

# TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE

## ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

Direct assistance to children in need



India  
Antoine Rosemary - June 2019



[www.terredeshommes-alsace.com](http://www.terredeshommes-alsace.com)

# Éditorial...

Dear sponsors, donors, volunteers and friends of Terre des Hommes Alsace,

Christmas is at our door, it is time to slow down and find yourself in peace and quiet with our beloved ones. It's also a time to think about all those who are not as lucky as we are! The team of project responsables who are regularly on the field can confirm without hesitation that we were definitively born on the right side of the planet.

At this time of year it is not forbidden to receive or offer gifts, but it is also not forbidden to indulge in additional pleasure by giving gifts to the children of our projects. We offer you a range of useful and important gifts on the central page, express your love for children and show your confidence in this beautiful association that is Terre des Hommes Alsace!

Also take the time to read the beautiful stories of this newsletter. This time we speak about the result of an effective mission in Madagascar, the construction of the essential kitchen for the Gamadji school in Senegal, the development of the « Maison Chance » social centre in Dak Nong in Vietnam, the work of the Congregation of Our Lady of Missions in Calcutta. You will also learn about the adventure of the youth group in Brazil, how school projects in Haiti are progressing, how Terre Des Hommes Core in South India is constantly evolving in its organization and structure, on how the sisters in Angola are taking great care of orphans and finally about the concerns of our partners in Peru.

Locally we received two legacies, the purchase of the new vehicle is completed, the Easter chocolate rabbits are ordered, the Christmas markets are already well stocked with products brought back from the various missions. The Pork lunch is approaching and this year the full benefit will be for the local future project. The registration form is attached to this newsletter, so don't delay in registering.

Our dear volunteers will be busy this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for their support. Feel free to join them, contact us!



For the sponsors and donors we have added an envelope and count on your faithful and unavoidable participation in order to be able to continue our help for many children victims of the injustices of our world. THANK YOU! Irreplaceable children....

On behalf of the entire administration comitee, I wish you a happy holiday season, peace, health and of course sensitivity and love of others to continue to show solidarity,

Simon Rey



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# Agenda...

## Agenda 2019

### St Nicolas Markets

November 29th and 30th, December 1st at Riedisheim and Sierentz

December 7th at Ferrette

### Christmas Markets

December 13th , 14th and 15th at Rixheim

December 13th, 14th and 15th at Soultzmatt

December 11th and 12th at Mulhouse (chalet of the associations)

## Agenda 2020

### Cochonnailles

Sunday, January 26th at 12pm room Riedlin, street of the stade 68220 Hégenheim

### Generale assembly TDHA

Saturday, March 28th room of the Trèfle, Rixheim

### Traditional hike of TDHA

Tuesday 8th mai



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# Zoom on...

## « Operation Chocolate Rabbit» 2020



Christmas is just around the corner and the chocolate Easter rabbits of the 2020 edition are ordered and they will emerge from their burrows from the beginning of February!

We rely on you to find tenants between schools, works councils, young people of the Church, door-to-door, sale at the exit of stores, depot sale,...

We need your support and all initiatives or ideas are welcome.

We are of course always at your disposal to illustrate our actions in supporting children through video projections. Do not hesitate to contact us.

For 2.50 € / 150 grams, it is however not possible for us to provide Swiss quality chocolate (much more expensive). For the time being we have not yet received a good proposal from a local manufacturer. But the price-quality ratio of our German, and therefore European, supplier is still good and allows us to generate a good income.

Thank you all for your support for this action of solidarity!

Simon Rey



## New utility van

In the last edition of the newsletter we launched a call for support for the acquisition of a new commercial vehicle to carry out our many fundraising activities.

I am pleased to inform you that following the many replies, at the time of writing the bulletin, the vehicle has been purchased, not yet delivered, but this will not take long.

More information and details in the next edition

Simon Rey

## Our future location

In the last newsletter we discussed the local future. It is progressing gradually but the steps should not be rushed given the importance of the project. However, we must absolutely start work before the year end in order not to jeopardize the large grant from the Departmental Council. Indeed we had the good news of a support of 200'000 €.

This grant is a great recognition for our association and all the work we have done for almost 50 years and a great motivation to continue and develop local actions.

Any help is welcome, however, as the entire budget is not yet guaranteed.

Of course, however, we must be very conscious of distinguishing between money for children and money for the building of the premises.

The 800m<sup>2</sup> will allow us to establish our headquarters, a small meeting room, the office, the sorting, the sale and storage of second-hand clothes, while leaving a beautiful space for our colleagues from the friendly association Saint-Vincent de Paul.



## Brazil - Citizen of Salgueiro

During my last trip, the city of Salgueiro awarded me the title of citizen of Salgueiro in gratitude and recognition of all the work accomplished over the past 20 years.

