



# One! International 2010 Annual Report



## *Our Mission, Vision, Values and Goals*

### **Mission**

To teach literacy skills to children living in the slums of Mumbai, India, so that they are better prepared through gaining the confidence, knowledge and skills needed, to achieve their potential and become responsible members of society.

### **Our Vision**

- Improve the future of impoverished children and youth in Mumbai.
- Establish programs that aim to strengthen families and prevent the abandonment of children.
- Provide children with basic living needs through trust, respect, integrity, commitment, and caring.
- Help children recognize and express their abilities, interests and talents.

### **Our Values**

We believe that education is an inherent right and the key to freedom through breaking the cycle of poverty. We believe in peace, non-violence, frugality, simplicity, honesty.

### **Our Goal**

Maximize the benefits for the street children of Mumbai while minimizing administrative spending.



## Message from the Founder

Early in 2010, we recognized that we weren't quite as small as we were back in 2001. We needed to make some changes administratively to keep up with the changes that were already happening at the grassroots level. One of the main concerns that popped up in our brainstorming meetings was succession – what would happen to One! if something happened to myself or another key person. We were tested much sooner than expected. I blew my ACL (ligament) and tore my meniscus in my left knee in May, and remained out of commission in the schools until the end of September (though I did teach some classes from Canada via skype!).

Vinita Singh and Vijay Balan (with Mahendra Yadav and Chitra Pandey as support) stepped up and really proved that One! is not just one girl from Canada trying to educate a few kids on the side of the road any more. It is an institution that means a lot to too many people for it to fizzle out without just one. In their dedication to me at the Annual Program in November 2010, they said that One! used to be Tania's dream, but now it is all of our dreams and that One! won't stop until the dream is met. Tears flooded over me – the true essence of One! was finally a reality.

Back home in Canada, the same success was being seen. There was less and less of a reliance on myself and my mother (Marilyn Spilchen).

Julie Hawkins built a team of incredible individuals; people who were not only ready to help, but accept responsibility and take One! to the next level. Our Gala in January had more than 400 people in attendance and surpassed our many goals.

Thank you to the amazing volunteers, sponsors and donors of 2010! Where or what would we be without you? Just a small fraction of what we are now. Though our staff in India no longer relies on volunteers for their day-to-day tasks, they still rely on them for positive energy, new ideas, and other support in many, many areas. Volunteers are vital to our work in India and the children lean on them for love and smiles – the volunteers of 2010 proved this a hundred-fold (coming from places as close as Canada and as far as Malaysia). Sponsors and donors continue to show their dedication and generosity to One!.

2010 ended with a feeling of stability and controlled growth. A great place to be as we embark on what 2011 has to bring. Who knows exactly what that will be, but what we do know is that it will be unpredictable and wonderful...and we are ready for it!

With great respect and appreciation, thank you.

Tania Spilchen,  
Founder and President



## Out Board

The Board of Directors/ Management Team is maintained to ensure that the direction of One! International remains focused and positive, improving the future of children, women, and families in Mumbai, India. The Board is the 'voice' of all the donors and financial supporters. All major One! administrative decisions are reviewed and accepted by a majority of the Board members. The Board, together with a volunteer group, developed a new organizational structure that was implemented in 2010.

The Board is the 'voice' of all the donors and financial supporters. All major decisions, in terms of the administration of One! (accommodation, transportation, communication, advertising, public relations) are passed to the Board and must be accepted by the majority of members. The hope is to maintain the 'human factor' and the credibility of the organization through the people that are represented by the Board.

The Board is a working Board, responsible for overall guidance of the organization. The legal responsibilities of the Board are to ensure that all activities of One! International comply with the rules and regulations pertinent to charitable activities in the province of Alberta, Canada and India.

