

TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

Direct assistance to children in need



Photos Maison Chance 2020 Vietnam



www.terredeshommes-alsace.com

Editorial...



The pandemic is still present and weighs heavily on our activities and on our daily lives. We and the volunteers are so sad not to be more active in favour of children, knowing that situations in the countries where our projects are located, feel the crisis even more strongly and are much more affected than we are.

Maybe it is precisely because of this situation that we have been able to give more energy to certain local actions (welcoming babies, helping families to settle, ...), which have been carried out quickly and allowed a more decent life for the beneficiaries.

We are also very sad as we have suffered the loss of members and donors, including our friend Gaby Geng, the leader of our clothes section, who had not counted the volunteer hours for many, many years. Our sincere condolences go to the affected families.

For the time being, the activities for some projects had to be suspend or they resumed only slowly and with great caution. Often deprived of meals, sports activities, games, tutoring, music, care and hygiene, the children remain confined to their homes in difficult conditions, as reported in a few articles in this issue. Our partners focus on basic humanitarian work, mainly distributing food products and vital support to families.

The project of the future shop is under preparation, but we have to be a little patient in order to secure a few more important subsidies.

Many events have been and will continue to be cancelled (march, lottery, fleamarkets, craft sales, ...) and we are clearly worried about our financial situation.

Mission of all friends of Terre des Hommes Alsace :

Of course we wish and hope that it will be possible for you to continue to support us through your donations and sponsorships. But to really guarantee our organisation a serene future, we count on you, **our ambassadors**, to convince people around you to join us by supporting a child, an innocent victim, somewhere.

Please note that the word " small " is banned from our vocabulary and therefore **any help is welcome !**

Thank you for your continuing support, happy holidays and all our best wishes for 2021, take care of yourself and of your loved ones

Simon REY



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Agenda...

Diary 2020

As it currently stands, we are unable to propose dates for the 2020 events.

We will update the list of events on the internet site once dates are confirmed.

www.terredeshommes-alsace.com

Possible Christmas Markets

Rixheim : 13 to 15 December

Riedisheim : 28 and 29 November

Mulhouse : to be confirmed

Kaysersberg : to be confirmed

Diary 2021

General Assembly

17 avril 2021 Salle du Trèfle à Rixheim

Bunny Sale :

From March to Easter



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Zoom on...

Our future premises - shop and headquarters

Gaby Geng's dream will come true!

Our friend Gaby, head of the clothes team, had insisted that the board of directors find new premises to welcome the recipients in a more decent space that complies with accessibility and safety standards.

I met her at the end of August at the hospital to review the project and validate it. She even forgave the fact that we had not been quick enough in the execution. Gaby was proud to have been an instigator of the project that will perpetuate the association and her full commitment to local action! Sadly, Gaby left us in peace on 7 September. She will remain an example for many people and we thank her for all the work she has accomplished.

A new chapter of our association is about to be written and our investment for the setting up of the new premises continues.

Currently the sorting space is only 6m² whereas the new space will occupy 65m². The shop will have a surface of more than 200 m² and will offer clothes, tableware, toys and books for everyone.

Gaby has given instructions to her sisters and the sorting and sales team is eager to give a new impetus to this action.

If you have some time to devote and are ready to become a volunteer, don't hesitate to contact us. You have understood that the team will need to expand and perhaps we will have to review the organisation.



At present, the premises are in the process of being fitted out with an accessibility ramp. We are eagerly awaiting for the confirmation of some important subsidies, delayed by the covid 19 pandemic consequences. This explains the slowdown in the advancement of this project. In the meantime we are gradually bringing in some furniture in excellent shape, which we were able to collect free of charge to equip the premises once the work has been completed.

Any financial help to allow the further development of this local charity action is of course welcome, thank you! We now hope to be able to inaugurate and start using this beautiful infrastructure in the first half of 2021.

Simon REY

Return to fundraising activities

Oranges operation

At the time of writing this, our key partner in this operation, the supermarkets, have once again agreed to open their doors to us despite the constraints imposed as a consequence of the pandemic. The Crédit Mutuel Régio Plus of Waldighoffen and Vieil Armand of Cernay, also partners, have provided us, without any rental fee or commission, a payment terminal each, in order to facilitate the reception of donations.

As always, our loyal volunteers have committed their support.

