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JOSE EDUARDO LOPEZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (JELMS) 2013 ANNUAL REPORT - MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Jose Eduardo Lopez Memorial Scholarship (JELMS), I am pleased to greet our donors, volunteers and supporters and provide you with a report on our accomplishments during the year.

Since JELMS was established, our goal has been to provide as many scholarships as possible to Latin American youth pursuing a post secondary education. These scholarships not only help our recipients to overcome financial limitations but also signal the support of an entire community. None of this would be possible without the ongoing generosity of our donors, and the entire board. Thanks you for your continued support!

2013 was filled with exciting new ventures and ideas. On August 16, we hosted our first annual BBQ fundraiser at St. Luke's Anglican Church, the venue having been generously donated by Fr. Javier Arias. Leading up to the fundraiser, we attracted the interest of CHCH NEWS and Osiris and I were invited to discuss the establishment of the scholarship and promote the fundraiser. We were humbled by the support of the many local organizations and businesses that responded to our request to sponsor the event. We received funding and donations of food from the Hamilton Community Foundation, ASC Auto Body & Sales, Rio Claro Environmental Inc., El Sabor de tu Casa (Monica Muñoz) and Harvey's Restaurants of Canada (Barton & Kenilworth location). An array of talented artists and performers provided the entertainment for the event, and all of our guests enjoyed Latin American music, food and dancing. Fifteen or so volunteers assisted the Board members in making our first event a great success, and we thank them all for their time. More than 200 people attended the fundraiser, purchased tickets for food, drinks and raffles and made personal donations. We were delighted to raise more than \$1,800 at our first annual BBQ fundraiser! Please visit the Media section of our website for more information and some great photos from the event: www.jelms.org

In a generous expression of solidarity, Rosa Gonzalez, President of the Fraternity Hispanic Association, with the support of an amazing team of volunteers, held a Garage Sale and donated all of the proceeds to the scholarship.

Another important initiative was our registration with Canadahelps.org, a website that enables secure, online donations to over 80,000 registered Canadian charities. This makes it easier than ever to support the JELMS cause. Supporters can easily make a one-time or recurring donation online, and will receive charitable tax receipts immediately. We have added a 'donate now' button to our website that links directly to Canadahelps.org. A dear friend of mine, Edna Sandoval, became our first monthly donor and, in lieu of gifts, Spencer Charters, our marketing director asked his friends and family to support the scholarship through Canadahelps.org. It is my hope that many others will emulate this way of supporting the scholarship. Ongoing monthly donations provide us with greater certainty when planning for the year.

In September, during the Hispanic Week Celebrations, we were thrilled to be able to grant five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in scholarships to three determined, intelligent and



amazing Latino students. For the members of the executive board, this is always an extremely rewarding and fulfilling event. It is absolutely amazing to witness the

expressions of gratitude and happiness of the scholarship recipients and their families.

We look forward to 2014 with the hope and belief that our scholarship will continue to grow for the benefit of our community. The JELMS board of directors will dedicate our efforts to creating effective policies and procedures that will support our growth and guide our actions in the future.

We started from nothing and **THANKS TO YOU, our donors, supporters, and volunteers** we are now a well-known and respected charity. We feel extremely fortunate to contribute towards increasing the social capital within the Latin American community, and we could not do so without your continued support. **Thank YOU!**