In January 2010, *One!* International began a review of its organizational structure to help with future planning and sustainability of the organization. Three facilitated sessions were attended by over 15 people committed to the work that *One!* is doing in India. An Organizational Structure, and Short and Long Term Priorities approved by the Board, will be



Tania Spilchen  
President / Founder, Director



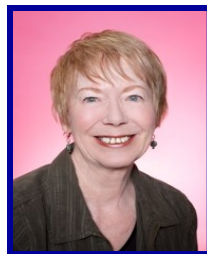
Gordon Sustrik.  
Legal / Secretary, Director



Colleen Woltjen, Director



Lisbeth Overheu  
Chair, Director



Marilyn Spilchen  
Manager, Finance & Administration



Julie Hawkins  
Manager, Programs & Events

## Who We Are and What We Do

*One!* International operates two schools, one in Khar Dhanda and one in Nallasopara. In 2010, *One!* assisted over 350 children and their families, with the help of 10 full time permanent employees and 10 part time employees in India; numerous volunteers living in India, and from countries all over the world; a volunteer Board of Directors/ Management Team in Canada; and an active volunteer Fundraising/Marketing Committee in Canada. *One!* International does not have any paid staff in Canada.

*One!* International has a long term goal of educating/informing Canadian children about another country, India, and the *One!* children in Mumbai. By connecting with *One!* International, Canadian students can begin to understand the aims and aspirations of children from another country develop a sense of appreciation for their own life in Canada, and gain satisfaction that they have an opportunity to help a peer in India.

### What We Do - Education

#### Education

*One!* teaches all ages - from pre-Balwadi (pre-kindergarten) to adulthood subjects such as Hindi, Mathematics, English, Geography, History, Ecological issues, and skills such as music, drama, painting, sewing, woodworking, cooking, and housekeeping.

Having attained the basics, younger children may be able to progress to regular schools in India, while older children may gain knowledge and skills which give them more options for employment. Children who show the aptitude for higher learning are tutored to prepare them for taking the Government Grade 10 exams. Young people who are successful in passing these exams will be able to gain admittance to college.



## Health and Social Assistance

One! International works with the families in the areas of health, hygiene and cleanliness. If the children attend classes regularly, they have access to health related products and services as required. Bandages, medication and hygiene products are supplied as required. Dentistry and optometry programs have been implemented.

The organization has enforced the rule that all children must bathe and keep clean to attend school and take part in any One! activities such as Saturday field trips. These hygiene practices are carried over to the school room where the children wash their hands and brush their teeth every day. Cleanliness has spread into everyday life and there is a noticeable healthier lifestyle and a decrease in sickness amongst the families. Social work counseling is provided to the families in all areas of need. Referrals are made for any health related issues that the staff is unable to deal with.

## Field Trips

One! International volunteers and staff take the children and sometimes their parents on regular fieldtrips to the movies, the beach, the fair, a local park, or even just down the street to play games and have fun. Every field trip involves an educational component, a full meal at a local restaurant and a lot of smiles. The children learn to conduct themselves appropriately in social settings. Fieldtrips continue to be a reward for attendance at school, and an incentive for continued learning. Once a year, children who have shown commitment to learning are taken on an out-of-town field trip.



## Art & Drama

Each year in November the children give a concert for their parents and supporters of *One!* International. The children prepare for weeks for their roles in the plays and the dances; they help with the costumes and prepare the art work for the stage. All of the children enjoy their regular art classes and extra art projects; they usually prepare posters for volunteers when they leave and for other special occasions.

## Housing

One! provides some support and personal financial micro loans to families as they make the transition from temporary huts by the side of the road to permanent homes with walls and a roof made out of wood, access to electricity and water. Renting a permanent dwelling is a huge commitment for the families and involves a great desire to want to make the future more stable for their children.

## Life Skills Development

During cooking class, a few of the older students prepare lunch for the entire school. They learn to purchase food, and prepare it in a healthy and safe manner. Sewing and woodworking skills development programs have students building tables, chairs and cupboards and sewing backpacks. They are motivated to work hard as they are paid for the quality of their products.

Some of the older students are taught the basics of photography. One of the oldest boys took driving lessons. He is able to drive for the school and obtain future employment. Mothers who show a commitment to One! International, and whose children are regular attendees at school are given work for the organization as cleaners, child care providers, and teacher's aides. Older students are also trained to be teacher's aides, helpers at the school, and any other duties appropriate. Hard work and motivation are excellent life lessons for the children to learn and understand.



## *The Year in Review*

We could go on for pages and pages about all of the amazing events and activities that took place over the last year. We know you are busy so we have outlined a few highlights for you. More information can be found on our website at [one-international.com](http://one-international.com).

## *School News*

### **Khar Danda Report (Ek (One!))**

Number of Children Registered - 100  
Number of Children attending - 65  
Overall attendance percentage - 60%

Of the children attending, half of them have a near perfect attendance record. The other half attend irregularly depending on weather conditions and festivals. We also have children under school age and over school age that we provide medical attention and counselling too. We are currently caring for over 120 children.

