# TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE

Antoine de Saint Exupéry

Direct assistance to children in distress



Photo PERU

Careful!!! New email address: terredeshommes.alsace@gmail.com

#### **Editorial**

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Political tensions are high on our planet and large-scale humanitarian crises are multiplying. Children's rights are no longer respected in the various conflicts, hospitals are bombed. In addition, there is global climate change, where most often the most disadvantaged are the most affected. What do the words "future or future" mean?

As in the legend, the hummingbirds of Terre des hommes Alsace continue to do their part and all together we continue to plant seeds of hope and opportunity according to Andreza our Brazilian guest who accompanied us on the return from a big expedition to Brazil. In Senegal, the new water pump powered by photovoltaic panels is installed and the garden is once again producing fruit and vegetables. Maison Chance, our partner from Vietnam, is celebrating 30 years of supporting the disabled and poor children. In Madagascar, water supply problems worsened and Stéphanie went to the small school for the disabled. Discover in this edition the life of peasant families far from urban centers in Haiti. In North India, children appreciate the new bus, the result of the work of the youth group and the fantastic volunteers of Terre des Hommes Alsace. In South India, a false declaration almost made an association that has been irreproachable for 30 years falter. In Angola, the construction of the new orphanage is progressing little by little and we have been able to participate in the financing of a new vehicle. Bénédicte Schweitzer has accepted responsibility for the projects in Peru, we wish her a lot of fun and thank you to Danielle Grumet for taking over as interim manager.

We have lost donors and members, some of whom have not forgotten the children by entrusting us with part of their savings or by choosing our association for bequests, thank you to them.

Living, what suffering and what undivided suffering - Victor-Lévy Beaulieu

It's almost Christmas, don't forget to share!

Thank you for your generosity, your loyalty and your trust. Happy holidays to you and your families, as well as good health for the year 2025!

Simon Rey

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Cover & Back Photos Simon Rey Legal deposit: May 2024 - 2000 copies

Production: K-print SAS' 3 rue des Dahlias- 68270 Ruelisheim; Phone 06 52 75 74 47- k.print@free.fr

### **SUMMARY**

#### AGENDA 2024/2025

#### 2024

St Nicholas market in Riedisheim **29, 30** November and **1** December.

#### **Christmas Markets**

Reiningue 23 and 24 November

Hegenheim 30 November 1 December

Ferrette 7 and 8 December
Rixheim 13,14,15 December
Richwiller 13,14,15 December

Kaysersberg

#### 2025

Pork 26 January, Riedlin Hall, Hegenheim General Assembly **12 April Salle** du Trèfle Rixheim

Easter Hare Sale **1st** quarter 2025 Traditional ADHD walk Thursday, **May** 8

Go to our website for more information www.terredeshommes-alsace.org

#### Focus on

Actions 4 and 5

## **PROJECTS**

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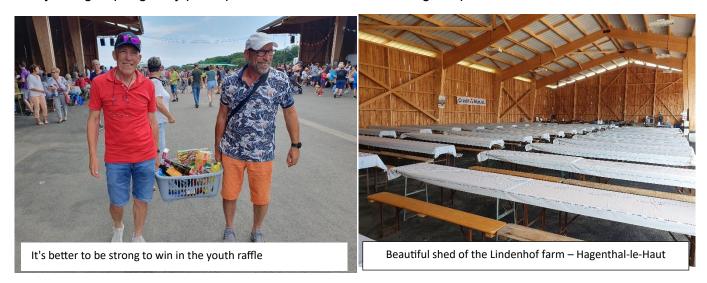
When you find a diamond that belongs to no one, it is yours. When you find an island that belongs to no one, it belongs to you. When you have an idea first you have to patent it, it's yours. And I possess the stars because no one before me has ever thought of possessing them.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry — The Little Prince



# Terre des Hommes Alsace has volunteers in GOLD Thank you for your commitment and congratulations to all!

Yes, our volunteers work without ever stopping. After an already very active start to the year, the pace was maintained with the solidarity breakfast and its 650 registrants at the Lindenhof farm, our exceptional partner, a large pastry stand for four days in Agrogast, before the 26th solidarity walk in Muespach-le-Haut with 432 walkers and more than 360 meals served in the dining room. The result of these three events allows the annual sponsorship of at least 120 children for a whole year (or more than 104,000 meals)! The youth group regularly participates in our events and offers great prizes in the raffle.