Chocolate Easter Bunny operation 2021

Following the lockdown on March 17, the chocolate Easter bunny operation for the 2020 edition became very complicated. Our hope is to be able to sell our remaining stock of nearly 17'000 bunnies in 2021.

We are counting on you to find potential buyers including schools, works councils, church youth groups, or perhaps door to door, sales at the exit of stores, deposit sales, ...

We need your support and any initiative or idea is welcome.

We are of course always at your disposal to present what we are doing to support children on the ground in our projects.

Do not hesitate to contact us.

For 2.50 € / 150 grams, it is unfortunately not possible for us to provide Swiss chocolate (much more expensive). We had started to study a proposal from a local manufacturer, but we had to put this on hold due to the pandemic. We anticipate resuming negotiations very soon.

Thank you for supporting this action of **solidarity** !

Simon REY



Bunny sale on March 7th 2020 in Muespach

Local aid, what a solidarity!

In the last few months we have had several requests for local assistance.

First of all for the birth of two children whose mothers were political refugees. These mothers had absolutely nothing to welcome their babies, we made an appeal.

A tremendous surge of solidarity, in the course of a few days, made it possible to receive everything a child needs from 0 to at least one year old, including clothes, furniture, childcare equipment and toys. This for well over two children but there are constant needs and requests within our association.

Lhaksam was born on June 12th and Nizar on August 9th and both babies and mothers are doing well!



The parents in Lhaksam were initially supported by ADOMA, the first national operator of supported living accommodation, and lived in a mini-studio in Mulhouse. Time went by and soon they had to fly on their own. It was possible to negotiate the rent of a flat in the Mulhouse suburbs. Because of their limited resources and the urgent need to quickly return their studio, we received a second call for help from Geneviève Wick, a volunteer from Terre des Hommes Alsace, but also a volunteer French teacher who helps the couple as much as she can.

Once again and in a very short period of time we were able to support and settle this family in difficulty! (Appeal launched on Sunday 20 September, moving and settling in on Saturday 26 September).

Dishes, kitchen utensils, stoves, table, chairs, sofa/bed, chest of drawers, small bathroom furniture, Hoover etc... all needs were covered! With donations of €900 we were able to buy washing machine, fridge/freezer and various everyday basics.

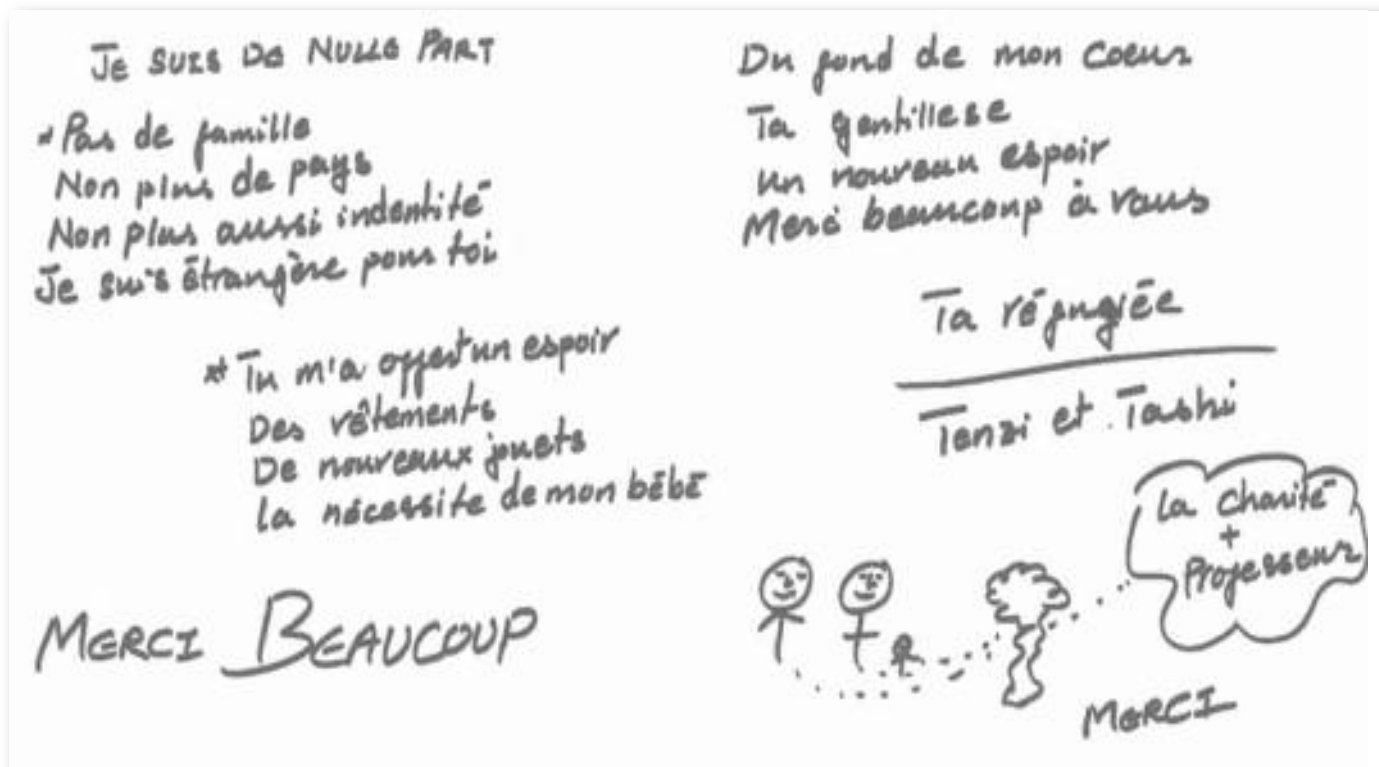
We were also able to support this family in moving from their mini studio to their new flat (> 50m²) where they will be able to live in dignity and prepare their future in good conditions.