May and November are Art months where the children have a chance to learn acting, singing, dancing and art. All areas are taught in both Hindi and English, so not only is it a lot of fun, it is a great opportunity to work on the children's diction and pronunciation. The children also gain confidence from a performance of what they have prepared that occurs at the end of each month.

#### *Volunteer experience:*

*"I had a truly memorable experience teaching at the Khar School this past month. The students and teachers were so welcoming from the first day. The students were especially enthusiastic about learning English despite struggling to understand the volunteers at times. The schedule the organization has created for the students is really well rounded as well. They incorporate art and exercise as ways to express themselves, which I think is really important." ~Mika Kania, Volunteer, September 2010*





## **Nallasopara Report (Ek Asha (One! Hope)**

Partnership with Children's Hope (India) Inc.

Number of Children Registered: 226

Number of Children Attending: 220

Overall Attendance Percentage: 71%

We have three groups of students in Nallasopara:

1. Students who attend our school in the morning and go to another school in the afternoon.
2. Students who only attend our school.
3. Students who go to another school in the morning and attend our school in the afternoon.

The morning session is divided into PreStep plus 8 Steps and the afternoon session is divided into PreStep plus 7 steps. On any given day, approximately 90 children attend **in the** morning session and 95 in the afternoon session.

Currently we have 8 teaching rooms, a PreStep Room, an Exercise room, an Office and a Kitchen.

We started a new health class with Step 5, 6, 7 & 8 afternoon students. The morning students already had health in their schedule. Our health classes are formatted like a discussion so the students feel free to engage and ask questions about personal issues.

We have been offering full day school for the students that study only at our school. We now have 15 students attending full day.

*Volunteer experience:*

*"It's been a wonderful experience but I felt that a month is too short time to get proper involve with the students and the organization itself. It was wonderful to see that the students who only attend our school are more attentive and disciplined than the students who go to other schools. Step 7 and 8 students are really brilliant especially Jeetu and Mansi. For the rest I just can say that in just a flying month I learnt so much from the students, their living conditions and personal skills."*

*~Iratxe Pazos, Volunteer – Spain*

## *One! Child, Manda's Story*

Before Manda joined One! in 2001, she was a very distant little girl and quite shy. She didn't seem confident in herself and was greatly influenced by her older brothers. Once she joined One!, Manda worked very hard. She wrote very diligently and spent the time to get things right. She wouldn't give up until she understood, and accomplished what she sets out to do. She was the first to be able to recognize and write all of the Devangari script ( the script for the national language Hindi). She was the first to finish her workbook - much to the chagrin of her best friends. Manda had great potential if she was determined and stayed positive.

In 2010 after Manda was married and moved to village, Manda continued to come and go, back and forth between the village and Mumbai. Every time she went to the village, it wouldn't be long before her parents received a phone call from her - crying and clearly unhappy. For the first few times they ran to take care of their daughter, but later they became slightly detached. They wanted Manda to make a choice and a clear decision. Family abuse is still all too common in the villages of India.

When she visited Mumbai, Manda attended school to watch movies, hang out with her friend and help out wherever she could. Manda has certainly matured in the last year and seemed more stable. Manda gave birth to a little girl - Tejal - at the end of May 2010. All accounts show that Manda is a good mother. She brought her daughter to the One! school at Khar to meet her One! family.

Manda obtained basic literacy, and learned how to cook and clean for herself and a family. We think that Manda also learned about options for change and the importance of education. We think that Manda will have great expectations of her daughter's education when the time comes, and that she will celebrate her daughter's accomplishments, just as we celebrate the woman Manda has become.

### **Accolades**

On Wednesday September 22, 2010, Tania's work was recognized at the University of Alberta 2010 Alumni Recognition Awards.

Excerpts from an article "Park teacher helping India" in the October 5, 2010 Sherwood Park News (<http://www.sherwoodparknews.com/>) reads:

"A Sherwood Park native recently received an award for her work with children in India at the University of Alberta's Alumni Horizon Awards. Tania Spilchen, 31, received the award at the Winspear Centre, where she was honoured for the work that she has done with One! International."

"Spilchen has also been nominated for the CBC News' Canada's Champion of Change, as well as Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40."