In addition, there is the solidarity shop, the flea market in Hégenheim, various craft stalls in Muespach and Kiffis, the October days and its many stuffed animals, the sales of oranges in schools and at the exit of supermarkets, the jams of Osenbach and those of Sundgau, the lily of the valley in Uffholtz, the flea markets of Wattwiller, the sale of pastries in Thierenbach and when reading this bulletin we will have started the markets of Saint Nicholas and Christmas...

→ Thank you Annette, Solange, Yvette, Madeleine, 82 years old and over... Rosa, Claire, Arthur, 16 years old and under... ←

### Pork 2025 Hégenheim

→ Registration for Sunday, January 26 attached to this bulletin → **before January 12, 2025** please, thank you!

The orchestra of the Union Musicale de Morschwiller-le-Bas will once again be volunteering this year to host the aperitif of this solidarity meal, thank you to them!



#### **Operation Hares 2025**

World cocoa prices have soared over a year, exceeding \$10,000 per tonne at the beginning of the year in New York. In London, the price for delivery in September 2024 has increased by about 170% year-on-vear.

This time we cannot escape an increase in our product and we will have to offer the unit in 2025 at a selling price of 3 €uros.

**21,000 chocolate hares** (150 grams / height 23cm) have been ordered and will be available after January 20th.

We are counting on you to find takers between schools, works councils, young people of the Church, door to door, sales at the exit of stores, consignment sales, ...

→We need your support and any initiative or idea is welcome ←

# Vente de lièvres en chocolat



We are of course always at your disposal to illustrate our actions to support children in the field through screenings. **Do not hesitate to contact us.** 

Thank you in advance to all of you for your support of this **solidarity action**!

www.terredeshommes-alsace.com



# October Days in Mulhouse

Small, medium or large or even gigantic, we have adopted nearly **2000** plush toys for this 2024 edition.

84 sessions of more or less **3** hours, i.e. **252** hours of presence for **40** volunteers.

The number of hours of preparation is incalculable. Each stuffed animal was bathed, given by volunteers.

Hundreds of jars of "homemade" jam, vanilla, pepper, cashew nuts etc... embellished our stand.

The result is up to the task of

#### 22,200 Meals

for the children of our projects.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, SEE YOU IN 2025 FOR A NEW EDITION.

178,961 visitors passed by our booth

**Brigitte FLAMMEN** 

#### **Brazil**

Going on a trip to meet partners and being able to share strong moments with the beneficiaries remains a privilege. However, being fully immersed in the reality of the field is also the best way to understand and develop projects in close collaboration with our partners. Being able to be accompanied by volunteers is a real asset and it also allows us to have a new look at our actions, new comments and many questions that lead to reflection, but also to remain vigilant about development and management. This year and for the first time I mapped out a new travel route: 3 nights by bus for almost 1800 km and three internal flights, since the wish of my companions was to visit the three projects: Lar Da Menina in Belmonte-BA, Casa Lar "Beata Chiara Bossata" and the canteens of Manaus-AM, the Cristo Redentor Crèche and the PROAC in Salgueiro-PE. Between the lack of comfort and the emotions there are a lot of things to manage, but the intensity of the trip is forgotten with the thanks, the smiles and the "abraços".

**Lar Da Menina:** We had the pleasure of celebrating 20 years of partnership. An exemplary project managed by a great team that makes it possible to protect 80 young girls from the slums, each of whom has a very complicated history and who find it difficult to make room for the youngest, in any case they almost always keep in touch with the structure.

**Manaus:** we discovered the Casa Lar, which currently houses 9 young girls, victims of abuse of all kinds and who were living on the street. Sharing moments with this family was wonderful and there are no words to describe the feeling because it was so strong. You have to live it, just thinking about it emotion resurfaces. We have inaugurated a new canteen financed by our association. A great day for the mothers, cooks and children of the neighborhood and a few tears for me as I cut the ribbon with a thought for all the donors and volunteers who made this achievement possible.



