

Press Release:

SchoolBOX charity sees 969% increase in year-over-year donations, embarks on trip to Nicaragua to finish second school for children in need

Almonte ON – 13 November 2008 – SchoolBOX – a grassroots entrepreneurially driven Ontario charity that supports the right of every child in Central America to a basic education – has just announced a year-over-year increase of 969% based on the last 10 months of donations. Donations as of last November were \$8,633 and this year total \$83,730. These funds will immediately be put to use to build a second new school in Nicaragua, where SchoolBOX President and Founder Tom Affleck is leading a team of volunteers next week to the Corn Islands, located off of the country's East Coast to finish the construction of a new school.

Founded in 2006 by Tom Affleck, 30, SchoolBOX began organically by reaching out to friends, family and Affleck's hometown community and has since attracted a donor and volunteer base across Canada. SchoolBOX started after Affleck visited a small rural community in Northern Nicaragua in 2006.

After giving a young girl a notebook and a pencil as a gift, her father was thrilled. "Now you can go to school," he said to her. Faced with the reality that the simplest school supplies separate Central American children from receiving a basic education, Affleck wanted to do more. After leaving his full-time job working on a large project funded by The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Nicaragua, he began devoting his own time and financial resources to making a difference on the ground versus behind a desk.

Since January, 2008, SchoolBOX has empowered 3490 children to attend school and receive educational kits that include pencils, erasers, notebooks and rulers. The new SchoolBOX school on the East Coast of Nicaragua will replace a school destroyed in a hurricane over 20 years ago. To date SchoolBOX has built one other school and one library. In addition, SchoolBOX has sent over 20 volunteers to Central America and will be sending at least 50 more in 2009.

For more information please visit www.SchoolBOX.ca or join the SchoolBOX [Facebook group](#). Affleck is available for interviews.

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