Thank you to all the people involved in this wave of solidarity, together we are stronger.

See you soon for new **solidarity actions**, the true richness of life!

Simon REY

Thank you !



and the email :

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

We received a lot of clothes and equipment from my teacher Geneviève Wick, from your charity for my child. I cannot express how much you are helping us during this pandemic and quarantine. I sincerely say "THANK YOU MUCH" for everything!

We had planned so many things to do before the baby is born, such as buying clothes and finding accommodation. But unfortunately because of the virus we have lost our hope. In the end your solidarity and Geneviève help us a lot when we really needed it. I don't think I can repay your kindness in this life, but I feel it and I always remember it.

Once again THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Sincerely

Your sincerity Tenzin and Tashi



Brazil

LAR DA MENINA - Belmonte - Bahia - Brazil

The impacts caused by the pandemic in our city reflect dramatically the social vulnerabilities for the health of the population as most of the inhabitants are self-employed professionals in agriculture, fishing and construction.

With the measures adopted and the restrictions imposed by the Brazilian states, and given the importance of social isolation in containing the spread of the pandemic and the level of poverty that has intensified, many parents have not been able to bring the minimum of dignity to their homes, and have fallen into depression, alcohol with its harmful effects and in some cases even suicide.

The association "Lar da Menina" has suspended daily activities, supporting families in various other ways (food, medicines and other assistance). During this period of pandemic, the home operates in reduced mode, maintenance of the building (renovation of the wall, electricity compromised by heavy rains), night guards, a day attendant with care of the garden and the administrative part. The emergency aid promised by the government for three months, between 300 and 600 Réais (50 to 100€) has not reached the entire population due to the lack of preparation to speed up registration and make payments.

Our city has no hospital able to deal with COVID 19, asymptomatic patients are handled at home, often infecting the whole family, as the structure of the house has no room for appropriate distancing. The hospital has no structure, and is often short of basic medicines, which means that many families need our help.

We are seeing a sharp drop in the usual donations from our partners and local businesses, some of which have closed down. The pandemic has nevertheless created a beautiful SOLIDARITY, **the Brazilian people share the little they have with those who have nothing.** There have been many initiatives to deliver food and clothing, such as the company NORSUL which for 5 months regularly supplied us with large bags of basic food that we were able to distribute to the families of the children who normally come to the home.

« The pandemic raises the issue of inequality, and I hope that Brazilian society and humanity will become aware of the importance of a more just and less unequal world ».

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terre des Hommes Alsace, its volunteers and donors very warmly for being at our side during this difficult period. Take care of yourselves!