**Salgueiro:** our friend Padre Rémi is getting older and his state of health no longer allows him, to his great dismay, to return to visit his native Italy. As far as the projects are concerned, nothing to complain about, everything is working well and many people are taking care of the children in the nursery. The activities of PROAC (street children and adolescents projects) allow nearly 150 young people to be protected from the scourges of the favela that lie in wait for them in the street. This year I was particularly challenged by young adults who recognized me and who took the opportunity to tell me their life story but above all to thank our association for its strong involvement in the projects of which they have been beneficiaries.

All our partners of course thank you for the trust and support essential to the operation of their projects, thank you to the large Terre des Hommes Alsace family.

#### And in the luggage on the return from Brazil... Andreza, invited to France

Andreza was met in 2004 at PROAC, a project for street children and teenagers, and seized a great opportunity to study civil engineering, which she completed in 2022. www.terredeshommes-alsace.com N°130 page 20. To finalize this beautiful journey, a family invited him to France for a period of five weeks. She had the chance to get to know our beautiful region, the snow, Paris, but above all discovered the functioning of our association and all the work that is done to support the children of the world. We met many donors, volunteers and partners during his participation in several events such as Agrogast, the solidarity walk, sale of crafts in Kiffis. ...



When she returned, she sent us the following message:

Dear Terre des Hommes Alsace family, I would like to express my deepest and most sincere thanks to the association. I was one of the children who had the privilege of benefiting from your projects, and I can say that the impact of this work has been decisive in my life. Seeing up close the incredible work you do, the commitment, dedication and affection of the entire team touched me deeply. You are not only offering help, you are bringing hope and renewing the dreams of so many children and families. I am immensely grateful for all the attention and effort you put into improving the lives of so many. What you do goes beyond meeting immediate needs, you plant seeds of hope and opportunity that blossom within each of us. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for me and for so many others. I would also like to thank in particular Simon Rey, the President and Head of Projects in Brazil, who, together with his family, works tirelessly every day in favor of ADHD and his love, commitment and dedication to making everything work is unquestionable.

May your work continue to be a source of light and transformation in the world. I kiss you, Andreza



Participation in the clothing drive



Distribution of leaflets for the solidarity march

#### **Brazil – travel impressions**

Even if our too little Portuguese knowledge did not allow us to exchange as much as we would have liked, the language of emotions, the looks, the frank hugs, the spontaneous hugs of the children more than compensated. We have just returned from Brazil full of love and gratitude, with so many thanks to you, the little volunteer hands, without whom nothing would be possible. We will never again sell an orange, a hare, a slice of cake... without thinking about these children for whom each of our actions is essential.

In this beautiful Brazil, yet so unequal, TDHA works with remarkable partners: people with human values who work small miracles every day, solidly anchored and strengthened by their Christian faith. At Lar da Menina, a project that is 20 years old, young girls who were beneficiaries in the past are now adult helpers, volunteers, and even teachers. Great successes in which each of you participates.





In Manaus, with less than a year of existence, Casa Lar is a haven of peace, a house where everyone can rebuild themselves, a house where people laugh, where they make plans, surrounded by loving and caring people.

In the canteens in Manaus, we saw the courage of women volunteers who cook to feed the children of the neighborhood, and thus ensure the food of their own. How can we forget these 10-year-old girls taking care of their little brothers, these

mothers, too young, with their babies; all eating with appetite, and leaving with the surplus to share back home...

We also attest that in each project the partners are rigorous: good managers who

have opened all their books of accounts to Simon, before our eyes.

We are Jean-Claude, my husband, Adrien and Colette who are grateful to have been able to accompany Simon and Fabienne on their annual visit to Brazilian projects.

This trip allowed me to recharge my volunteer batteries at Terre des Hommes Alsace. It's a gift of life. THANK YOU.



Bénédicte Schweitzer, on behalf of the group.

#### **News from Angola**

The sisters of Lar dos Pequeninos have faced a sharp increase in requests to welcome newborns. The maternal mortality rate is still very high in Angola, in 2015, out of 183 countries, Angola was ranked 161st with 477 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. There are many reasons: lack of medical assistance, caesarean sections that did not go well, lack of medical follow-up during pregnancy and untreated illness in pregnant women.

Of the 62 children currently in the home, 25 are between a few days and 5 years old. These little



ones obviously require a lot of attention and care and the sisters have had to hire staff to take care of the babies specifically.