Congratulations Tania! Our hearty thanks for all that you do at One! International.

## Meet Our Partners

### **Children's Hope (India) Inc.** <http://www.childrenshopeindia.org>

Children's Hope (India) Inc. (CHI) is a New York-based organization of professional women which supports the cause of underprivileged children both in India and the U.S. One! has entered into a partnership with CHI to support and fund the Nallasopara school - Ek Asha (One! Hope).

### **Livia Stoyke Foundation** - <http://www.livia.ca/new/index.aspx?aspxerrorpath=/Index.aspx>

This Edmonton based foundation formed to honour Livia Stoyke, supports Women and Children's Issues, Arts, Environment, and Outdoor activities. The Foundation agreed to sponsor a Prenatal/Health Program.

### **Mahatma Gandhi Foundation For World Peace – Edmonton** - <http://www.gandhi.ca>

This organization donated dollars for art supplies and sponsored an art contest for the students in India who drew pictures of what world peace meant to them.

### **Schools**

One! International has an ongoing partnership with Wes Hosford Elementary School, Sherwood Park, Alberta, which holds an annual fundraiser collecting supplies and money for the children in India.

**The Westfield Primary School in Radstock, England**, has entered into an ongoing partnership with One! International to improve the understanding, on both sides, of the respective schools and cultures.

### **Grant MacEwan Community University** - <http://www.macewan.ca>

The Global Education Fund granted money to help bring computer literacy to the teachers, staff and students in our two schools. Computers and printers have been purchased for both schools



## *Partners in Alberta*

### **Stollery Children's Hospital** - <http://www.stollerykids.com>

The Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation is dedicated to enhancing health services for children by raising money to support the Stollery Children's Hospital and programs that promote health, prevent disease and treat illness. The Stollery is Edmonton's acute care hospital for children and is very generous in sharing books, toys and other items with One!

### **Yoga Studios in Alberta and British Columbia**

We have a great partnership with various Yoga Studios - Sherwood Park, Edmonton, Calgary, Canmore, and Vancouver.

- Yoga Passage <http://www.yogamobile.com> sponsors eight children.
- Yoga Within <http://www.yogawithin.ca/> sponsors a table at our annual gala.
- Ashtanga Yoga <http://www.ashtangayoga.ca/> sponsors a child through Give-a-Child-a-Chance.
- Yoga For Today <http://yogafortoday.ca/> sponsors one child and does an annual fundraising evening in February.
- Yoga Lounge <http://www.theyogalounge.ca/> sponsors two children and carries out other fundraising activities.

### **CanadaHelps.Org** - <http://one-international.com/monetary.html>

CanadaHelps.Org is a non-profit organization that helps other grassroots and larger charities in Canada receive donations via Credit Card. One! is ecstatic to ease the process for its supporters who can now donate over the web through the fantastic work of CanadaHelps.Org. If you are interested in making a donation, please click the CanadaHelps.Org link above.

**Edmonton Business and Charity Partnerships** provide great community support with many businesses, as well we have partnerships with other charities.



## *Make a Difference*

### **Give a Child-a-Chance Program (GCC)**

The GCC program provides weekly meals, sporting activities, private education, counseling for families and the children, encouragement to improve life circumstances, and support as required. Donations for sponsored children are used to provide nutrition, clothing, medical necessities and the start of an education for a child. Most of all, the child will be given love and hope - a chance for a better future!

*One!* provides sponsors with the child's history: name, birth date, family, strengths, weaknesses, likes, dislikes and dreams. Every six months sponsors receive their child's update, with two new pictures, art work, schoolwork or exams, report card, and *One!* news.

Giving a chance to a child is only \$30 (CDN) or the equivalent thereof. In 2010, we are pleased to announce that there were 80 children who were sponsored for part or all of the year through the GCC program. Donations continue to come from: Give-a-Child-a-Chance (GCC) Program, general monetary donations, and gifts in kind. Several people have taken advantage of CanadaHelps.Org to donate by credit card or direct debit. <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s79287>

### **Volunteer Program**

*One!* International has been very fortunate to attract volunteers from all over the world who have gone to India to work with the children from varying periods of time. In 2010 volunteers came to us from: USA, England, Canada, Australia, Poland, Holland, Finland, India and France.