It was certainly a pleasure and a highlight of my engagement, but I made it very clear that this title is for the whole association, and explained how we work, our philosophy and that our partnership is the result of the work of hundreds of volunteers and the confidence of all donors and partners.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I share this title with all the people who are committed and who work alongside TDHA!

Simon Rey



## The youth group in Brazil

***After many fundraising activities for projects for almost 5 years, we finally travelled to Brazil last summer to discover the reality on the ground.***

Our arrival in Salvador de Bahia was a cultural shock. We immediately left our European comfort zone: our luggage arrived with two days delay, and we faced torrential showers followed by periods of heavy sunshine.

Fortunately, after three days of travel, we arrived in Lar da Menina, in the city of Belmonte in southern Bahia State. This project, supported by Terre des Hommes Alsace, has been like a peace haven for us. We were warmly welcomed by the principal, Dayse, Bela and the whole team of teachers. Lar da Menina welcomes 80 girls from 7 to 14 years old, in the morning or afternoon, depending on their academic rhythm, for cultural, sports or academic support activities.



From the very first afternoon, we established a relationship with the girls by participating in their activities, such as learning to play the flute, thanks to Roberto, their music teacher, a remarkable man, always smiling and so kind, who impressed us every day with his kindness and sensitivity. He surprised us by performing a Zaz song on the saxophone 24 hours after we sang it to him. Girls also play sports and, despite all our efforts, they were much stronger than us, because they always defeat us, even if they play barefoot !

Louis finds it "frustrating not to be able to communicate easily because of the language barrier", but generally we manage with simple words or gestures, but also thanks to Felipe, a young Brazilian, who does the translating for us if necessary.

As the days go by, Lar da Menina's girls are demonstrating more and more of their joy at finding us and we feel that our attachment to them grows: "They laugh all the time and have a zest for life that makes them beautiful," says Jeanne and Lisa, adding, "Yes, their eyes shine, and they have a bright face. We enjoyed teaching them dances and games that they learned very quickly and that they started to request from us very soon.

Even if they are experiencing difficult things at home, in the poor environment of the city of Belmonte, the girls are happy in Lar da Menina and share with us their "alegria". Manon particularly likes the welcoming times, a time of prayers and songs, which allow us to share the "abraços bom", the hugs full of affection and tenderness, traditional in Brazil.

The smiles of Lar da Menina's daughters will remain everlasting in our memories, that's for sure.





The second week of our visit in Brazil began with a festive afternoon in Lar da Menina. All the girls in the project, as well as their brothers and sisters, were invited. We did our part by wearing colourful costumes and playing with the children who were all dressed for the party. Everyone enjoyed the trampolines, drinks and sweets. "This celebration brought all the children together and made them smile, their eyes sparkle with pleasure," says Antonio. In the afternoon, we attended a performance of capoeira, a very impressive martial art. The celebration ended with a football tournament between the girls, this mythical sport in Brazil!

The next day, we boarded pirogues to cross mangroves. The beauty and richness of nature fascinated us. "The return was an adventure," says Louis. We were caught in heavy rain showers, forced to take shelter under tarpaulins on the pirogues, which engines, caught in algae, had stopped. The night was starting to fall, we were cold, fortunately, the imperturbable drivers were confidently leading us through the maze of mangroves, while avoiding the sandbanks. That night, what a relief to set foot on the dock!

The next day, it was time to leave Lar da Menina, and the goodbye with the girls was very difficult. "The children cried, it's understandable, in a week we became attached and when we had to leave each other, we were overwhelmed by emotions," Antonio remembers. We would obviously like to see them again, but it is far from simple !

After a night on the bus, we went back to the city of Salvador de Bahia and visited it. Even if we only discovered a small part of it, we have well measured the contrasts that characterize it, poverty and wealth, colourful or earth-coloured neighbourhoods, light or dark faces, each street has surprised and amazed us! We boarded local buses that struggled to climb the sloping streets, we took the Lacerda elevator that brought us from the Mercado modelo, a covered market, to the famous historic district "Pelourinho", a UNESCO World Heritage Site and hosted by musicians and dancers from the Olodum group. We visited some of the city's 365 churches, such as the gold-covered church in Sao Francisco, where "we attended a mass in Portuguese, rich and lively" as Léa describes it. We also visited Nosso Senhor church in Bonfim where visitors hang colourful bracelets on the gates while making wishes or prayers.

Three days were not enough to tour the whole city, but enriched by Brazilian culture we are already leaving for Salgueiro, where we will discover other humanitarian projects supported by Terre des Hommes Alsace. And here we go for more adventures !