Very recently three of the babies fell ill and the sisters had to run from hospital to hospital in order to be treated, unfortunately a one-month-old baby whose mother suffered from untreated malaria and died from a haemorrhage, did not survive.

Despite these very difficult situations,

the sisters and the staff of the home valiantly continue to take care of their little protégés.

A few months ago, Sister Gaudencia called on us to help finance a new vehicle for the Lar dos Pequeninos, in fact, given the age of their vehicle it was becoming more and more complicated to find spare parts and repair it. The board of directors agreed to the request and contributed €30,000 to the purchase of a new vehicle.



As far as the construction work is concerned, it continues at a regular pace, 3 of the 4 buildings have been erected, it will take another year of work before we can talk about interior design and financial participation from Terre des Hommes Alsace.

Danielle

Grumet



# Water crisis in Antananarivo, ASERN's medicosocial centre badly affected

Antananarivo is facing an unprecedented water crisis. For several months now, the Malagasy capital has been experiencing recurrent water cuts, seriously disrupting the daily lives of its inhabitants.

These interruptions are mainly due to insufficient production capacity and dilapidated infrastructure. But the current situation is even more worrying. Power cuts last several days, and even when people are lucky enough to have running water, the water no longer reaches their homes.





At the standpipes, water only flows at night, for three hours at most, and then only drop by drop. The frequent and prolonged water cuts are having a serious impact on the daily lives of residents, worsening their already precarious living conditions and increasing the risk of infection and disease. The population is beginning to show its discontent by blocking traffic with burnt tyres.

This critical situation is having a particularly severe impact on the ASERN Centre. The water cuts are disrupting daily life, making it difficult to maintain hygiene standards and prepare meals.

Between hygiene education, laundry and meals, the centre uses an average of 750 to 1,000 litres of water per day. During the rehabilitation, a cistern was installed to compensate for the already frequent water cuts. However, Dr Joro points out that 'we have a 1,000-litre tank that is supplied by JIRAMA (Madagascar's water utility) at night, but never during the day. If the water doesn't arrive at night, we have to buy 260 litres of water, or 13 20-litre canisters, just to feed the children.



To increase its reserve capacity, the centre will need to purchase additional containers.

# Fianarantsoa: the children are back at school



The start of the school year is always a highlight in Fianarantsoa. This year, thanks to the efforts of Sister Madeleine and the sisters of the community, the students were able to return to school in good conditions. The sisters help the poorest families with school supplies so that each child can start the year with everything they need. Some of the materials cannot be found in Fianarantsoa or are very expensive, so some of the purchases have to be made in Antananarivo by travelling to the capital.

Without this support, many of these children would not be able to go to school.

The 213 pupils at Saint André School have returned to school and eat the daily meal prepared by their mothers and financed thanks to the support of our donors. Similarly, at the Sisters' House, around a hundred children come to eat in the canteen. However, only 45 disabled children were able to return to school this year, compared to 57 in previous years. The bus used to transport the children is still broken and has not been repaired as it is difficult to find a qualified technician since the vehicle came from China. Negotiations are underway to either repair it or find a new bus at an affordable price.





Whether in Antananarivo or Fianarantsoa, our aid benefits children on a daily basis through the distribution of meals, but also in the long term by giving them access to education. Your support is more important than ever to continue this noble mission.

Together, we can make a difference and give these children a chance to succeed and build a better future.

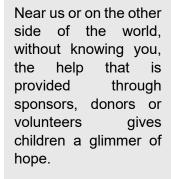
**Christelle LASSIAT** 













Smiles that are a fantastic THANK YOU for us that we share with everyone.









# Our second-hand store

which is becoming more and more successful with a diverse and varied assortment of items.

Opening hours Monday from 2 pm to 5 pm and Saturday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

If the first to be satisfied are our customers, the children of our projects are the beneficiaries.

Come and visit our store, a very efficient team will welcome you.







#### North India - A new bus for children

In the summer of 2023, during our trip to India with the Youth Group, we had the opportunity to travel to Jailpaguri, in the north of the country. This is where our partner Howrah South Point runs several homes for children with disabilities.

