

**Over 10 thousand students & teachers received educational packages this year.**

## Message from Tom

I am grateful. In fact, I am very grateful. 2010 has been an amazing year for SchoolBOX. Together we helped 10,000+ children get an education in Central America. It is almost unbelievable- but it is true. Each and every one of those students represents a story and a dream.



**Tom Affleck, pictured with children from Juntos Contigo Educational Centre.**

Melvin Holancio helps me to remember that every one of those 10,000 kids is real. Melvin and his younger brother Alvaro both dropped out of primary school years ago. No one put up much of a fuss, their Mom was too busy trying to put food on the table and they don't know their Dad. With 51% of kids in Nicaragua failing to finish grade 5 it was almost expected.

I met Melvin when we were building 7 new classrooms for the school in his community. At that time Melvin had decided to return to primary school. SchoolBOX provided Melvin and the other students at his school with educational supplies, infrastructure and encouragement. For Melvin, this support changed everything. His grades skyrocketed and he became friends with SchoolBOX volunteers from Canada. He got what he needed more than anything else- **Love.**

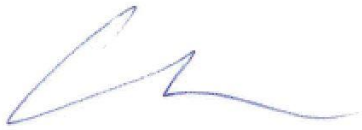
Last week Melvin graduated from Grade 6. He is 16 years old. Melvin dreams of becoming an engineer and building schools for SchoolBOX. Our community changed his life.

There are so many stories and so many dreams in our partner schools. I don't know as many of them as I would like to. But I do know that we are helping to

make those dreams a reality. On behalf of all of the children we serve, I thank you for being part of the SchoolBOX community. Together we are ***Making Education Possible.***

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Affleck', with a stylized, cursive style.

Tom Affleck  
SchoolBOX President  
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**What does this mean to  
you?**



*The scent of morning?  
A smooth and delicious treat?  
The key to an all-nighter?  
Gathering with friends?*

### **Beans 4 Dreams Program**

For **SchoolBOX** and the Nicaraguan community, this cup of coffee is helping to **'Make Education Possible'** for children. [Equator Coffee Roasters](http://www.equator.ca/) (<http://www.equator.ca/>) and **SchoolBOX** have formed a partnership that will lead to increased awareness of **SchoolBOX** initiatives and additional funding.

**Equator** will donate \$5 to SchoolBOX for every bag of **Beans 4 Dreams** coffee you purchase to buy a package of educational supplies for a child (including notebooks, pencils, a pencil sharpener, an eraser and a ruler). Furthermore, Equator is donating 10 cents for every pound of coffee they sell—anywhere-- to **SchoolBOX**. That equals a donation of \$10,000 + / year!

Love your coffee for more than the taste. Love it because it's helping to make a difference in a child's life. Your participation in the *Beans 4 Dreams* program not only supports young students, but also the environment and small farmers.

You'll notice the difference in Equator's fresh fair trade organic coffee. Choose from dark, medium or decaf blend. Each bag is 340g and costs \$14. BONUS --- orders over six bags are shipped to your home for free (Ontario only). This makes an excellent Christmas gift. Please note that all orders placed before December 20th, can be shipped out for Christmas within Ontario.

To order **Beans 4 Dreams** coffee, please visit:

<http://www.schoolbox.ca/beans4dreams.htm>

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## Big Smiles



1019 students received a SchoolBOX Big Smiles Package this year, consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste and a cup. An alarming number of children do not brush their teeth in Nicaragua. SchoolBOX makes it fun to go to school, while promoting good oral hygiene with this program.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.schoolbox.ca/bigsmiles.htm>

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## Full Time School Building

We are now building schools **FULL TIME**. SchoolBOX has hired two full time construction managers, Francisco Garcia & Mario Moran to oversee all of our construction projects. They have their work cut out for them! SchoolBOX aims to build 12+ classrooms in various Nicaraguan communities in 2011.



**Mario and Francisco hard at work. They will be busy in 2011!**

Francisco and Mario managed the construction of 8 classrooms for SchoolBOX last year. Francisco is a professional engineer and ensures that our schools are designed and built at a very high standard. **Many steps are taken to ensure that SchoolBOX construction projects will withstand a severe earthquake.**

Francisco and Mario understand the importance of *Making Education Possible*: their children attend SchoolBOX partner schools in the city of Leon, Nicaragua. It is great to have them on our team.

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## Give the Gift of Education

Christmas is only a few weeks away. Many of you dread braving the weather, traffic, and crowds and heading to the mall. This year, SchoolBOX is offering you the opportunity to give the Gift of Education. You can feel confident that your gift will be original. It will also help the children of Nicaragua better themselves through education.



**Two students at the Jezreel School in Anexo Primavera.**

Here are several examples of gifts that can be purchased this holiday season:

- Education Package (\$5 each) - Empower a young student to get an education with an education package consisting of pencils, notebooks, pencil sharpener, ruler, and eraser.
- Teeth brushing kit (\$2 each) - Many children do not brush their teeth in Nicaragua. Provide a plastic cup, toothbrush, and toothpaste to a student so that they can brush their teeth at school
- White Board & Markers (\$30 each) - Teachers in Nicaragua need white boards. Bring the joy to the teachers and help them to educate the children of Nicaragua.
- Outhouses (\$300 each) - Sadly, many schools in rural areas do not have running water or toilets. This can lead to serious health problems.
- Classrooms (\$10,000 each) - Population growth and urbanization have led to a chronic shortage of classrooms in Nicaragua. Help move a classroom or school indoors by building a new classroom!

For a copy of the order form, with **more unique gift items**, please click on the following link:

<http://www.schoolbox.ca/Images/SchoolBOX2010GiftIdeas.jpg>

Also, if you wish do donate directly, please visit

<http://www.schoolbox.ca/donate.htm> and donate **securely** through our partner CanadaHelps.Org.