**For the next chapter of this story, see you in the next newsletter**



Manon, Léa, Lisa, Jeanne, Julien, Louis et Antonio

## North India

# Our Lady of the Missions



### (Our Lady of the Missions)

The Congregation founded in France in 1861 is now present in several countries. Our first contacts were the Sisters Anne and Aimé from Waldigshofen in Alsace and since Terre des Hommes Alsace has kept helping the Congregation at Park Circus, in the suburb of Kolkata, and Kalyanpur around 40 km away. Our involvement at Park Circus is focused on the Afternoon School though this project is financially supported by the long date partner "Parrainage Enfants Calcutat" at Grenoble. We never missed visiting this school and always learn from this great project.

As for the projects at Kalyanpur we are directly involved, though with a moderate contribution, Let our partner Sr. Agatha Marak from the Afternoon School followed by Sr. Janet Sebastian from Kalyanpur to report.

The Queen of the Missions Afternoon School was established in the year 1968. The school has the strength of 261 students from Nursery to class VII (aged 11 to 12). Among these 95% of them are Muslims and 5% of them are Hin-

dus. The sister-in-charge and the 9 teachers take care of their academic, co-curricular and holistic growth. These children live around the station track of the city where there is a large slum, a shanty or squatter settlement (not authorized) of deep margins. The people earn their wages on a daily basis by working as a daily worker, rag picker, rickshaw puller, and driver, coolies (carrying loads) – or doing whatever odd job they can get.

I believe that the purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open mind and give a child to determine its future life. The whole object of education should be to develop the mind that works and, to free a child's potential by instilling in her or in him a curiosity to learn, so that he or she will continue to learn as long as he lives. Our Lady Queen of the Missions Afternoon School has always remained a center for educating the poor girl children from the slum areas and providing opportunities for exposure to a variety of invaluable learning experiences. It has been a blessing and joy to be part of the education of hundreds of girl children who have passed through the portals of Our Lady Queen of the Missions Afternoon School.

Sr. Agatha Marak, Coordinator Afternoon School Women's Programme and Mobile Clinic at Holy Angels, Kalyanpur, where 84% of the population lives in







the rural areas. The scheduled caste (Dalits) comprises 39% of the total population and B.P.L. (Below Poverty Line) families constitute 37.21% of the population. People grow Rice, Pulses, Bamboos, Areca nuts, Date palms, Coconuts, Guava, Litchis, Mangoes, Jamul, Bananas, Potatoes and all green leafy vegetables. Fish cultivation is another important feature of this place. Most people in these villages do daily marketing from the roadside vendors under temporary thatched roofs. The villagers are of mixed religions (majority being Hindus and Muslims) and live harmoniously together celebrating festivals and respecting customs of each other.

Mostly people in Kalyanpur are daily labourers, cycle rickshaws or auto drivers. Some women go to work in Kolkata city, travelling by local trains 35-40 kilometers as house helps, nursing assistant, vegetable vendors, etc.

These women were encouraged to form groups of 10/15 members known as Self Help Groups (SHG). At present we have 41 SHGs in four villages of Kalyanpur. Each member continues to save small sums of money regularly in the group and deposit in the bank. They come together twice a month to discuss their family problems, health issues, village and social issues. They help one another through inter loaning and micro credit with 1% interest for cultivation, small business, marriage, studies, treatment and renovation of houses. They also give loan outside the group with 5% interest and the profit is being divided equally among the group members. They are doing very well with inter loaning and micro credit. The SHG women are being guided by the sister in charge and two animators through regular meetings with them in the villages. Once a month we have meetings with animators to evaluate the work and to plan for the coming month.

"Caring and sharing is the key to health." Once a week we go to Hatta a poor village for mobile Clinic. The patients who come to us are mostly women and children and are very poor. They have no land of their own but work someone else's field for a meager income to run their families. The common diseases we treat are like; fever, cold, cough, boils, different kinds of skin problems like eczema, abscesses, malnutrition, general weakness and fatigue, leucorrhoea, rheumatism, gastritis, dental infection, diarrhea, worm infestations, hypertension, abdominal discomfort, breast abscess, anemia, fungus infection, bronchitis, etc. Many poor women, men and children continue to benefit from our Health Center and mobile clinic and they appreciate our selfless service to them. Patients have great faith in our treatment and medicine and of course since they can't afford to pay the doctor so they come to us. Antenatal and postnatal patients also come for check-up in the health center.

They are grateful to us that we are available at any time of the day and even on call we reach out to their homes. We treat the patients not only with medicine but by giving individual time for health talk, and listening to them with love and compassion.

The women do appreciate the help given by the sisters, staff and most of all by Terres Des Hommes Alsace for your support and generosity. We acknowledge your invaluable contribution to our mission here in Kalyanpur for many years.

Sr. Janet Sebastian, Holy Angels' Convent, Kalyanpur

A great thank to the contribution of our Ladies of the Missions!