The association has a school bus; scrupulously fitted out to allow the daily transport of children. It was this bus that transported our group of 5 adults and 5 young people on site: what an adventure!

The driver kept turning the steering wheel even though we were in the middle of a straight line: the steering was defective! We were later confirmed that there had already been many breakdowns, especially on a busy national road with all the children on board.

The Youth group quickly understood that it was becoming dangerous for the children, and that the association obviously did not have the necessary funds for a replacement. The idea was beginning to germinate in our minds.





When we returned, we did our calculations, there were still funds in the coffers of the Youth group During the summer were added 2 private donations and a superb income generated by the Agrogast 2023 pastry stand and we are now able to finance a new bus at a cost of 18,000 Euros.

Several quotes were sent to us and, after the agreement of the TDHA board of directors, a new chassis was purchased and custom-fitted to allow optimal transport of disabled children. Several weeks of work were necessary and it was finally on May 4 that the new bus was inaugurated with great pomp to the delight of the children and their driver.

The Youth Group thanks you for supporting its actions. Thanks to you, their commitment and their work, they have been able to carry out beautiful projects in favour of children.

#### Corinne Ueberschlag

https://www.howrahsouthpoint.org

Instagram: #howrahsouthpoint





#### Presumption of sexual abuse at Terre des Hommes Core



My original intention was to tell you about Kurinji, our home in the mountains, where the young girls you see in this photo live (a photo that, in the last bulletin, has been replaced by little Peruvian girls by a mysterious sleight of hand).

But finally, I'm going to present you an episode that has worried me a lot and made us all tremble these last few weeks but which ends happily.

mid-August, Chezhian brought shocking news: one of his drivers had abused (touched) a 16-year-old girl from the Maya home. Chezhian filed a complaint with the police and the driver was imprisoned. I am in shock, having met the said driver during my last trip. He has been in Chezhian's service for 5 years and he is more than dedicated. He lives in TDHCore and is always ready to help Chezhian day or night. In the evening, he goes around the buildings on the office grounds, makes sure that everything is closed, checks that the night guards are at their posts. He is easy to get along with and seems to be appreciated by everyone, children and the supervisory team.

On that day, he dropped off 3 young girls at school in the morning and had to pick them up at 3:30 p.m. When she arrives, only Maya's young daughter is there, the other two having returned earlier. The mistake he makes at that moment will be fatal to him: he takes the young girl alone in his vehicle to bring her back. According to TDHCore's rules, it is forbidden for a driver to drive a girl alone; He must notify the project manager who then decides on the course of action to be taken. Either he allows her to bring her back, or he asks her to go back and pick up an adult girl to look for the girl. The driver did not make this phone call.

In the car, the young girl declares her feelings to him, the driver refuses her advances but a priori tries to kiss her and touch her breast. The girl, shocked, asks the driver to let her out. All this happens over a distance of 1.5km on a busy road. This incident created a terrible disorder within the association. This is the first case of sexual abuse within TDHCore itself in its 30-year history. The machine of the Child Protection from Sexual Offences Service (POCSO) is getting going. Government investigations and inspections follow one another, especially to determine if

there have been other cases of abuse by this driver. All investigations lead to the same conclusion: no other cases of sexual abuse.

This incident raised some doubts in Chezhian about the rules of protection and the procedures to be followed by each member of the association. He set up a working group to strengthen these procedures. He even wonders if it is not easier to hire only women.

On September 5, the government announced that it would close all the girls' homes in TDHCore! Puspam, Alaigal, Maya; Chezhian is desperate, he intervenes with the authorities by arguing that it is he himself who made the statement to the police and that it is still he who will be punished. This encourages people to hide the problems!

The situation is horrific, the girls are terrified of having to leave their homes, they protest when government officials come, insisting that they feel safe and secure in their homes, that they are happy and that they refuse to leave it. They threaten to take to the streets to express their despair and thus alert the press.

The police began to have doubts about the statements of Maya's young daughter, especially since her versions of the facts differed from one time to the next. At TDHCore, the opinions are unanimous, the young girl is lying.

