Annual Report 2012-2013

La Salle International Foundation, Inc.

The poor children who live in the slums of Colombo, Sri Lanka are appreciative of the assistance provided by La Salle International Foundation in providing educational support for the Henamulla Pre-School

Highlights of the Year

• Continuing the SECOLI connection
• Case Study: Henamulla Pre-School
• International Development Assistance
Continuing the SECOLI Connection

With the establishment of SECOLI (International Lasallian Cooperation Service) by the General Chapter of 1966 of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, a formalized network was establish for the dissemination of financial resources from more affluent Districts to areas which were finally struggling. SECOLI serves as the bridge which provides a way of sharing the resources of the Institute. The principal objectives of SECOLI center on three main interdependent concepts: education, responsibility and self-sufficiency.

Fortunately, there has been considerable collaborative work conducted between SECOLI and La Salle International Foundation, fostered largely through the concomitant appointment of a single Executive Director of both operations. While this requires considerable logistical balancing, continual communication flow, and trans-Atlantic oversight, the benefits which have accrued to the Institute through this arrangement have been enormous. Through its financial support to SECOLI's projects, La Salle International Foundation has enabled North American donors to assist with the Institute’s work around the world while also receiving IRS donation benefits for tax purposes. A number of SECOLI projects have been sponsored by Foundations which La Salle International has established and with donors
who are supportive of the aims and ends of La Salle International.

As La Salle International looks to the future, it sees even more possibilities for linkages with SECOLI. With the Institute’s greater emphasis on child care, particularly for at-risk youth, foundations in the United States may be productive sources of sponsorship for evolving programs. Because many such foundations require fiscal agents who are approved by the Internal Revenue Service as 501(c)(3) public charities, La Salle International can again serve as an important conduit for funding programs in the area of health, education and human services.

An example of such collaboration could be seen this past year when the combined efforts of both SECOLI and La Salle International were able to work with the Ram Kapur Trust to successfully solicit a grant of approximately £300,000 which will underwrite approximately seven years of professional education for almost 200 Dalit students from poor areas in Southern India.

Other such examples of collaboration have enabled La Salle International to have impacts around the world and for SECOLI to have an active partner in the United States. This model is being considered as a possible prototype to be duplicated in other areas where the Christian Brothers work.
Case Study: Henamulla Pre-School

The Henamulla school exists on the outskirts of Sri Lanka’s capital city of Colombo where the city’s garbage dump has been pushed back to provide for more slum housing. As such, the children live next to and play in the refuse of the city. It is against this backdrop that the Henamulla school educates 137 children each school day. Because there are no educational opportunities which would otherwise be available to these children, the De La Salle Brothers have established a preschool which serves the educational needs of young children who are entrusted to their care. Under the legal auspices of the Lasallian Community Education Service (LCES), Henamulla together with two other pre-schools serves the poor children of the Colombo area.

Although the school is completely registered by the government and all teachers are certified, the school does not have access to public funding for its operational expenses. As such, its retention is reliant on funding from Lasallians in Sri Lanka, The Lasallian Foundation (Australia), the PARC Region of the De La Salle Brothers, La Salle International Foun-
dation (USA) and a few other donors. Collectively, these foundations and donors allow the operations of the facility to continue.

The children served in the pre-schools of LCES are aged 2 1/2 to 5 years old and come from a great variety of religious preferences: Muslim (42%), Christian (29%), Hindu (23%) and Buddhist (6%). The goal of Henamulla pre-school is to prepare children who otherwise would have no education opportunity to gain admission to Grade 1 in the government schools.

The government is building a very large low income facility quite close to the current location of Henamulla in an effort to move some of the 7,000 slum families into better quarters. A possibility exists that Henamulla might be able to either be placed in that new facility or expand to more space. In either event, the services of Henamulla will continue to assist these marginal people who otherwise would be without a crucial educational step which allows them to enter into the Sri Lankan public system.