Gérard Romeder



## South India



### A robust system

India is known for its corruption like many of the countries in which Terre des Hommes Alsace supports projects. To fight corruption, it is essential that our partners be transparent and have an effective accounting system in place. At TDH Core, control processes have been in place for a long time and can be used to track each expense. TDH Core is attentive to international standards and regularly makes improvements. Accounting is regularly inspected by an independent organization and by TDHA.

For example, the person in charge of the Puspam children's home prepares the budget every month and orders food, clothing, etc ... This budget and quantities will then be checked. A manager will maintain all documents and the CFO will approve the expense. All payments are made by bank transfer directly to the authorized suppliers. This prevents cash from circulating in projects. It's a very compartmentalized process. A team of 8 people carries out daily checks in projects or partner stalls.



The management and finance team. Jaya Chitra, Sasikata, krishnamurthy, Ashok Kumar, karthikeyan, Selvarasu, Chelagovindan, Rechama.

### Projects that move

I propose a tour in pictures of my last visit in June 2019 !

◆ The day before the start of the school year, a big party is organized. This is an opportunity for children who have not returned to their families, to stage a welcoming show. Traditional dances and songs are highly appreciated as well as the festive meal.





## South India



☛ TDH Core has been looking at "Human Resources" in the recent months. This is an important step in its development process to sustain the staff. New responsibilities for some, training, listening.

The implementation of "Quality Control" within all projects is also a project that enabled to assess compliance emergencies, necessary trainings, staffing needs, to accommodate better conditions for the children.



☛ 16 girls from Kurinji's home are looking forward to the move in their new home, which should take place before the end of the year. The new building will host 40 residents.



☛ The kids are excited about going back to school. The brilliant academic results have allowed many girls to enter higher education. 3 talented basketball players have benefited from scholarships to pursue in excellent schools



☛ Sometimes you have to walk several miles in the bush to talk to students. These 2 girls from low-income families live in remote farming areas and are proud to be able to go to school thanks to the help of TDHA. They are very studious and want to become a nurse and work in IT.



Pierre-Antoine ROSEMARY

(I'm signing here my last article and would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support to TDHA)

# Opération Noël pour tous



**70 euros** pour une chèvre au Sénégal qui permettra d'agrémenter le repas des enfants à la cantine de l'école de

Gamadji Saré



## Brésil

**45 euros**

Un sac de 60 kg de soja coûte 45 € et permet la fabrication de 600 litres de lait de soja essentiels à l'alimentation de base des enfants et des personnes âgées oubliées du Sertão



## Madagascar

**30 euros** pour un kit hygiène pour une famille. Du savon, un bidon pour l'eau potable, des brosses à dent et du dentifrice, de la lessive et des produits d'entretien, l'accès aux bornes fontaine pour un mois



## A Cœur Battant

**40 euros** pour le Parrainage d'un lit à l'hôpital pédiatrique de Fianarantsoa.

Les soins, les analyses, la nourriture et les médicaments pour permettre à un enfant de quitter l'hôpital guéri.



## Angola



**30 euros**

Un trousseau

Pour un enfant de l'orphelinat à Huambo en Angola.

## Haïti



**20 euros**



## Inde

**20 euros**



Offrez du rêve, des rires et de la culture à travers 10 livres qui seront accessibles à près de 300 enfants dans notre bibliothèque de Puspam.



# Idées de cadeaux à offrir



## ou à s'offrir

### Pérou



**100 euros**

A l'orphelinat de la Miséricordia, les sœurs élèvent des cochons pour la consommation des pensionnaires et de l'encadrement.

Un petit porcelet acheté coûte environ 100€ ce qui représente 4 mois de parrainage à 25€.

Avec 60 euros un élève reçoit du riz pour l'année et 1 chemise plus 1 vêtement de sport

### Vietnam



**60 euros**



## OPERATION NOEL pour tous



Nom, Prénom \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse \_\_\_\_\_

A Cœur Battant

Madagascar,

Angola,

Pérou,

Brésil,

Sénégal,

Haïti,

Vietnam,

Inde,

Je souhaite offrir ce cadeau à

Nom, Prénom \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse \_\_\_\_\_

A renvoyer à Terre des Hommes Alsace 12 Grand Rue Pierre Braun 68170 RIXHEIM



## News from Haiti



Summer is over and it is time to go back to school. In Haiti, however, the quality of the schooling can vary significantly even when you pay for it. But thanks to our partner Interaid, and in a small part to Terre des Hommes Alsace and your generosity, the children of the Lamielle region have access to more consistent level of education.

