



Photo: Danielle Grumet - Angola 2014



TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Direct assistance to children in need



the responsability

*« To be a man is to feel responsible.
It is the feeling that one contributes
to the construction of the world by
doing whatever we can. »*

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry - Book « Terre des Hommes »

To feel responsible we must be aware of this responsibility. This awareness entails a behaviour proper to human being: the relation to each other. The responsibility also enhances another value : the righteousness.

For St Exupéry the prevailing part of this responsibility is the one related to the legacy. He writes « We don't inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children ». It means the children is the recipient but the adult is the one who is responsible for it, the one who cares about it. This is this mindset which makes a human being an adult.

*« We don't inherit the earth
from our parents, we borrow
it from our children »*

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry - Book « Terre des Hommes »

In short the responsibility is on one side important and on the other side the result of what features each human being: the liberty, tradition, values and solidarity.

To be a man, we must be a responsible human being.

I am convinced that after reading this bulletin you will be persuaded that the Terre des Hommes Alsace family, this means the partners, the board, the volunteers and all the donators, contributes to the construction of a better world.



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More than ever, we need you!

We have entered a tough time and already feel the consequences with far less donations than before, whereas we are contingent upon each Euro we are entrusted with. Let me gently ask you to consider a small additional effort or to convince your friends to join us because we don't want to penalize the childrens of our programs. Never forget that a donation is also for you a mean to manage yourself where your money is going bearing in mind that a part of it is eligible to tax-refund upon submission of a tax receipt.

On behalf of our partners and the board I thank you for your relentless support and wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. For 2015 we wish you health, strenght, courage, peace so that we can together continue to foster our association of **responsible volunteers!**

Simon Rey

Summary..

Agenda

2014

Saint-Nicholas' markets

November, 28 29 and 30th
Riedisheim

Saturday 6, December
Ferrette

December, 6th and 7th
Sierentz

Christmas markets

December, 12, 13 and 14th
Rixheim

December, 12 and 20th
Mulhouse

2015

General Assembly of TdH Alsace

Saturday, 14 March
salle du Trèfle, Rixheim

Traditional walk of TdH Alsace

Thursday, 8 May
Picnic at the chalet of "Les amis de la nature".
Petit Ballon

Pork products festival

Saturday, 31st January and
Sunday, 1st February

Muespach-le-Haut
Contact the headquarter of TdH alsace for more information.



*For any information do not hesitate to call
03 89 70 17 35*



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by Simon REY

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As mentioned in the editorial we are facing difficulties for balancing our budgets. The board members meet every three weeks for reviewing all ongoing and future projects but as it is commonly said the more we are the more ideas can take shape and it is exactly what we need.

If you have ideas on how to make us more visible or on any new actions we could implement for raising more fund, please don't hesitate to write or call us.

Meanwhile, we invite you to look around you for opportunities to deposit a collection box; this easy to implement action has generated as much as 4500€ in 2013!

Once you have read this bulletin why not leave it in the waiting room of your doctor, dentist, hairdresser ! It will help improve our footprint.

If you have contacts at some schools, why not suggest an « easter bunny » sale action coupled with a presentation of Terre des Hommes Alsace? The same could be done at old people's homes.

We also have stock of handicrafts coming from our different projects at your disposal. Why not organising sales e.g. in your enterprise or for your friends and relatives ?

Last but not least don't miss any opportunity to highlight the children sponsorship program of Terre des Hommes Alsace.

Whatever you do never forget to mention that as much as 96% of the collected money is going to our programs for the benefit of children in need.

Our second-hand clothes « shop » of St Louis has unfortunately closed its doors at the end of June. It was a mean to generate revenues while offering the local population in need good quality clothes at very affordable prices. This activity also gave us the possibility to collect many toys like cuddly toys.

Thanks to our volunteers those toys were cleaned and repaired in order to be sold e.g. on our Christmas markets stands or proposed as prizes at the October Days tombola.