Delivery of foodstuffs

Dayse OLIVEIRA - Director

Salgueiro - Pernambuco - Brazil

Suddenly, the need to learn a "new normal" has arrived, children and adolescents are no longer in school, social programmes have stalled, families are being regrouped, and for many people, rare employment opportunities are disappearing. But life does not stop, and in a new dynamic, it begins to settle. In a trajectory marked by the irresponsibility, Brazil's central government has ignored the seriousness of the issue, has focused on the insignificance of criticism and has failed to follow experts' guidance. We have experienced an incredible volatility in the midst of the pandemic, with the turnover of three health ministers. This demonstrated that the conflicts were due to dissensions between the President and the Minister. This irresponsibility contributed to the loss of more than 145,431 lives and to 4,882,231 confirmed cases of COVID 19 in Brazil. And these figures are far from being definitive despite a stabilising situation.

And Salgueiro is not isolated from that national context. There are certain specific characteristics due its geographical location, at the intersection of main roads. This generates a large flow of road transportation. And thus, in addition to being a regional centre, Salgueiro becomes an area that is very vulnerable to the spread of the coronavirus. This situation is further exacerbated by the lack of a consistent policy, more effective control of social distancing measures and little education of the population, which has not always understood the need for protecting gestures.

From July to September, we have seen the number of deaths triple and the number of infected people increase by more than 2000 %, reaching 1675 cases. During this period, Salgueiro experienced the peak of the pandemic. At the same time we knew that there was under-reporting since tests were limited to symptomatic cases only, ignoring contact groups, which also contributed to a further worsening of the situation.

Gradually, life is adjusting to this "new normality". In this month of October, the government of Pernambuco allowed schools to resume, at least from high school. A strict protocol has been established and parents can choose for their children to return to school or to continue the process of remote schooling, as developed since March, when classes were suspended in the state. However, please keep in mind that too many young people do not have access to computers.

The social programmes having a partnership with Terre des Hommes Alsace in Salgueiro, the Creche Cristo Redentor and Proac have suspended their activities and focussed on providing assistance to families through essential food distributions during this period.

Although Salgueiro is in a stable situation with respect to COVID 19, there is a lot of uncertainty. Inhabitants of the suburbs begin to come back to the city and return to the bars. In addition, the electoral campaign for the municipal elections of 15 November has begun, with thousands of people in the streets, as if life was just the ephemeral joy of a moment, without attention to themselves, without attention to the others, and so it follows the movement.

Thank you for staying by our side during this difficult period.

Ana NEIDE DE BARROS



Madagascar

The general situation in the country

While the country only recorded the first cases in March 2020, Madagascar was not spared and is facing the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The government has taken steps to prevent the spread of the disease, including partial containment of the population until mid-August. The Madagascan president has communicated extensively about Covid Organics, a remedy whose effectiveness is much debated both inside and outside the country.

Antananarivo was among the most affected regions, and ASERN staff were also affected. Several staff developed mild forms, but Tovo, Dr. Joro's eldest son, developed a more severe form with significant respiratory and heart complications. Fortunately, Dr. Bernard De Geeter, who regularly participates in missions to Madagascar, was able to contact the medical teams on site and provide support from a distance.

Now out of the woods, Tovo will need time to fully recover.

Still a team despite everything

Despite the restrictions, the centre's staff remained mobilized to help an increasingly vulnerable population. Reception while respecting barrier rules



Reception while respecting barrier rules

For people like the Malagasy who do not have a stable income and tend to live day to day, the current health emergency has indeed had a high socio-economic impact. In order to meet their basic needs, families are forced to sell their livestock or any other object of any value

and / or to take out loans.

Dr. JORO says that the country has not experienced a food shortage but a sharp increase in the prices of basic products "of the order of 7.5 to 10% in the space of 3 to 5 months".

Rice is the staple food in Madagascar



Rice is the staple food in Madagascar

In order to come to their aid, while still maintaining the necessary sanitary measures (disinfection of the premises, washing of hands and distribution of masks to the those in need), the ASERN team went looking for solutions. The realised the biggest difficulty was the lack of public transport which made it difficult for staff to come to work.

Therefore, the team organized itself into two groups which each intervened three times a week to ensure the meals were distributed. Dry food (rice and dry pulses) rations were issued on a weekly basis.



A mother collecting food for her children

Madagascar

The schools remained closed for an extended period, so to help students preparing for exams, tutorials and private lessons were offered by staff to small groups of children.

On the medical side too, measures have been taken to allow the doctor to continue consultations three times a week. It was necessary to stock up on rapid tests and buy oximeters (devices that measure the oxygen concentration in the blood) but also to stock up on drug to anticipate a potential shortage.



