appropriate IRS determination. Mr. Douglas L. Siegler, Mr. David S. Goldstein, Mr. Daniel M. Buchner, and Ms. Lisa



Morgan provided consistent, informed, and extremely helpful legal advice to the Foundation during this stage. Under their direction, the appropriate documents were prepared and the Foundation was guided expertly through the challenging legal pathways to obtain a successful IRS ruling.

The Foundation's documents were submitted in the summer of 2009 and on August 10, 2009, a determination letter from Robert Choi, Director of Exempt Organizations, Rulings and Agreements, conferred 501(c)(3) status on La Salle International Foundation as a public charity. While many Church non-profits operate tax-free under their eligibility as a religious organization, this public charity status now affords individuals, affiliates and corporations a welcomed opportunity to support Lasallian activities even if they are otherwise restricted from funding faith-based initiatives.

Shortly after receiving the IRS determination letter, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs issued a Business License to La Salle International Foundation and the Government of the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue issued their Certificate of Exemption under the DC Sales and Use Tax Acts.

La Salle International is housed at the Hecker Center on the same floor as the Development offices of Bethlehem University, the offices for the Lasallian Volunteers, and the Christian Brothers Regional Conference. This geographic proximity affords the Foundation ease of communications and synergistic opportunities for collaboration with other Lasallian organizations and officers.



Future Directions

For many years, Lasallian works around the world have centered around education. Indeed, the founding documents talk of providing “a Christian education to the poor” and this has been the emphasis for much of the work conducted by the De La Salle Brothers and their lay partners. Through their efforts, programs from kindergarten through graduate level and professional education has been fostered around the world.



In Sri Lanka, an impoverished child walks through Colombo's municipal landfill in search of collectable items.

Notwithstanding, there have been efforts during the past two decades to particularly target youth-at-risk by providing facilities, counseling, work opportunities, and residential care for these individuals. At a Spring 2010 meeting of the International Lasallian Solidarity and Development Commission, and with the approval of the Superior General, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, a decision was made to place more emphasis on providing developmental assistance for Lasallian operations which target youth-at-risk.



These individuals come to our doors through a variety of needs. Some are educationally excluded children; others are street children, orphans, or victims of child abuse. Some individuals have drug addiction problems, mental illness or disabilities which put them at the fringe of society. At risk youth include migrant and refugee children, individuals with HIV/AIDS and are victims of war (child soldiers). Some might be juvenile offenders, workers as child laborers, or be victims of child trafficking. Typically, they are impoverished, socially marginalized and often belong to ethnic minorities.

In the months and years ahead, more work will be supported through international development efforts as these programs become targeted for increased institutional attention. These operations will also engage in developing long term strategic plans and appropriate planning to ensure financial self-sufficiency.



Inside the protective walls of this Lasallian New Life Center in India, these mentally and physically challenged individuals live harmoniously together, receiving the care and attention of professional staff.



Solidarity with Southern Sudan

From its first days, La Salle International has been devoting a large portion of its energies supporting an initiative which combines the many talents of different religious congregations in service to Southern Sudan, a country which has only recently ended over 20 years of civil war. This initiative called *Solidarity with Southern Sudan (SSS)*, is addressing critical needs in the areas of teacher training, health care education, and pastoral accompaniment.

To support its teaching activities, SSS has established residential community centers in Malakal, Yambio, and Juba, with satellite operations in Leer, Torit, Nzara, Kosti and Renk. Through these locations, *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* instructs over 750 educators in a Government of Southern Sudan certified teacher credentialing program. This in-service program offers professional teacher training to practitioners at convenient times on weekends, during holidays, and evenings and is the largest teacher training program in Southern Sudan.



Sr. Maria Martinelli, MD instructs first-year nursing students at the SSS facility in Wau, Western Equatoria.

In Wau, *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* has completely refurbished a health training campus which had been destroyed during the civil war. This campus now contains classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, staff quarters, library, dining facilities and recreational areas for students enrolled in a four year,



Sponsorships

The following activities, programs and institutions were sponsored from monies donated to La Salle International between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

Saint Joseph's Boys' Village
Genguvarpatti, India
Recreational Uniforms/Equipment
\$ 1,000



Jaime Hilario Integrated School
Bagac, Bataan, Philippines
Educational Scholarships
\$ 1,000.00



Solidarity with Southern Sudan
Malakal, Southern Sudan
Scientific Equipment
\$ 300.00



Ocean Tides, Inc.
Narragansett, RI, USA
Educational Support
\$ 1,000.00



Henamulla Pre-School
Colombo, Sri Lanka
Operational educational expenses
\$ 1,500.00





St. Joseph's Boy's Village
Genguvarpatti, India
Children's clothing expenses
\$ 1,500.00



Bahay Pag-asa Center
Cavite, Philippines
Educational support
\$ 2,500.00



Estación de Investigaciones Marinas
Isla de Margarita, Venezuela
150 Professional reference books
\$ 403.61



Solidarity with Southern Sudan
Juba, Southern Sudan
Educational programming
\$ 1,000.00



De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale
Rome, Italy
Lasallian NGO Collaboration
\$ 25,310.00



La Salle Secondary School
Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, S. India
Student scholarships
\$ 500.00



An International Lasallian Onlus

Early in 2010, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría invited a group of foundations similar to La Salle International to join together in strengthening the Lasallian solidarity network. In doing so, he suggested the creation of an umbrella organization in Rome which would be recognized by Italian law and which would permit the various foundations to work together on matters of common interest. The intent of this action was to give foundations collective advantage in access to public or private funds on the local, regional and international levels while realizing projects in common. Assurances were given that membership in this new entity would neither impact La Salle International's autonomy nor its freedom of action in sponsoring projects independently.

The full legal name of the new umbrella organization will be "De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale Fondazione - Onlus." The Lasallian NGOs and foundations invited to be founding members of this Onlus include: PROYDE (Spain), the Lasallian Foundation (Australia), RELAL (Latin America), District of Italy, the Casa Generalizia (Rome) and the La Salle Foundation (United States). The Board of Directors for La Salle International approved the Foundation's membership in this new Onlus.





Finances

In accordance with our status as a 501(c)(3) public charity, a 990-EZ has been filed with the Department of the Treasury for the tax year beginning 1 July 2009 and ending 30 June 2010. Total revenues received by La Salle International during this time amounted to \$90,290. Of this, \$36,204 was distributed to charitable causes and, when combined with net assets or fund balances from the previous year, \$51,029 of assets remain in the Foundation. There are no restrictions, conditions or limitations on these funds regarding their future use.

This first year of reporting the 990-EZ for the Foundation indicates that during a recessionary period globally, funds continue to be received for assistance to needy sectors. The Foundation is grateful to our benefactors who have partnered with us in assisting needy individuals around the world. Through their support, we have been able to assist a number of good causes during the past year.

Considerable development work has resulted in the direct financial assistance to *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* by a number of foundations and governmental agencies. During the past year, La Salle International worked with the following granting agencies in obtaining initial and/or ongoing support for *Solidarity with Southern Sudan*: The Programme Office for the British Government, AECID—Spanish Government, Winrock International, the Conrad Hilton Foundation for Sisters, and Catholic Relief Services. La Salle International would like to thank these generous sponsors of *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* for their support of teacher training, health care instruction, pastoral services and agricultural education programs.



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