If you have orphan toys, we shall adopt them and be certain that they will find a new home in exchange of a couple of Euros or even for free depending upon the encountered situation.

*As much as 96%
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Contact us :

- Call us on **+33(0) 3 89 70 17 35**
- Send a letter to :
TDHA, 3 rue des prés - 68170 Rixheim - France
- Email : **tdh.alsace@wanadoo.fr**

THE HEART WALK

at Brunstatt



The Heart Walk organized on 4th October by the Crédit Mutuel and the municipality of Brunstatt was a great success with many participants on foot, by bike and even with pushchairs.

The purpose of this more than 20 years old event is to invite local associations to run in

circle around the stadium in return of a subsidy, each circle giving right to 2€.

Each year a non profit organization is chosen by the organizers to receive a cheque corresponding to the total number of loops made. This year Terre des Hommes Alsace was invited to participate with an information stand for self promotion and we indeed established many new contacts.

After counting, each association was given a cheque and we were very happy to receive one of 2000€ from the Credit Mutuel.



The 2014 edition : October days



A lot of stress this year because we were not sure till the last moment to get a stand. The reason was that the requested fees were increased by 400% compared to the previous year, what was beyond our means. We eventually managed to get a reasonable offer but for a stand located at a less attractive place. We participated with some concerns but at the end of the exhibition seen the results with a great relief.

Many thanks to the **43 volunteers**, who participated to this **10 days** event, meaning a total of **148 hours** of presence on the stand. Thanks and see you again next year.

The festival of the bunkers at Bettlach

16th walk

Bingo night at Muespach-le-Haut

A lot of energy and many hours of voluntary service, but for outstanding results.

Could we afford to miss **40 000 meals** ? Obviously not ! All the more that all those events take place in a great atmosphere with a lot of friendship, mutual respect and love, the basic ingredients of all humanitarian action.

Thanks to everybody!

Simon Rey

PERU



project...

“ *Tierra de Hombres Alsace , una mano amiga
que ayuda a ayudar a los pobres* ”

*Excerpt from the correspondence of Father G er mias in
charge of the 4 canteens at Lima*

***(Terre des Hommes Alsace : a hand of friendship for
the support of the poorest)***

The poverty is for many a daily issue but for us it is a great opportunity to discover the kindness and dignity behind each human being. Peru is a wonderful country with just one exception: the poverty. Unfortunately what you can read or hear via the media does not reflect the reality. Social conflicts proliferate as a consequence of a chaotic growth towards modernity. The Authorities do not take enough into account the expectations of the common people and put instead priorities on huge infrastructure works.

It is sad to state that most of the people have to live hand to mouth with a lack of job security, an exploitation of women and children, a very poor health service, a polluted environment, all those facts generating illiteracy, poverty, and undernourishment. It can't be denied that the government tries to improve the situation but the means are far to be sufficient and the recipients are not always the ones who would really need it. This precarious population mainly consists of descendants of several waves of immigrants from the different provinces with a peak during the terrorism period. The driver behind it was obviously the search

for a better life but unfortunately this dream has not come through and people are now struggling in slums. With our charity programs we do our best for helping those people and granting them a better way of living.

Several training and information sessions have taken place this year. This has enabled many women to establish themselves and generate small revenues, enough for having a better family life.

The contribution of Terre des Hommes Alsace allows us to alleviate this poverty. Your support also enables us to pursue the feed program of our 4 canteens (150 meals/day/canteen), monitor cases of serious illnesses and intervene in case of domestic violence.

It is good to know that our fellow countrymen can count on the generosity of people from outside the country in their daily struggle for a better life.

From Peru we would like to tell you :
Thank you our friends

Jean-Jacques Kieffer



Four years after my first visit, I was delighted to be back in Angola.

I was delighted to be back in Angola four years after my first visit. The war now belongs to the past and the country is dramatically changing with new construction sites everywhere. Schools, hospitals, department

at 80km away from Luanda brand-new toll booths : the road heading to the capital is no longer free!