Hand disinfection with hydroalcoholic gel

Work pays off

We are convinced that the work carried out over the past few years by ASERN allows children and young people to look to the future with hope. This is the story of young Fano, aged 18, who benefitted from the work of the Centre.

Serious and ambitious, he wanted to continue his studies in a rapidly expanding field in Madagascar: computer maintenance. After passing the entrance exams, he was admitted to the Technical High School which is located 7 km from his home.

In order to give him all the means to succeed, the ASERN centre provided him with a bicycle financed by the "Partage et Solidarité" association to enable him to get to school every day.



Fano on his bike

Three years have passed and Fano graduated in August 2019 among the top students in his class.

After a few months of waiting, Fano landed a job last January with a large telecommunications corporation through an acquaintance of Dr. Joro. And despite the pandemic and confinement, Fano has been able to keep his position. This is a source of great pride for the Centre team and Dr. Joro says he is "relieved because he is a boy with ambition. He comes from a disadvantaged family, whose six children were supported by the Centre."

Last I heard, Fano had been sent to the north of the country to install relay antennas.

Christelle LASSIAT



Our partners have continued t



to support vulnerable children

News from HAITI : A welcome return to school

This year has been an unusual year for the pupils of the schools in the Lamielle region of Haiti supported by Terre des Hommes Alsace through a partnership with Interaide.

Although the region was impacted less than the city of Port au Prince, where hospitals were forced to close their doors in certain cases as there was a lack of basic equipment to deal with the number of patients, the schools were closed. Fortunately, it was possible to put the time to good use with training for the teachers and a programme of outreach for the parents of the need for schooling for their children.



Raising education awareness - Melfile

And finally, the schools have re-opened. The primary school children restarted school on 17 August to finish the 2019 – 20 school year. The end of year exams are currently planned for October with the start of the 2020 – 21 school year anticipated for early November.

The programme of school construction in Lamielle has also restarted after the sum break. Unfortunately, because the border with the Dominican Republic has been closed it has been difficult to get hold of the necessary building materials, but the recent re-opening should make it easy to obtain what is needed to continue the planned building work



Mixed school - Laguna



State school - Lamyel

The return to some sort of normality means more first-hand news from Lamielle can be expected in the coming months.

Neil GREENER

Senegal

News from Senegal: Pandemic in Gamadji

Like all our programs, the Gamadji canteen was impacted by the pandemic. As of March 14, Senegal's land, air and sea borders were closed. The Easter school holidays were brought forward to March 16. At that time only two cities were affected by the covid: Dakar the capital and Touba. There were no reported cases in the department of Podor. In early April the closure of schools was extended until May 4 with a ban on movement from one region to another. The reopening of classes was scheduled for June 2, then was extended to June 15 with the students in the exam class (CM2). The canteen is working again. The council of masters and the management committee of the canteen decided to deliver food parcels to the neediest families, with the stocks for June and July having been purchased.

Finally, the government fixed the resumption of classes on June 25. The CFEE exam was scheduled for August 19, 20 and 21. Teaching for CM2 classes continued until August 15, with other classes on vacation from the end of July.

The test results for Gamadji's students are very good: 36 out of 38 students passed. There is no secret to this – regular school attendance

For the start of the school year on November 3, the school plans to accommodate 474 students.

In the field the crops continue to grow normally giving a good harvest. This is thanks to the good care of Daouda, the farm worker.



In the educational garden, my partner has planted a number of fruit trees: mango, lemon and orange trees. These have been well supplied with water from the functional well since the beginning of July. This year the upper classes will be in charge of the garden. It is planned to sow carrots, peppers, eggplants, bitter eggplants, cucumbers and onions which will be later transplanted to the field.

The henhouse started up again in October.

The rain this season has been abundant; the river is very close to overflowing and the farmers and ranchers are happy. The future plant beds and irrigation channels are being prepared in the field.

All these achievements are made thanks to the support of our sponsors and donors. Many thanks to them for their support.

Jacky FLAMMEN



South India



News from TDH Core, Southern India

We couldn't bring you news from TDH CORE without first mentioning the COVID-19 situation.

In Tiruvannamalai district, 14,311 cases have been detected since the start of the epidemic and there has been a total of 208 deaths.