The start of the new school year is a little chaotic in the region as a number of families take advantage of the closeness of the Dominican Republic to supplement their income by crossing the border to help with the harvest. This means the children return to school throughout September rather than all on a specific day. The first thing the children

prepare for are exams at the end of October/early November! Despite all this they are happy to go back to school as they realise the advantages an education can bring. Cela signifie que les enfants retournent à l'école tout au long du mois de septembre plutôt que le jour de la rentrée. Les enfants se préparent en premier lieu aux contrôles fin octobre / début novembre! Malgré tout cela, ils sont heureux de retourner en classe car ils comprennent les avantages d'une éducation. At moment, Haiti is in an uncertain state; there is a lack of fuel and a number of protests against the government, particularly in Port au Prince, and travelling around can be difficult. As a consequence, the proposed visit to the project has been delayed until next year.

Neil Greener



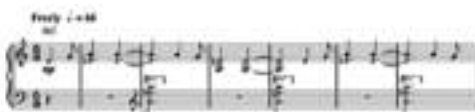
### Adopt a teddy bear !

This is the slogan that visitors heard from 3 to 13 October at the October Days exhibition in Mulhouse.

Despite the rain; the idea was such a success that by the last day we had run out of teddy bears! The total receipts are enough to provide **21000 meals**.

Thanks to the almost 50 volunteers who helped us maintain a permanent presence at our stand.

Thank you to all the people and school children from the **Germain Muller School, Wolfisheim, Don Bosco Landser** and the **Mission School at Blotzheim** who provided us with a wealth of cuddly toys. We are starting early to prepare for the 2020 edition – if you have any cuddly toys to donate please contact us. Thank you in advance.



On the 13th of October in Hagenthal at the church of Saints Peter and Paul, a benefit concert took place in support of Terre des Hommes Alsace.

The vocal ensemble HALEZ and the CONCORDIA Men's choir, Blotzheim performed for our children.

Thanks to their commitment we gathered enough to provide over **6700 meals**

for our various projects.

A massive thankyou to all the musicians, singers and donors!

# Peru

## News from Peru

In this edition of our newsletter I would like to share with you the analysis and the feelings of Padre Juiapa, the person in charge of the 4 canteens in Lima that Terre des Hommes Alsace supports. It first draws a relatively dark picture of the political, economic and judicial realities of the country. He also gives us an assessment of the actions of his team for the benefit of the children and parents of these disadvantaged areas (this will appear in the next newsletter).

But let's listen to Padre Juiapa

To date, President Vizcarra has not presented his government plan. We are facing a weakened state, discredited and challenged. Similarly, he has demonstrated incapacity, incompetence and lack of direction in the face of the country's emergency situations, he does not execute a reconstruction plan in the face of natural disasters that occur in the country; disasters which affect many towns and villages that survive today in inhuman conditions. At present, there are additional 400,000 poor added to the already 6 million people living in poverty in the country.

The economy and the industrial system currently does not generate enough jobs; on the contrary, the trend is unemployment or underemployment. The citizens' response is self-employment or working cash in hand. This already accounts for 80% of informal work and harmful for the country since it does not generate income for the treasury.

We can also point out that there is a deep crisis in the justice system, that there are many irregularities and that it

is not acting in favor of truth and justice. They are not able to deal with corruption and crimes, trafficking in minors, rape, etc.

Corruption is so great and so powerful and those who commit these acts are not punished or brought to justice; there are few judges and prosecutors who are prepared to defend justice and the majority are in collusion with the corrupt.

There is immense wealth in Peru, but it stays with a select few and does not reach the majority of the population. They are continually deceived by false promises or social policies that have not allowed the growth and development of the country. On the contrary, year after year, social problems have worsened, and others have emerged. Hospitals, schools, roads are continuing to deteriorate further, and many are on the verge of collapse.

Informal work already reaches 80%. Four million Peruvians do not have access to drinking water.

There has been an increased number of cases of anemia, malnutrition and tuberculosis. Other diseases such as chickenpox and measles have resurfaced in the country.

Insecurity reigns everywhere, the population is not protected. The current situation in Peru is sad and disturbing.

Jean-Jacques Kieffer



# ACB

## Fourth « Beating Heart » Mission to MADAGASCAR



### A country waiting for a President...

Since 2018, the country has a new president. At the moment it is the honeymoon period with the population expecting a lot from this President, who has promised to improve things. However, the situation has gotten worse. The road conditions are terrible, and distances are not counted in kilometres but in hours even for small distances, not to mention the pollution which is difficult to live with.



As in 2018, Dr. Bernard De Geeter, operated the ultrasound with Dr. Jeanne and Dr. Mamisoa for the examinations.

There was a lot of children to see and more than 60 benefited from cardiac examinations to detect any sign of heart disease.

Worried parents follow the images on the screen, understanding very little, before Bernard De Geeter explains everything at the end of the consultation. Many parents are reassured, but others have to deal with the news that, unfortunately, their children have become part of the health concerns that trouble Madagascar.