Unlikely, I saw again the Lar Dos Pequenos in the same state as when I left it four years ago. Even if some renovation works have been done in the meantime the building no longer matches the current needs. As a matter of fact the building was constructed in 1958 for hosting 25 children, whereas they are nowadays as much as 68.

The war now belongs to the past and the country is dramatically changing

stores, office buildings as well as hotels for a tourism still in its infancy are now mushrooming along the road we used to drive four years ago between Luanda, Huambo and Benguela. And what a surprise do discover

Everybody, the children and the Sisters, live in a cramped area with very few storage cupboards for the 68 children. As a consequence, clothes, toys and a lot of other stuff are stacked everywhere, even in the rooms of the sisters. Likewise, the restrooms have decayed and no longer fit the needs of the children and sisters.

Unlike the others Sisters we visited, the sisters of Lar dos Pequeninos live in the same building as the children, their bedrooms squeezed between the dormitories and the nursery. They have no space to take a rest and escape from the noise and requests of the children. To get a rest in their small dining room is not even an option for this former dormitory with its tiny windows is badly ventilated and the ambient heat smothering. And we were not in the middle of the hottest months!



children are preparing for school

The nursery hosts 15 children, 9 of them are less than 3 years old and 3 are babies of 1 to 6 months old. The 53 other kids, many of them aged between 4 and 8 years, are accommodated in both large dormitories. Everybody shares the two dining rooms, which also serve as teaching, television and playing rooms, in short multi-purposes rooms since there is no other place to go. I let you figure out the noise level in this building when everybody is inside. Last year sister Emilia, the Mother Superior, managed to get from the Huambo Governor a construction permit

for a house dedicated to the sisters. Meanwhile, a new Governor came and the project sank into oblivion. On top of that the pipe bringing the water to Lar dos Pequeninos is broken depriving again the Lar of tap water. Since 5 months the water pump operates at full speed and week after week the city keeps promising to repair the pipe.

They have no space to take a rest and escape from the noise and requests of the children

The crib, which enables the sisters to generate an extra income, lies next to Lar dos Pequeninos. The demand of the parents willing to put their babies in the care of the sisters does not weaken and the crib is full.

The public primary school located within the Lar and headed by Armanda sister has been extended for accommodating 12 classes from the start of the next school year onwards.

In the next issue I will report on our visit to the field,



Bringing water from the well to Lar



Nursery cleaning

which was offered to the Lar dos Pequeninos by a generous donator from Huambo. The field is now cultivated by the sisters with the help of farm workers. I will also not fail to report on our visit to Hildegarda sister, whom I already alluded to in the previous issue 109 and who has been behind our friendship with Angola since the 70's.

Danielle Grumet



I was amazed by the quantity and variety of garbage discarded along our roads.

In April 2014 I participated for the first time in my village to the operation „keep the Haut-Rhin clean“ and I was amazed by the quantity and variety of garbage discarded along our roads.

This recalled me the area of Lar Da Menina at Belmonte in the south part of the Bahia state in Brazil, where we support our „young girls on the street “ project. Reporting this operation to Dayse, one of the persons in charge, the idea came to our minds that we could do the same during my next visit. Last May, along with four volunteers from Terre des Hommes Alsace, we indeed

supported the children for the cleaning of their area. A real awareness program was initiated weeks before our arrival. A biologist from the „PATECOSMAR“ project (project acting for the turtles and the preservation of the marine and coastal ecosystem) made presentations on the adverse effects of waste and the relevance of the recycling. One song was especially composed by the music teacher and the kids could not help humming it all the time. Pamphlets were distributed in the area asking the inhabitants to contribute to the project „Bairro Limpo“ (clean area) by cleaning the backyard of their houses and gathering all the garbage at the front gate for collecting them.



Representatives from the town, ministry of the environment, big local paper mill Veracel, media along with some inhabitants took part to this morning rubbish collection. Needless to say that the whole was done with a Brazilian touch : gears at the colours of the national flag, what was not surprise as it was before the soccer world championship, the tune of the recorded song and whistles we distributed for drawing attention.