This district has the second highest number of child marriages in the state of Tamil Nadu. A total of forty cases were reported in June. "The Covid-19 has provided an ideal breeding ground for this social evil to flourish," said Christina Dorthy, district social protection officer.

The Puspam center has never welcomed so many young girls or rescued children.

Since this summer, psychological help has been put in place for children and young girls who have suffered all kinds of abuse.

The Childline 1098 has never been used so much as in recent months and many marriages have been avoided thanks to TDH CORE.

TDH CORE volunteers also distributed food packages to the poorest people. More than 1,200 people have benefited from help in this way.



TDH CORE continues to manage the various centres and to help children in need.

In July, 3 children who were abandoned in Polur Station were rescued and taken in. The parents, who are separated and live in different villages under very precarious conditions have since been found. They have decided to let their children grow up in one of the TDH centres.

The Tiruvannamalai Aid Centre cares for 56 children. In addition to these children, the centre helped 19 children with food, hygiene and clothes and a further 26 children through home care and training for parents.



South India



The therapists and educators at TDH have uploaded videos to YouTube to help the cognitive development of children with mental disabilities. Within the first month there were over 6000 views.

On a positive note

Sriharini, a little girl with cerebral palsy, can now walk a few meters thanks to her physiotherapy sessions. The girls from the different TDH Core Homes are excellent at sports and many activities such as yoga and karate have been put in place for them.

The basketball team is very strong and won the Tamil Nadu state tournament this year. Sport not only improves physical condition and health; it also helps develop a person's mind and with social integration.

In conclusion, one of the unforgettable phrases from Chezhian, the founder and director of TDH CORE: "A day has 86,400 seconds in which to do good".

Tanja SANCHEZ



The Terre des hommes CORE girls team

North India

Howrah South Point – North India - August 2020

Letter to the friends and benefactors

Dear friends,

As we are going through a difficult time since a few months, with what seems to be a stabilized situation in Europe but still worsening in India and West Bengal, I take this opportunity to give you some news about Howrah South Point.

We are currently completing the distribution of tarpaulin and emergency food relief in Howrah. Since the beginning of the crisis in April and the super cyclone in May, we have distributed more than three thousand kit to as many families, which represent about 15000 people. It is just a drop in the ocean of needs in the slums of Calcutta and Howrah, but as Mother Teresa used to say: "If the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something." We are currently managing to go on with emergency relief distribution for several months, because here the situation is far from being back to normality. We are most grateful for the generous donations that we receive as well as your continuous support.

We have also resumed our work with mobile dispensaries. It is more required than ever before, at a time when the poorest fear going to the doctor or to the hospital. Cardiac, tuberculosis or diabetic patients will once again have access to medication and medical monitoring.

We are also preparing to reopen our Homes to accommodate some of our children. They will first go through a two-week quarantine. They will be in a safer place, will benefit from better supervision and quality food.

Last, but not least, we are coming to the end of the first phase of the Social Audit which is about to deliver its outcome. We have before us a clear roadmap to implement the recommended improvements in the next fifteen months. This will ultimately benefit not only our beneficiaries but also our staff. According to KPMG, conducting the audit, HSP is doing remarkable work on the ground that deserves to be better known.

To end this letter, I would like to highlight the commitment of HSP staff, especially the one most exposed to the coronavirus. While the staff has all the protective equipment available, it still takes courage and determination to continue to accomplish the mission under such circumstances. We know whom we get that from. Our founder, Father Laborde has always encouraged taking risks in order to meet the poorest.

Fear is worst than any virus. Life is an adventure, let's dare it.
Love is a risk. Let's run it.

Father Laurent BISSARA - President



North India

Jyoti the light: by Florence, a volunteer from the foreign missions of Paris at HSP

Jyoti was born with a physical disability. After her birth she lost her mother and her father suffered from alcoholism.

She originates from a tea plantation where every day she was placed during working hours in a hammock made from hanging saris. She stayed there alone with the other children. One day, two didi (educators) visited the tea plantation and found her.

Jyoti was only 3 years old. The didi decided to take her with them back to their home for children with disabilities, a place where they are cared for and protected.

Jyoti was as bright as light, shine, hope and life. She was cherished by the didi who are like mothers to these children. They not only pampered her, they also gave her a good education and training. Little by little, Jyoti learned to speak, stand and walk. She was very social and made a lot of friends. She joined school, had positive energy and strong determination and was actively involved in all kinds of activities. In her eyes and her beautiful smile you could see a lot of hope and dreams.