We will continue to do our best to help care for these sick children.



Dr. Jean Flori worked with the neonatal teams. He followed the doctors every morning during the visits to the children and would provide his expertise into the appropriate care of the various different conditions affecting the fragile newborns.

Every afternoon Jean Flori gave classes to doctors, students and other professionals working in the neonatal department. To help make these as effective as possible, Dr Bozy, who trained in Strasbourg during 2017, had prewarned the attendees about the nature and content of the courses.



# ACB



For this new mission Didier Hummler travelled with us. He is a medical technician who has been providing us with reconditioned equipment for many years.

Didier (the machine doctor!) was very well received and he will return with us on our next mission. Actually, there is plenty of work for him. In addition to repairing and maintaining the equipment there were so many questions from the doctors at the hospital that Didier could not answer them all.

The courses he could give in the use of ECGs, saturometers and other equipment largely demonstrated the users' lack of knowledge. The benefit of the training was evident during the consultations of the children, where the correct information could now be provided.

## Operations in 2018 and 2019

During 2018 we were able to operate on several children as a result of the hard work by Dr. Bernard De Geeter here in France, and by Dr. Joro our partner in Madagascar.

Sergio's operation was performed at the Marie Lannelongue Hospital in Paris in September 2018 by Dr. Zogbi's team. The operation was supported by TDHA.

Laurent had her intervention in August 2018 on Reunion Island thanks to TDHA. She was welcomed in the same host family as a baby supported by the Chain of Hope.

Little Kéréna was also supported by the Chain of Hope and had her operation in France in May 2019. Terre des Hommes Alsace supported the numerous trips between Fianarantsoa in Antananarivo as well as out of pocket expenses and postoperative follow-up that her family could not afford.

**All are doing well and the families are grateful to TDHA donors and volunteers for making these miracles happen.**

Brigitte FLAMMEN



# Madagascar

## Change in Madagascar: a not so new project lead ...

Christelle Lassiât accompanied me for the first evaluation mission in 2005. During visits during the intervening years (2007, 2010, 2013 and 2014), she was able to see the evolution of the projects in Tana in and Fianarantsoa with the Daughters of Charity. On the first visit we were very quickly touched by the immense misery of the inhabitants of the Big Island and we strived to put in place an effective aid to allow the children to profit can as much as possible from the projects which we support.

Since 2015, the "A Coeur Battant" project has focused more on the Fianarantsoa hospital, specifically the pediatric and neonatal departments. Each year, the organization of on-site missions, the reception of doctors in training in Strasbourg, the care of children with heart disease, represent an increasingly important investment for the project lead.

When Christelle joined the Board of Directors of Terre des Hommes Alsace in 2018, it was quite natural that she wanted to be more involved in the programs in Madagascar. We took advantage of the 2019 mission to organize a handover; thus, from this year, Christelle will be responsible for programs at ASERN, in the capital, as well as projects with the Daughters of Charity.

I am very happy to share the projects in Madagascar, certain we have a joint vision of the actions to be undertaken for the greater good of the children.

Brigitte Flammen



After having often had the pleasure of accompanying Brigitte Flammen to the Red Island, I now follow her as project lead.

This last mission alongside Brigitte allowed me to get to know our local contacts better.

I am at the same time calm as I am familiar with the programs, and I benefit from the experience of Brigitte, but I am also aware of what this represents in terms of commitments to the service of the most deprived children of Madagascar.

Christelle LASSIAT

L'équipe de l'ASERN

# Madagascar

## De petits coups de pouce qui sont d'un grand soutien

It was in Antananarivo that I met Sister Madeleine. She had come to the capital for a medical check-up and was waiting for the go-ahead from her doctor to return to Fianarantsoa before the start of the school year.

Like all other students, the children with disabilities were on vacation during my visit. It was Sister Olga and Sister Lucy who showed me the school, the canteen and the workshops. Only a few students had gathered in the school yard, happy to show us their achievements.

During our meeting, Sister Madeleine spoke at length about the microcredit she grants to certain families, the objective being for them to release a small amount of income to meet their needs. But besides repayment of the loan, certain conditions are set: children must attend school diligently, parents are not to drink, etc ... Sister Madeleine also relies on neighbourhood leaders to identify and support families.

With the loan money, four families bought pigs to start breeding. All started to repay the loan. Three other families bought a varamba, these small carts that are used to transport all kinds of goods. One of the beneficiaries, once his loan was repaid, organized a small party and thanked the sisters for their support by offering them 1000 FM. He was so proud to say "now this is mine! ". In Madagascar as elsewhere, being able to live by own means boosts self-esteem.



### She touched a whole city...

Remember Sister Suzanne Barbot, the tireless doctor who treated the poorest and in exchange asked them to do small tasks. She was part of the community of Daughters of Charity of Fianarantsoa.