Project...



The organisation went flawlessly with the support of a recycling enterprise and of the local department store sponsoring the beverages, what was more than welcome with the smothering heat. It was a great success in many respects, the quantity of collected waste, the level of awareness and above all for the girls, who felt delighted and socially enhanced. They were all wearing sun glasses supplied by our friends from the organisation „ glasses without border“ based in Hirsingue and also run by volunteers only

www.lunettes-sans-frontiere.org

Besides the sun glasses we also hand-carried in our luggages clothes, especially for 11 years old twins just joining the project but with a build of only 7 years old. A girl from my village, whom I told the distressed circumstances of the girls in Brazil, brought me just before my departure a suitcase full of rocks, sweaters, short hoses and small jackets, which we distributed to our projet, a time full of emotion !

We also paid a visit to Roberta, this young girl who broke her tibia more than one year ago and still lives



today with a plaster for the bone does not properly consolidate. On the top of it her health also asks for heavy medical treatments. I have asked our partner to keep me posted on the progress, how long the recovery may take and how we could contribute. This situation keeps her obviously off the school and any other activities. Before our visit I ordered her key-holders, for which she developed unique manufacturing skills. One sponsor also gave me a small amount of money for her to procure again material and further enjoy her hobby. She smiled, however with a tinge of sadness.

In our luggages we also brought 80kg of ostomy pouches, which we sent by bus to Mendès in the state of Rio de Janeiro on behalf of the French-Brazilian association of Sierentz.

Regarding our projects at Salgueiro in the state of Pernambuco it has not been raining for more than three years !

I shall share further information in an upcoming issue.

Simon Rey

For us the adventure often starts while packing the bags at home but above all TO SHARE remains our number one priority and key word !

help us.:

CHRISTMAS

The most wonderful gift

Christmas is nearing with its traditional chocolates, carols, advent calendars and the unavoidable presents, whose choice can sometimes be a nightmare. Who has never bought a present just for the sake of making a present? And what to think of the growing succes of the websites specialized in the resale of ill-chosen gifts?

Why not be different this year by helping children in need and sharing this enjoyment with a person of your choice ?

You can offer to your friends, relatives a gift-card selected from the hereunder list with your contribution being converted to a donation to the benefit of children.

We can either send you the gift-card so that you can personally offer it or post it directly to the person of your choice.

Thanks to you the recipients will have the delight to have helped children of the Terre des Hommes Alsace programs.



Your present has been converted into a donation for the children of the Terre des Hommes Alsace programs.

Signature

List of presents :

A hygiene kit for Angola	15.00 €	A kit with soap, shampoo, comb, bath towel for children of the Huambo orphanage
A school uniform in Vietnam	25.00 €	In many countries school uniforms are compulsory.
A flute in Brésil	25.00€	At the Larda Ménina Home abused girls learn music, a therapy for overcoming her trauma.
An equipped school bag in Sénégal or Haïti	30.00 €	To go to school is fine but quite often parents can't afford to buy the school supplies.
A kitchen set in Madagascar	35.00 €	To cook without a basic set (bucket, pan, stove, cutlery...) turns out to be a headache.
A bike for going to school in India	50.00 €	In remoted areas the school is not within walking distance for everybody.
A sewing machine in Peru	60.00 €	A mean for the mums to confectionate clothes for the children.

How does it work ?

help us...

1. You chose your gift and return to us the hereunder completed stub.
2. The person whom you wish to offer the present will receive a beautiful personalized gift-card with the description of the projet. We can also send the gift-card to you so that you can personally offer it.
3. We will attach a copy of our latest bulletin.
4. Your financial contribution for the present will be eligible for tax-refund.