Jyoti grew up in a protected environment, she was innocent and not yet entirely prepared for the outside world, which can be very dark and dangerous. Her happy life was shattered and changed forever because of a terrible incident when she was only 16 years old. She went home for the holidays to her brother's house. When she returned to the home her smile had disappeared. She was very troubled, she was no longer interested in her studies, no longer ate, no longer slept. Something had happened but nobody knew exactly what. It was a very difficult time for her. She kept her story to herself for several weeks, like the heavy weight of a stone in her heart. She would not cry, she would not open her mouth and trusted nobody to share her secret.

Eventually she told a didi the sad story of what had happened to her. She had been sexually assaulted by a neighbour, a man she had known since her birth. She was not afraid to stay with him as she knew him but he abused her trust. It took a long time for the legal proceedings to be initiated, but a trial is currently underway.

It took a long time for her to put aside this terrible event and "heal". Little by little she has again become more interested in her studies and her friends. Her smile and the cheerful girl we knew came back. You cannot imagine what she went through when you meet her so smiling and so full of life. Her smile lights up her entire face again and her laughter is communicative.

She has celebrated her 18th birthday and all the children shared a good snack and she received a small gift. To celebrate Teacher's Day, on September 5th, the children invented a little show inspired by the story of the film "Khabhi Kushi Khabhi Gham" (the French title of the film is the Indian family). Jyoti was very happy to have had a small role and to wear a nice dress.

The didi are very proud of her and are confident about her future. Jyoti's taste for life is back, you can see it in her eyes which sparkle and shine again, even if this wound will remain forever engraved somewhere deep inside her.



A Cœur Battant



For obvious reasons, there has been no mission this year. In Fianarantsoa, the number of cases of Covid was difficult to quantify as people affected with symptoms did not go to hospital. There are two reasons for this: firstly the cost of the consultation and secondly the risk of infection when in hospital. Doctor Joro explained to me what motivates people *"When you have the Covid you are not sure you will die but if you go to the hospital you are sure to die"*

This proves a sad reality; the hospitals no longer have the means to administer to and protect the sick.

We are in regular contact with the teams on site who are happy to be able to count on our support to best help the little patients in the pediatric hospital. Obviously, the usual cold season ailments continue to be rife and malnutrition remains an ever present for most of the children admitted to pediatrics.

We are already preparing our next mission, and will be attentive to the children who are neglected because of physical or mental handicap.

In recent months evacuations to France were stopped. However, at the time of writing the possibility of carrying out "closed heart" operations locally remains a possibility. These will be performed out in Antananarivo by Malagasy doctors trained by the Chaîne de l'Espoir.



Another part of the next mission will be to continue training doctors in the use of ultrasound machines and image interpretation. The maintenance of the pediatric hospital's equipment will also continue under the guidance of "The Machine Doctor": There will be no lack of work for medical technician Didier Hummler.

Often Doctor Joro tells me that in Mada they have the choice between plague and cholera. Now they also have Covid !

Brigitte FLAMMEN

Angola

News from Angola

Changes in Oberbronn and in Huambo at Lar dos Pequenos!

My partner, Sister Daniela, Assistant General representing Angola to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Savior in Oberbronn, has completed her term of office and has returned to Angola for good. At Lar dos Pequenos, a new superior, Sister Gaudencia, is in charge of the community of sisters and of the home.

Simon and I had the opportunity to meet Sister Floriana, Sister Daniela's replacement, in August in Oberbronn. Sister Monika, Superior General, and Sister Marlene, Bursar General, also participated in the meeting where we discussed some recurring problems, the most important being the problem of communication with the Lar dos Pequenos. The lack of information and contact with Lar dos Pequenos is very frustrating as it means I can very little news about what is happening in Huambo to our sponsors and donors.

But to my great relief, it seems that Sister Gaudencia is more connected, I was able to communicate with her several times by email, and she gave me the following news that I can share with you: the children as well as the sisters and doing well and nobody is ill. There are currently 79 children in Lar dos Pequenos, including 6 teenage girls who, as they are unable to go to school, are helping the other children who are continuing with their schoolwork remotely due to Covid-19. The province of Huambo has not yet experienced a case of Covid, despite everything the barrier measures are being observed.