For the children who attend Henamulla pre-school, the Colombo city municipal waste dump is their front yard. They walk past or through it each day to this LCES school sponsored by the De La Salle Brothers.
International Development Cooperation

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, La Salle International Foundation, Inc. assisted the development efforts of both Servizio di Cooperazione Lasalliana Internazionale (SECOLI) and De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale – ONLUS which are both operated by the De La Salle Christian Brothers as development arms for their works of education around the world. Such assistance came through the professional services of the Executive Director as well as through grants supporting the international development initiatives of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

In this way, La Salle International Foundation, Inc. participated in the solicitation or reporting requirements of grants totaling for SECOLI approximately €750,000.00 (which provided support to Lasallian operations in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Haiti, Poland, India, Golf of Benin, Sri Lanka, Congo, Douala, Kenya, Pakistan, and Vietnam, Madagascar, Cameroon, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Guatemala, Ivory Coast and Thailand) and totaling for the De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale – ONLUS approximately €1,900,000 (which provided support to Lasallian operations in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Pakistan, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, and the Ivory Coast.)
Lasallian agencies around the world work together on international development projects.
Sponsorships

The following activities, programs and institutions were sponsored from monies donated to La Salle International between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

Saint Joseph’s Boys’ Village
Genguvarpatti, India
Operational Support / Human Svcs.
$ 2,000.00

St. La Salle Community College
Tamil Nadu, S. India
Student scholarship grant
$ 2,500.00

Solidarity with Southern Sudan
Malakal, Southern Sudan
Scholarships & Operational
$ 5,141.38

Pygmie Basic Educational Centers
Lomië, Cameroun
Health Support—WASH Program
$ 6,185.00

Henamulla Pre-School
Colombo, Sri Lanka
Operational educational expenses
$ 1,500.00
Talba Centre De Sante Catholique
Carrefour Vougt, Cameroon,
Health Grant
$ 6,300.00

“Come and See Program”
Kalaw, Myanmar
Education grant
$ 4,866.00

Lasallian English Language Center
Yangoon, Myanmar
Educational Grant
$ 549.53

Colegio La Salle
Cucuta, Colombia
Education Grant
$ 977.70

St. Mary’s Boys’ Secondary School
Nyeri, Kenya
Child Rescue Program
$ 928.54

Agricultural Project “Utopia”
Bogota, Colombia
Education Grant
$ 1,857.92
Finances

In accordance with our status as a 501(c)(3) public charity, a Form 990 has been filed with the Department of the Treasury for the tax year beginning 1 July 2009 and ending 30 June 2010. Our 990 has also been filed with the Department of Regulatory and Consumer Affairs, Washington DC.

Total revenues received by La Salle International during this time amounted to $34,457. Of this, $38,757 was distributed to charitable causes and, when combined with net assets or fund balances from the previous year, $43,101 of assets remain in the Foundation. There are no restrictions, conditions or limitations on these funds regarding their future use. All gifts have been acknowledged and funds tracked. Copies of all 990s are available from La Salle International and our books are open to public inspection.

The Foundation is grateful to our individual, corporate and foundation benefactors who have partnered with us in assisting worthy global projects.

Special thanks for their ongoing commitment to Lasallian education goes to The Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities and the St. Thérèse Foundation. La Salle International thanks these generous sponsors for their support of Lasallian projects around the world, particularly in developing countries.
Looking Ahead

La Salle International has shown rather dynamic collaboration with various and diverse sectors of the Institute. It has worked collaboratively with SECOLI not only to get grants from the United States but also to help develop various grants from non-North American agencies. In a similar fashion, it has worked with Solidarietà–ONLUS, Proyde and the Lasallian Foundation (Australia). In working with these partners, the La Salle International Foundation has seen greater cooperation and coordination among Lasallian development agencies.

The location of the Executive Director principally in Rome means that ongoing daily contacts with individuals in Washington based workgroups cannot occur. Similarly, some foundations cannot be personally visited due to travel limitations. Notwithstanding, the Washington Office for La Salle International continues to be a vital link for north American funding sources and for international development in the Lasallian world.

As we look ahead, we anticipate even more collaborative ventures among Lasallian development foundations and even greater opportunities to be of assistance to youth and children around the world. The current Institutional emphasis toward Children and Youth at-risk is something which La Salle International supports fully and we look forward to being participatory members in supporting those endeavors.