Firstname : Lastname :

Adress :

Send me the gift card

Send the gift card to this address:

Firstname : Lastname :

Adress :

List of gifts :

<input type="checkbox"/>	A Hygiene kit for Angola	15.00 €
<input type="checkbox"/>	A school uniform in Vietnam	25.00 €
<input type="checkbox"/>	A flute in Brazil	25.00€
<input type="checkbox"/>	An equipped school bag in Senegal or Haiti	30.00 €
<input type="checkbox"/>	A kitchen set in Madagascar	35.00 €
<input type="checkbox"/>	A bike to go to school in India	50.00 €
<input type="checkbox"/>	A sewing machine in Peru	60.00 €

After allowing for the tax refund, a 50€ donation will cost you only **17€**

Thank you for your help

STUB TO BE RETURNED TO :

Terre des Hommes Alsace - 3 rue des prés 68170 Rixheim tél : 03 89 70 17 35

Email : tdh.alsace@wanadoo.fr - website: www.terredeshommes-alsace.com

CCM du Vieil Armand UFFHOLTZ - SIRET 803 290 428 00017



TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The bulletin of TDH ALSACE

is the link between you, who relentlessly sponsor our programs, and our partners in many parts of the world, who count on your help. It is important for us to give you the possibility to live with us our fraternity driven approach regardless of all differences and difficulties we may encounter.

Our school program at Petit-Goâve

Situation in June 2014

Out of the 33 schools still "in the race" in 2013-2014 and hosting close to 4500 children, 30 had reopened their doors last September. Emphasis is put on the consolidation this year 2014-2015 before an anticipated start of a withdrawal in 2015-2016, our

primary goal being to have the activities pursued in a sustainable way.

The results are very enticing with 3 schools out of 4 having fulfilled their commitments and got a better score than the year before.



checking the school notebooks

Among the reasons to be satisfied we can find :

- Settlement of the tuition fees : 90% (64% the year 1)
- Children geared with a basic stationery (notebooks, pencils,..) : 95% (88,5% the year 1)
- Regular attendance of the teachers : 90% (85% the year 2)
- Teachers regularly preparing lessons : 75% (60% the year 1)
- Proportion of books covered by the parents : 86% (70% the year 1)
- Participation rate of parents at the General Meetings : 78% (43% the year 1)
- Participation rate at the parents training sessions : 96% (82% the year 2)

Infrastructures improvements



The philosophers Union
Since my visit in 2012, a three rooms building was added to this school.

Fénelon
Construction of a second 4 rooms building.

All those constructions consist of a wooden structure filled with an earth mortar or cement.

Around 10 other constructions are scheduled in 2014-2015 : 8 in the area of Palmes and 3 around Delatte.

As a consequence of the mobilization of the schools and of the different needs spotted in the field the number of approved « construction projects » has dramatically increased those last two years. In order to complete those projects in the best possible conditions before the end of the current school year without encroaching on 2016, the year of the withdrawal, the team has requested the schools involved (projects approved last June) to commit to get the ground ready and have all the necessary local building materials in place till the end of October.



Even if the « school project » is huge at the level of the country, something obviously happens in the Haitian mountains. The implementation of a school in those remoted and often difficult to reach rural areas is always

an event. We are convinced that only the education can lead to a better equality of opportunities for the children and eventually end up in a true democracy.



The Dumas school
(current state).



Ongoing construction at Dumas
A rocks made 4 rooms building.

TDH ALSACE is also involved in a program targetting the hygiene improvement through to a better access to drinking water (see the issue 111, Nov. 2013, pages 12-13).

Texte et photos : Inter-Aide / Antoine Steib

MADAGASCAR



*The premature babies
are so tiny in Madagascar !*

At the occasion of our last trip to Madagascar in 2013 the staff of the paediatric hospital drew our attention on the recurring need of properly sized clothes for the premature babies of the Fianarantsoa hospital.

Their by far underaverage weight and size make them under among very sensitive to cold, what turns out to be an additional risk.

The poorest mums can't afford appropriate clothes for the newborn children, who generally end up loosely

wrapped in oversized clothes.

By the time you read this article two suitcases full of clothes we collected or got knitted by volunteers since the beginning of the year have been distributed to those mums, who could go back home with clothes fitting the babies.