Volunteers in India are responsible for assisting the children to grow academically, as well as in areas of personal health, sporting activities, creative play, and learning about future opportunities for themselves and their families. Typical duties of a volunteer include teaching classes – usually to the younger children (basic hygiene, basic English, Mathematics, how to play, share and prepare properly for tasks). Volunteers also help with organizational duties, activities such as drama, art, meals, field trips, and other duties as required.

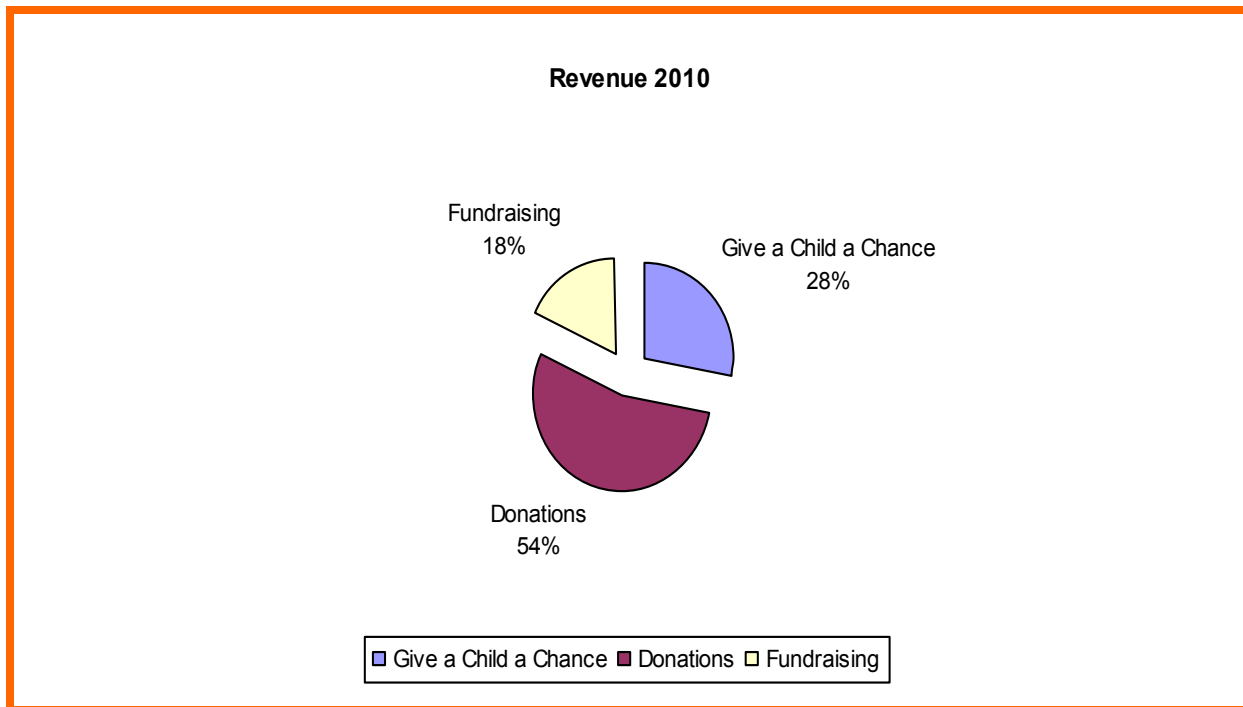
The volunteers are expected to put in approximately seven hours a day, five days a week in program implementation, with fun fieldtrips on Saturdays. During India's numerous public holidays, there is opportunity for travel. *One!* provides basic food and accommodation for its volunteers.

Applications for volunteering in India have continued to be received on a regular basis. Although not all volunteer/organization relationships are completely positive, the greater majority of the volunteers become very committed to the work being done by the organization, and to the children. Many volunteer for a second or third time, and many continue to support in financial ways for years following their experience.