The sisters continue to face the usual problems due to the dilapidated buildings, mainly broken pipes. These are often buried in the ground or the walls which necessitates the these being broken to find the problem and carry out the necessary repairs.

In relation to these challenges, during our meeting in Oberbronn Sister Marlene showed us the plans for rebuilding the home she had been working on. The new buildings would be around the existing structure so that the children could stay at home during the work. Once the new building is complete and the children and sisters are installed, the old building would be destroyed to make way for a large courtyard shared between the primary school and the hostel. The plans not need to be professionally assessed and costed. The congregation currently works with a Portuguese company with the advantage that the materials come from Europe and the payments can be made in Euros. We will support this project to the best of our ability.



The children say hello and thank you for your support.

Danielle GRUMET

Peru

Our aid programs in a country ravaged by Covid

Recently a Peruvian economic official said: *It's terrible people have to choose between the virus and hunger.*

If Peruvians don't go to work every day, they don't have enough to live on. Peru is the second most affected country in Latin America after Brazil. Another concern is the poverty. More than 21% of the inhabitants live below the poverty line and with confinement this figure has increased, and we have moved into a situation of extreme poverty. Some residents of the Sierra are forced to go down to the towns to find food. People are suffering, they are afraid, and the tensions are very high. This context is compounded by the exorbitant increase in the prices of food, cleaning and hygiene products. Added to this is speculation about drugs and oxygen. In addition, isolation and confinement can result in an increased risk of violent behavior, especially towards children

How is this dramatic situation impacting our aid programs?

At the orphanage and canteen in Miséricordia

The canteen is currently closed, and the sisters prepare food packages for the week that the parents come to collect. As for the orphanage, the children are confined with the sisters to avoid any contact with people with the infection.

At the 4 canteens in Lima

These 4 canteens are also closed and help for children is provided in the same way as in Miséricordia by distributing food parcels. Among the volunteers of these canteens, there has been 1 death unfortunately as well as several cases of virus.

At the orphanage in Abancay

Currently the town of Abancay is in total lockdown and the sisters can only go out to ensure food supplies continue. The children are also confined. Three sisters were infected, one quite seriously.

In conclusion, the dire situation means our help is needed more than ever. Thanks to the financial assistance of TdH A, possible thanks to your donations and the involvement of the many volunteers, we are enabling children and parents to survive this distressing episode.

J.J.KIEFFER



Vietnam

TRINH's beautiful story

We are often asked what happens to the children we support and if we continue to hear from them when they leave home and become adults. As Christmas approaches, I have chosen to tell you a beautiful story, that of Trinh.

Trinh was born in the Mekong Delta to parents so poor that they did not have a house. They lived on a boat equipped with two sections made of water coconut leaves to shelter them. In the evening, they would moor with anyone prepared to welcome them.

When she was just over a year old, Trinh suffered a high fever which left both legs paralyzed. She had to learn to walk with a crutch.

Despite their poverty, her parents wanted to send their daughter to school. Until the age of 13, Trinh continued her education, making the long journey to school by boat.

But then, unfortunately her new school was too far to reach by boat and so Trinh had to interrupt her education.

Her parents were still wanting their daughter to be able to walk, so they took her for a consultation at a hospital in Saigon. As she had grown older, right leg had become weaker as it had developed very slowly.



By the time Trinh turned 15, her right leg was shorter than the left by almost eight inches. The doctors made her in a leg support. While in hospital she met a beneficiary in a wheelchair from Maison Chance. The latter invited Trinh to visit to the centre. She very happy with the visit and made a request to join the organization.

Trinh learned how to sew in the workshop, then completed additional training with a foreign designer. This apprenticeship helped her develop her skills in this art and eventually she became the workshop's sewing teacher.

For several years Trinh has lived at Village Chance sharing accommodation with another single woman in a wheelchair.

One day, Trinh is taking martial arts lessons organized for all the residents in the courtyard of Village Chance. And there she meets her future husband. They start dating, and a year later decide to get married.

Trinh celebrated her wedding on April 5 this year; long live the bride!



Thanks to Maison Chance, many have benefited as their life journey has taken an unexpected turn for the better.

That is why we are convinced of the need to continue to support Tim and her teams, in Ho Chi Minh and in the new center of Dak Nong.

Emmanuel LASSIAT



Photos Maison Chance 2020 Vietnam



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Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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