We would like to pursue this action because the number of premature deliveries in Madagascar is not going to decrease.

Our warmest thanks

to those who contributed to this action and in advance to all our future volunteers.

Left : Premature baby in Madagascar:

Weight : 1000 à 1600g

Head circumference : 24 à 26 cm

Size : 40 to 45 cm

Right : Normal newborn baby

Weight : 2800 à 3000g

Head circumference : 33 to 35 cm

Size : 48 to 50 cm



To your knittings !

We have several channels for sending clothes to Madagascar. If you are interested, you can knit for the babies of Madagascar and we shall take care of the rest. Please contact Brigitte or Jacky FLAMMEN (03 89 26 24 98 / 06 83 10 23 23).



For the connected people hereunder a list of selected websites where numerous patterns for premature babies can be found.

As an example you will find herewith patterns for babies of 1500g.

<http://knitting.about.com/>

<http://knittinghelp.com/>

<http://knittingwomen.com/>

Premature Baby Set

Projet...



Sleeves

Cast on 30 St Knit 3 rows, Knit 1 row, Purl 1 row, repeat these 2 rows once more Increase Beginning and end of next and every 4th row until 44 st then knit 3 rows Cast Off

LEFT front Band

Pick-up 30 St evenly along left front edge Knit 3 rows Cast off

RIGHT front band

Do as left front band but add a button hole (wool forward knit 2 together) to 2nd row every 1 1/4 inches NECK Band Pick-up 56 St along neck edge. Knit 3 rows. Cast off. (Cont)

Pattern A Multiples of 8 + 1 Row 1:-- Right side k1 * yf, k2 sl1 k2tog pssso k2 yf k1 rep * to end Row 2 :-- purl Row 3 :-- k2 * yf k1 sl1 k2tog pssso k1 yf k3 rep from * to last 7st yf k1 sl1 k2tog pssso k1 yf k2 Row 4:-- purl Row 5:-- k3 * yf sl1 k2tog pssso yf k5 rep * to last 6st yf sl1 k2tog pssso yf k3 Row 6 :-- Purl Repeat these 6 rows

Socks

No 12 & No 10 needles 4 ply Yarn

Using size 12 needles Cast on 25 sts K 14 rows in K1 P1 rib, increasing on stitch in the middle of the last row (26 sts)

Change to No 10 needles and work in Stocking stitch., work 2 rows

Shape instep

Knit 17, turn. Purl 8, Turn Working on these center 8 sts only. Work 8 rows in stocking stitch. Break off Yarn. Right side facing, rejoin yarn to instep. Pick up and knit, 8 sts along side edge of instep. Knit 8 stitches off left hand needle. Pick up and knit 8 stitches along other side of instep. (42 sts) Work 3 rows in stocking stitch.

Shape Foot

1st row K1 k2 tog k12 k3 tog k6 k3 tog k12 k2 tog k1 (36sts) 2nd row Purl 3rd row K1 k2 tog k10 k3tog k4 k3 tog k10 k2 tog k1 (30sts) 4th row Purl Cast off

Sew up seam and turn back rib if required.

Skirt

Cast on 89st , and knit 3 rows in garter stitch (each row knit) Knit one row then purl one row Do 18 rows of pattern A (see bottom of page) Knit one row, and then purl one row.

Divide for RIGHT front

K23st turn and Purl back Do stocking St until work measures 5 inches from cast on edge. Then shape neck as follows: Cast off 7 st Knit 2 TOG at neck edge of every row until 13 St remain Stocking Stitch 6 rows cast off

Divide for BACK

Knit 43 St Knit stocking St until work measures same to top cast off of front

Divide for LEFT front

Knit as for RIGHT front reversing shaping

Bonnet

No 10 needles 4 ply yarn

Cast on 49 stitches and work 3 rows on garter stitch (every row knit)

Commence Pattern 1st row:-- K1 * yarn forward Knit 2 Slip 1. Knit 2 together PSSO Knit 2 Yarn Forward Repeat from * to end 2nd row :-- Purl 3rd row :-- Knit 2 * YF, K1, SL1, K2 tog PSSO K1 YF K3 Repeat from * to last 7 sts YF, K1, SL1, K2 tog PSSO K1 YF, K2 4th row :-- Purl 5th row:-- K3 * YF, SL1, K2 tog PSSO k5 Repeat from * to the last 6 stitches YF, SL1, K2 tog, PSSO, YF, K3 6th row:-- Purl Repeat last 6 rows three times more.