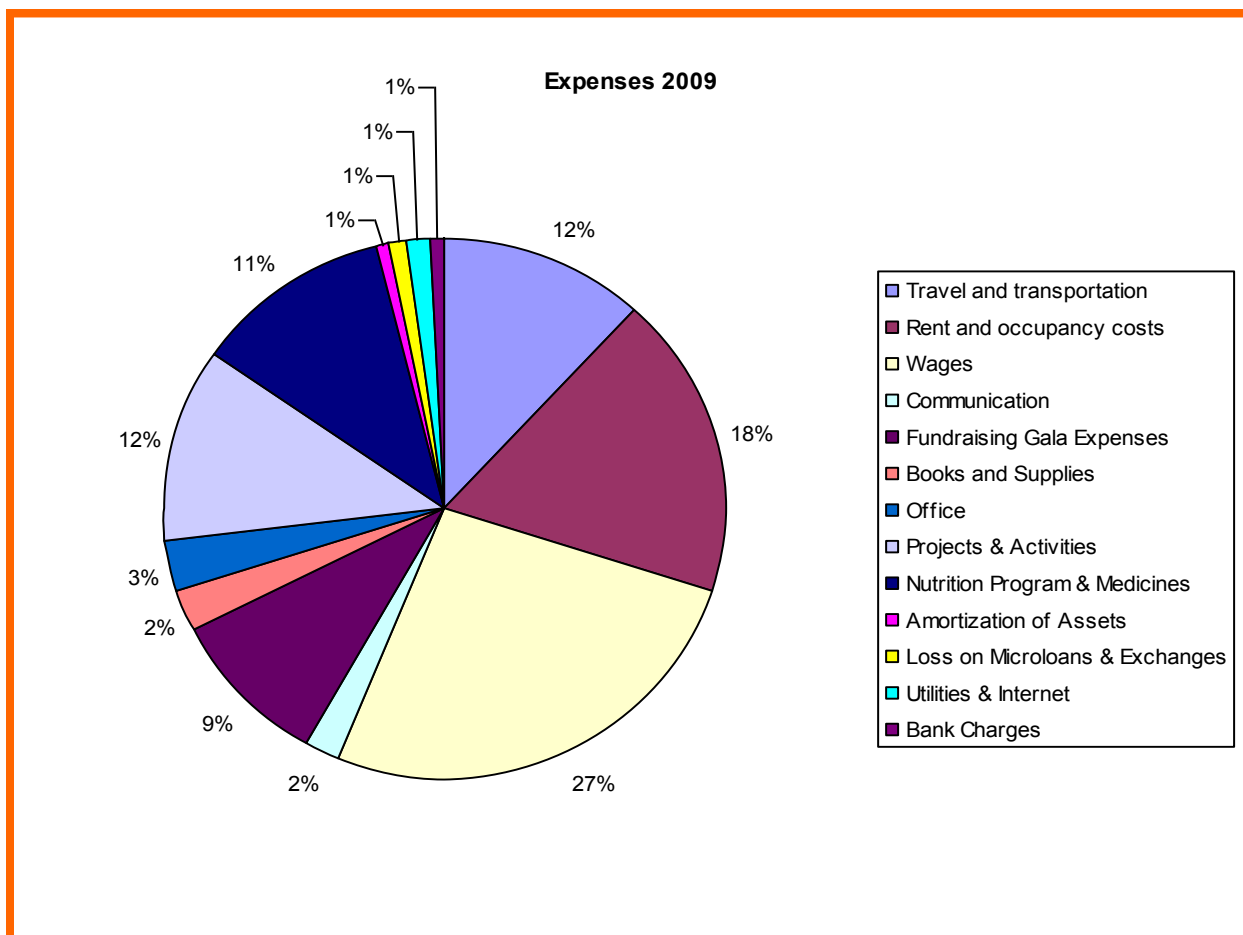
## Statement of Financial Position

	2010	2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH IN HAND	19,473	11,286
Staff Advances	1,245	680
Micro Loans Receivable	2,827	3,486
Prepaid Expenses	2,000	750
Prepaid Rent	7,957	16,005
Total Current Assets	33,502	32,207
Net Equipment	1,509	2,280
	<b><u>35,011</u></b>	<b><u>34,487</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	1,650	4,321
Unearned Revenue	9,920	3,640
Total Current Liabilities	<b><u>11,570</u></b>	<b><u>7,961</u></b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Net Assets invested in equipment	1,509	2,280
Unrestricted net assets	21,932	24,246
Total Equity	23,441	26,526
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>	<b><u>35,011</u></b>	<b><u>34,487</u></b>

# Statement of Operation



85% of revenues spent on charitable program in India. 15% of revenues spent on management and administration. There are **no** paid staff in Canada.