At the end of September, the relief is immense when the police finally announce that TDHCore is out of the woods, that there will be no consequences for the homes and that this young girl abused her power to create problems for this driver she wanted to have for her. She couldn't stand to see him talking to other girls and even confessed that in 2 years (when she would be 18), she would go to him to tell him that she would withdraw her (false) complaint if he agreed to marry her. The girl had to be placed in another home because the anger of the other girls is deep, they don't want to have her in their house anymore. Even in this other home, it is already causing trouble.

The driver has been released from prison, but he cannot yet return to his post until investigations to clear him are completed. We hope that this episode will end soon.

This is the power of a young girl's words in India. It has managed to stain the life of a man who lost his job and well beyond that, it has managed to shake an association that has existed for 30 years and that has always fought for the well-being of children, that has fought all forms of violence since the very beginning and that has even been recognized and honored many times by the highest authorities of this country.

The power of words...

On a lighter note: I wish you a happy and joyful holiday season and a great new year 2025! Thank you for your invaluable support, it changes lives every day!

Tania Besonnet



# PERU: new project manager

In our bulletin 130 I informed you of the retirement of Jean-Jacques Kieffer, head of Peru. I took over the management of projects on an interim basis while waiting to be able to recruit a new person in charge of these projects. It's done! I am pleased to announce that Bénédicte Schweitzer, a member of the Board of Directors since our last General Assembly, wishes to take over the responsibility of the Peru projects.

Bénédicte will go there next year, she will meet Sister Ana Maria, head of the Hogar de Ninas orphanage – the home for young girls run by the Sisters of Mercy, in Puente Piedra, about thirty kilometers from Lima, Father David and his team, in charge of the 4 canteens of the parish "Nuestra Señora del Camino" located in the slums on the hills surrounding Lima and finally Sister Guadalupe, in charge of the orphanage run by the sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Providence, in Abancay, at an altitude of 2400 meters in the Andes Mountains.



Les enfants de Puente Piedra.



the children of Abancay on a walk.



The cooks of one of the 4 canteens in Lima.

Danielle Grumet

# News from Gamadji Sare's canteen in Senegal

In May, a message from our partner Gamadji Sare told me that the pump that supplies water to the water reserve of the school garden was definitively out of service. After a study and agreement by the TDHA Board of Directors, we decided to invest in a pump powered by photovoltaic panels. This is to compensate for the countless power cuts suffered by the electrical installations. A company based in Dakar will supply and install everything you need. By mid-June, the new facility was operational, and the garden has properly produced fruit and vegetables that will be eaten in the canteen or sold to buy seeds and phytosanitary products for the next growing season.

At the time of writing, the preparatory work for the start of the school year, scheduled for the beginning of October, is well underway. Working days are organized to clean classrooms, weed the courtyards etc... The students come to maintain their future living space, both boys and girls. At the same time, it gives a lesson in hygiene and cleanliness to children who live, for some, in relatively precarious conditions, in habitats devoid of the slightest comfort: no running water, no electricity.

As usual, the mother cooks will intervene during the first week of school to set up the kitchen. Meals for children will be served normally from the second week.



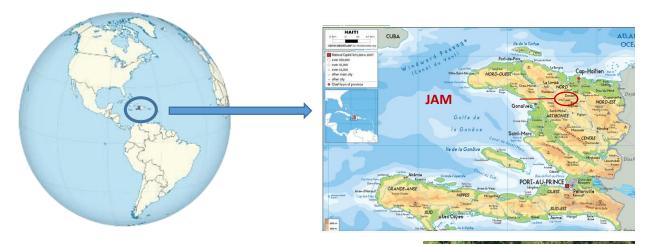




I would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors who allow us to support this project which gives children the opportunity to grow and flourish in a school where a dynamic teaching team does everything possible to promote student success.

Jacky FLAMMEN

#### **New in Haiti Project MARMELADE**



In the commune of Maïssade, the population is fortunate to be far from the urban centres where regular demonstrations against the government or the action of armed gangs are concentrated. However, the rise in prices still impacts daily life. Living off the production of their land, families struggle to continue selling on the local market.

Not too far from the village of Marmelade is the town of Bas Gennen, where Wildine Macajoux lives with her family. Wildine is 11 years old. His family consists of his parents and his two brothers (9 and 2 years old) and his two sisters (14 and 5 years old). His parents are farmers. They mainly grow beans and corn. They also have a few goats, a cow and a mule to transport their produce to the Marmelade market.