Shape Crown Next row:-- * K2, K2 tog K1. repeat to last 4 sts k4 (40 sts) Next row:-- Purl Next row :-- * K2 K2 tog K1 repeat to end (32sts) Next row:-- Purl Next row:-- * K1 K2

tog repeat to the last 2 sts k2 (22sts)

Next row:-- Purl 2 tog to end (11sts)

Draw up sts and sew down seam to end of stocking stitch.



First visit from our partner

Absent from the 40th TDHA anniversary event our partner in Senegal was our guest from the 12th through the 23th of March. It was a « damned adventure » for him: his first trip by plane, his first visit to a « developed » country. A lot of discoveries and surprises ...how can a door know I am there, open automatically at the right time and close again once I passed?

His trip had several objectives : discover France, the Alsace, our association, the work done by our volunteers as well as the members of the board.

We spent time at some schools presenting the association (e.g. the Barrès school at Colmar) or in the frame of our fund raising action « Easter bunny »

(Fessenheim, Soultz).

At the General Assembly, Djiby Sarr had the opportunity to introduce his project at Gamadji Saré, a village in Sahel, at the front of an attentive audience.

For the sightseeing part we brought him to Strasbourg with a boat tour to the European Parliament, a walk through the pedestrian areas and a visit of the cathedral. With no surprise the most striking discovery for Djiby was to see snow at the Feldberg in Black Forest.

Let me quote here a few excerpts from his trip diary along with his impressions:

Jacky Flammen

“

Leaving Dakar on 11th March I mumbled a few verses from the Qur'an while stepping into the aircraft. It was for me the very first time. I was very proud of myself, no passenger suspecting my ignorance about aircraft. I discovered the Paris airport on 12th March early in the morning. It was huge and totally different of what I knew so far. I was totally lost in the middle of this gorgeous „glass building“ with walkways where nobody

seemed to pay attention to nobody. I ventured to the information desk for inquiring about my luggage to be picked up at the Basel Mulhouse airport and my connecting flight at the terminal G.

I eventually came to destination at around 11am where my counterpart

*I saw dedicated
volunteers acting for
the children in needs,
that touch my heart*

Mr Flammen was waiting for me. I suddenly felt save. After the usual greetings and putting my luggage in the trunk of a nice car, we headed to Rumersheim-le-Haut.

I saw dedicated volunteers acting for the children in needs, that touch my heart. I shall for

sure not fail to highlight this commitment and dedication to the Gamadji inhabitants.

I really enjoyed our schools visits, particularly the Barres school at Colmar where I met Mr Meyer, the school director and a man of high level of good manners, behaviorial skills and know-how. I was equally welcomed at the nursery and elementary school of Fessenheim.

For the first time in my life I set foot in snow and I could hardly believe it. It was like a miracle to see a Sahelian walking in snow. The one used to high temperatures was below 0°C, amazing but true.

”



SOUTH INDIA



Young girls from Puspam

An Indian visit...

Last September we had the pleasure of welcoming two representatives of our partner Terre des Hommes Core : Chezhan, the Director regularly coming to Europe and Sharmila, one of the Projects Heads. Both were invited by Swiss and Italian donators. The budget of Terre des Hommes Core is steadily growing year after year and even if we can't financially keep pace with this growth we are very happy to support with our means such a

partner full of energy, new ideas and entirely focused on the well-being of children.