## Volunteer Profile - Marc Valentin

My day started the same; I woke up at 4:30am, hit the gym for an hour, showered then got ready for another 15 hour day the office. But for some reason that morning I also turned on the TV which is something I very rarely do and on came an interview with a One! volunteer. Her story resonated with me because for the past 25 years, the thought of working with underprivileged children in India had been simmering in the back of my mind.

One! offered everything I was looking for: working with children, improving an impoverished society, expand my skill set and the chance to immerse myself in India's diverse cultures. And before the television interview was over, I had already fired off an email to Marilyn. We exchanged several emails and six days later Marilyn wrote, "I would love to offer you a volunteer position with One! International in Mumbai!"

The next morning, I walked into my CEO's office and resigned. I sold all my possessions and on September 5, 2010, I was greeted by Vijay Balan (the most talented and dedicated teacher I have ever met) at Mumbai's airport. It was the first day of many that would change my life forever.

I was assigned to teach at the Khar school and later split my time there and with the second school at Nallasopara. I was to teach English and Mathematics across 4 grades of students. What I found most challenging was ramping up to speed as a teacher, how to deal with the cultural nuances and, as many parents can likely attest to, dealing with teenagers (hint...they are the same everywhere)!

One thing that surprised me is how difficult being a teacher is. In my past lives, I was a Bay Street banker (Canada's equivalent of Wall Street), an electrical engineer and entrepreneur. But all of these roles were easy compared to the work I did with One!. But in spite of all the hard work, I was constantly amazed at how much I was given back from the children; everything from counting from one to 20 in Hindi, to making chapattis with the girls to playing carefree games of cricket with the boys in fields littered with human, animal and industrial waste.





But after a few weeks and several lengthy discussions with Tania and the staff, I uncovered something that completely took me off guard and pushed me far out of my circles of comfort and competence. Far more important than being a teacher was being a big brother and father figure. These were good children but several had bad behaviors due to the lack of having a role model in their lives. Things such as hitting, chewing tobacco, spitting, drinking alcohol; selfishness, these are the things One! is correcting so that these children have a chance to have better lives than their parents (for those that have parents).

Overall, my experience at One! has made me a far better man; one who is much more humble, far more sensitive and extremely happy. In fact, my biggest take away from this magnificent experience is that both you and I have no reason not to smile every second of our lives. No matter how bad I believe things are going for me, I only have to think about how little the kids of One! have. Yet, in spite of all the sadness they have endured in their short little lives and the misery that constantly surrounds them, they come to class full of love and joy. And a significant part of that is because at the core of all the hearts at One! is the uncompromising belief that all children deserve a chance.



## Our Thanks!

One! International would not have had the success it has had without the support and assistance of numerous individuals and organizations, both Canadian and world-wide.

Assistance and support has come in many ways:

- Staff and Volunteers in India
- Volunteers in Canada and other parts of the world
- Give-A-Child-A-Chance donors
- Corporate and School Partners
- Supporters of fundraising dinners, annual gala, silent auctions
- Monetary donors and Gifts in kind
- Legal and accounting services
- Organization management services
- Marketing strategies (newspaper, radio, TV)
- Support from the Yoga Community
- Moral support from family, friends and strangers

One of our Canadian volunteers fell in love with *One!* children and described her volunteer experience in the words of this song.

THANK YOU – written and sung by Erica Viegas <http://www.ericaviegas.com>

It seemed appropriate to say Thank You for all the blessings we have had in the past year, and to remember how truly fortunate most of us really are.

Children everywhere are beautiful  
With or without shoes on their feet  
People everywhere are trying to live life the best they can  
Whether or not there's food to eat.  
And what is it that exempts me from reality surrounding this life  
What is it that protects me from the world outside?  
I am one of those, a lucky person I suppose  
Who had a chance and had a life...the gift of being free  
But I'm the privileged one of dozens more where I come from  
Who live in tattered situations  
Don't know each day what they'll be facing  
And I want to Thank You wherever you are.

People everywhere are searching  
Just trying to find some light  
And there are souls everywhere wondering  
Just how to make things right  
And what is it that exempts me from reality surrounding this life  
What is it that protects me from the world outside?  
I am one of those, a lucky person I suppose  
Who had a chance and had a life...the gift of being free  
But, I'm the privileged one of dozens more where I come from  
Who live in tattered situations  
Don't know each day what they'll be facing  
And I want to Thank You wherever you are.

Respectfully submitted by,

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