Her dynamism and charisma marked everyone who met her. Sister Suzanne has been living in Madagascar since 1964, for the most part in Fianarantsoa where she has been working as a Pediatrician at the CHU.

Not far from this hospital, and close to the house where she used to live there is a bus stop that now bears her name.

It is the homage of an entire city to someone who dedicated her life to its inhabitants.

# Madagascar

## Another world...

Renowned for its biodiversity, its beautiful beaches, its culture, the Red Island now attracts more and more tourists looking for a change of scene. Unfortunately, another reality is hidden behind the beauty of Madagascar, that of absolute poverty. The ASERN team has taken up residence in the new center, but the population is the same. Alongside Dr. JORO and Songe, the social worker, we went to meet the poor.



We cross a plain that will certainly be flooded in the next season, based on the pontoons bordering the edge of the field.

We approach some wooden barracks where a couple lives there with her five children; their eldest daughter has a mental disability. Songe tells us about his work with the mother and children.

During a consultation at the Centre, she confided that her husband beats her when he is drunk. She describes him as a psychologically disturbed man; she says he is even considering incestual relationships with their daughter !

For this reason, the team is supporting the mother to find shelter with her family living in the south of the island.

Fortunately, not all situations are so dramatic, and with the help and support of the Centre, a number of families are doing well.

The following is the story of a single mother. She has five children, including a disabled girl., and struggles to cope. For several years now, the team has been supporting her. Although she is part of the team that makes baskets, this alone is not enough to provide for her family.



With the help of a microcredit granted by ASERN, she started selling fried dough strips that are called "poop pigeon"; the Malagasy like to snack on these during the day. It is under the awning, in front of her small two-room apartment, that we discover a small industry: four people making and one man frying.

Once bagged, these treats will be sold in the market. The money she makes will allow her to put rice in the pot and pay for his children's education. This is a business that works!

Christelle LASSIAT

# Sénégal

## Building of a new cooking

At our general meeting my partner from Senegal presented a project to construct and equip a new kitchen in Gamadji Saré. This project, accepted by the Board of Directors, is now underway.

The construction techniques are obviously very different from what we are familiar with: no construction crane, no concrete mixer, no brick pallets that arrive ready to be laid...

At the end of the school year, in June, the workers arrived and started making the bricks. These are then allowed to dry in the sun ready to be used to make the walls.

To avoid the problems of tin roofs that are not able to withstand the strong, desert winds for very long it was decided to make a concrete terrace roof. Once the supports and the slabs were laid, it was necessary to pour the concrete. Here too a special technique is used: the sand and cement are mixed with the soil and shovelled by hand on the roof. Once everything is in place, water is carried up to the roof and poured over the concrete mix so it runs into the spaces between the supports and slabs; then the whole roof is smoothed over and allowed to dry.



Once the external structure is complete, work on finishing the interior can begin; tiling, plastering and painting. Currently we are installing the water supply and the cooking facilities consisting of three large gas burners.

I think that if nothing unexpected happens, the kitchen should be functional shortly after the start of classes which took place as usual in early October.

I plan to return to Gamadji during 2020 to see how this new kitchen works and see how the cooking mums have adapted to this new cooking method they do not usually have at home where they continue to work in the traditional way with a wood fire.

Jacky FLAMMEN

## Vietnam

The Maison Chance Social Centre in Dak Nong has benefited 120 residents for 11 months now. The children, who are mostly from ethnic minorities, have made considerable progress. People with disabilities who using wheelchairs when they arrived are now able to stand and move a little unaided. There are mentally handicapped children that rarely spoke who speak more easily today. Young ethnic minority children who were not able to speak Vietnamese can now conduct simple conversations, and they now have a greater understanding of their surroundings.

The site is almost finished. The finishing touches to the last buildings are in progress: the 5 blocks on two floors that will serve as accommodation; the 8 guest rooms; the pool; the locker rooms and the internal paths and landscaping (tree planting). By the end of October, everything will have been completed and Maison Chance will be able to welcome another 60 disadvantaged people. In the long term, the structure will be able to support nearly 250 residents.

In addition to its educational, professional and medical facilities, the Maison Chance centre is developing agriculture and animal husbandry capabilities. The centre has a farm where horses, goats, chickens and rabbits are bred, and the aviary hosts various birds of the region including pigeons and pheasants. The presence of animals in the centre allows the residents to share experiences and interact with the animal kingdom. The centre has acquired four horses and a filly. Thanks to them, equitherapy sessions are offered to people with disabilities. Equitherapy stimulates motor skills (walks with the horse, caressing, brushing, etc.) but also emotional and verbal exchanges.