TDHCore started with 4 children and they are now more than 2800, what gives an idea on how quickly this organisation has developed. It goes without saying that raising fund for improving the life of as many children as possible has become

a daily challenge. According to Chezhan the help has evolved over the last 20 years from a purely first urgency help like food, medical care or schooling towards more and more management of psychological trauma. The context has changed and warranting access to food and school is not enough anymore. All those kids deprived of affection need special attention, appropriate care as well as access to sports and cultural activities.

After having eradicated the begging in the streets of Tiruvannamalai Chezhan would like to grant the city's youth access to a library and cultural center. The underlying idea would be to get the families who can afford to pay a subscription fee and grant free entrance to the poorest and the children of TDHCore. Within the frame of TDHCore this project would enable an intermingling of populations and become a home for everybody. This project is still in its infancy but knowing the stubbornness and perseverance of our partner it could soon become reality !

The few days spent in Alsace were very busy for Sharmila and Chezhan with slide shows at Prognos (consulting firm at Basel) with approx. 30 attendants and Novartis with a few members of BASAID, an



employees association offering development support in different countries. Chezian impressed and convinced the participants and after two hours of intense discussion it was already about the submission of one project.

We also conducted an information meeting at Rixheim with our child sponsors, donators, friends and relatives.

Our two guests also discovered the TDH Alsace stand (cakes, handicrafts) at the shells and fossils market at Ottmarsheim. They were astonished to hear that one single volunteer had cooked almost all the cakes. And what a surprise at our annual walk of Muespach-le-Haut to witness the commitment of so many volunteers working for them. I think it is



power generator (for offsetting the recurring power cuts, which if added can last 16 to 17 hours per day), solar water heater, fridge as well as a mosquito net were installed and a washing machine is scheduled for Puspam III, the home hosting disabled girls. Last but not least some renovation works are also ongoing in the bathrooms. A lot of happiness for all the residents !

Our warmest thanks to all the people having financed those projects !

I am looking forward to my next trip in Novembre and shall share with you, our regular readers and supports of Terre des Hommes Alsace, the latest news in an upcoming issue.

Tania Besonnet

The context has changed and warranting access to food and school is not enough anymore.

safe to say that they were particularly impressed by the willingness of the « youth team » to help other young people by selling raffle tickets. On their behalf, many thanks to all of you! You have impressed them for ever!

Let me conclude this article with a couple of news from the Puspam refuge: after our trip in November 2013 we came back home with a bunch of wishes and expectations expressed by Bhuvanawari, the person in charge of the three houses. At this time we promised her to do our best for improving the daily life of the children as well as of the staff. As of today, we can be proud of a small library on the Puspam terrace, which was on the verge of collapsing before a full-fledged renovation. A



NORTH INDIA



Saraji from Orissa (1000km), 2 years with HSP, therapist

A new project for Jalpaiguri, HSP

Each of us does its bit through donations, child sponsorship and/or by contributing to our different actions and we keep saying that the money raised would be worthless without the support of our different partners. Behind each of them hide passionate people working in the shadow and whom we would like to pay tribute in the frame of the project « relaxation room », which we have initiated at Jalpaiguri.

This is the commitment of those people putting the happiness of children above any other consideration



Chariya, 23 years with HSP, works 24/24 hours

Here, 14 helpers or « didis », 12 of them being residential staff, work hard. All of them live far from their family, which resides at a couple of hours by bus in the best case but also quite often in the Calcutta area at 700km or even farther. They usually go back home twice a year, in May for the summer

vacation and October for the Durga Puja festival. Some work 24/24 hours, others 8 hours a day but the bulk of them have no choice but remaining there.

This is the commitment of those people putting the happiness of children above any other consideration, which has driven us to initiate this « relaxation room » project, including a library, in order to make their daily life more enjoyable. This project is financed through the funds coming from the Terre Des Hommes Alsace 40th anniversary as well as thanks to an extraordinary donation. The construction is underway and we shall have the great honor to inaugurate this new structure at the occasion of our visit early December. We shall not fail to report more in an upcoming issue.

G rard Romeder

Sponsor...



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