The life of peasant families took place in the *lakou* (from the French "the courtyard"). This open space includes the house, the kitchen (separate from the house) and sometimes an attic to store crops. The *lakou* allows you to welcome visitors, to play, to work. It is the threshing floor for maize, millet and beans.

In the *lakou* of the Macajoux family there is a *kay* (the hut) made of woven wood and filled with earth. This house has two rather cramped bedrooms, which are mainly used for sleeping and storing laundry.



The Macajoux family in front of their





Wildine and her brother in charge of the dishes

They also have a shelter for cooking, which is done with charcoal or wood, on three rocks that support the pot. However, this family does not yet have a granary (a raised construction on stilts, to protect the crops from rats and other voracious rodents) and does not have a latrine either.

Like most houses in rural areas, there is no access to electricity or running water. The lighting is done with a gas lamp but anyway we go to bed and get up with the sun... not much choice!

Domestic water is found at a nearby source. The older children are responsible for managing the supply, carrying two jerry cans a day from the source, or about 5 litres per day per person, for cooking, drinking and washing their hands. But to bathe or do the laundry, the family goes to the river, like all the other inhabitants of Gennen.

There is no electricity but the family has a battery-operated radio, which is mostly used to listen to music on a local evangelical channel. It is the only electronic device in the house. The family does not have a telephone.



Inter Aide

#### The lakou of the Macajoux family

Despite the very complicated situation that Haiti is going through, Terre des Hommes Alsace remains at the side of our historical partner "Inter Aide"

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP FOR THE CHILDREN OF HAITI

# An afternoon gala in Paris for the 30th anniversary of Maison Chance

On 6th October 2024, Maison Chance held its 30th anniversary gala in Paris, in the sumptuous setting of the Hôtel de Ville in the 16th arrondissement.

Christelle, my wife, and I represented our association (Tim's partner since the beginning) during this unforgettable afternoon of solidarity and hope.

Our friend Aline Rebeaud opened the ceremony with a moving speech in which she recalled her career, from the humble beginnings of the organisation to the creation of the various reception and training centres. She pointed out that the association helps 700 people every day and employs 150 people.



Speech by Tim Aline REBEAUD, Founder

This celebration not only highlighted Tim's remarkable work in creating Maison Chance, but also strengthened the links between the Vietnamese community and its international supporters.

In addition to traditional dance and music performances, several well-known singers from the Vietnamese community in Paris also performed during the afternoon.



Demonstration of Vietnamese dances

Guests also had the opportunity to hear a poignant testimony from Thuong, a beneficiary of Maison Chance. An orphan at the time, he joined this 'big family' at the age of 7. Now 36, he is a chef at the Maison Chance Centre in Dak Nong.



Interview with Thuong, Beneficiary

**Emmanuel LASSIAT** 

A Cœur Batttant

-lass

# The joy of Stéphanie and her parents

With the A Cœur Bbattant team, we have been following Stéphanie since 2018.

As the little girl suffers from mental disorders and also from a congenital heart disease, Dr. De Geeter's proposal was to bring her to Strasbourg for an operation that was very well mastered in France.

We had turned to the chain of hope, but the child's mental disability was an obstacle.

The organization of Stéphanie's visit took time. As the child did not move alone, she had to be carried, the mother did not speak French, so we recommended that Doctor Joro, our partner, accompany them.

But now we have been caught up by COVID.

Finally, after intervention and negotiations with the Chaîne de l'Espoir in Madagascar, the little girl was operated on at the military hospital in Antananarivo by surgeons from Reunion Island.

Although the problem of heart disease has been solved, the disability is still present and Stéphanie's weight becomes a new obstacle for the parents. Until now, the child had to be carried for the slightest movement. It mainly mobilized the mother who could not work.

We were able to arrange for the purchase of a wheelchair, and as a bonus new shoes.

A micro-loan was made for the mother. She has a small counter next to her little house, she makes and sells doughnuts to passers-by.

Stéphanie goes to the little school for the disabled with the sisters, who are also our partners, and at the same time she continues to benefit from physiotherapy.

This small miracle is thanks to the support of our donors. A drop in the ocean of misery? rather a drop of happiness and hope.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH** for having made this great action possible.





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