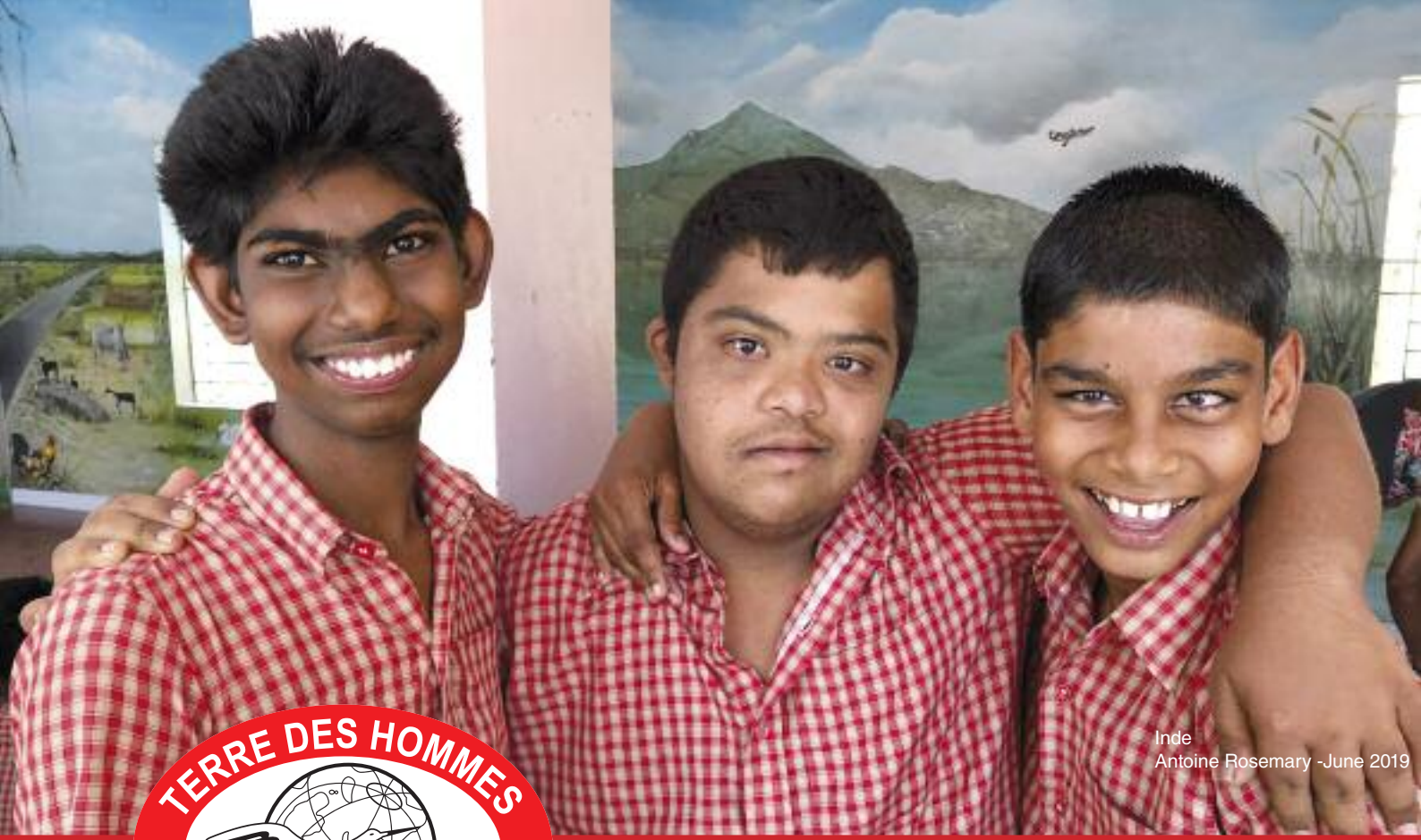
## Vietnam

Apart from horses, some of the animals raised can help with a fresh food for the residents (eggs, fish from the pond). The centre is raising Dong Tao chickens whose main characteristic is their large legs; they are very valuable in Vietnam and soon it will be possible to sell their eggs! In addition, the centre is developing in the area of speciality agriculture (fruits, organic vegetables such as tomatoes, radishes, spinach, cucumber, etc.). This will allow the residents to have a healthy daily diet while saving on operating costs. In the future, part of the harvest will be sold to distributors to generate additional income.

When the centre is finally complete, Maison Chance plans to find another parcel of land of approximately 10 hectares close to the site to further develop its activities. The intention is that disadvantaged members of the region, including the ethnic minorities will be trained to grow cinnamon, pepper, vanilla, passion fruit, avocado and other plants that can be sold at a good price on the open market. These people will thus have stable employment while also generating revenue that will finance part of the operating costs of the centre.

Emmanuel LASSIAT





Inde  
Antoine Rosemary - June 2019



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Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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