



TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Direct assistance to children in need



Hope...

The main feature among poverty stricken people is their incapacity to project themselves into the future. It is dramatic. The goal is never tomorrow even less next year. It is only the instant, the present day. You have to survive. The poor can be described by no-hope, which is also the case for the child. The word HOPE does not belong in their life.

Hope rests on the confidence in the future, on a capacity to develop a project for living, even a small one. HOPE gives courage, a meaning to life and permits an action.

Hope is based on an atmosphere of confidence and peace, in a structured environment. To regain HOPE, the child has to be fed and educated. He needs a frame and stimulation.

Terre des Hommes Alsace has the mission to save and then to help and educate distressed children. Our real goal has to go further. It consists to give again to the child the capacity of hope, to let him smile into the future,

let him develop self-esteem. We have at Terre des Hommes Alsace plenty of examples showing our positive action in that direction. You read regularly reports and testimonies in this bulletin. Together we build HOPE. Thanks for your faithful help!

" you do not have to predict the future but to allow it "

Antoine de Saint-exupéry

In this end of the year of our 40th Anniversary, we wish to make a special effort for the children of Madagascar through the project : "A Max for Mada". The children there need a special help towards HOPE. It is not too late to send your participation.

Let us quote a sentence from Antoine de St-Exupery: "you do not have to predict the future but to allow it". This is what we try to do, together, for the children in need.

Our partners and the Administrative Committee join me to wish you beautiful Christmas Celebrations. For 2013 we wish you, a good health, strength and courage to go on and continue our magnificent chain of solidarity.

Simon Rey, Président



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Directeur of Publication :
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Printer :
Ets LOOS Mulhouse

Legal Registration:
November 2012

100 exemplaires

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Couverture :
Photo Simon Rey
Brazil - 2012

Agenda

Saint Nicholas fair
Décembre 1st, 2012
 Ferette

Saint Nicholas market

Décembre 1st & 2nd, 2012
 Sierentz

Christmas market

Auberge du Boenlesgrab
 December 2nd, 2012

Liebsdorf
 December 8th & 9th, 2012

Mulhouse
 December 15th & 16th, 2012

Rixheim
 December 14th, 15th & 16th, 2012

Annual general meeting 2013

March 16th 2013
 Salle du Trèfle, Rixheim
 starting at 4 pm



Other dates will be added during the year for our operation "A MAX FOR MADA"

For any information, please call 03 89 70 17 35

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Summary

ZOOM ON...



40th ANNIVERSARY

*Terre des Hommes Alsace a fêté ses 40 ans
le 2 juin 2012 à Rixheim*

The year 2012 has been special as it was marked by the 40 years of existence of our Association. The time was ripe to look back on the many stages of the road covered by TDHA and assess the multiple actions done since all that time. Our predecessors had shown us the way by doing a gigantic work, we had just to

*All these experiences have
been very precious to go
forward always closer to
our mission*

the evolution of our society which has worsened the situation of the forgotten ones. In that big task done by all there have been successes which have saved many children but also some failures or regrets when thinking of those little ones who did not cross our road. All these experiences have been very precious to go forward always closer to our mission and so guarantee to our donators in a total transparency the use of the money given for our actions.

That Anniversary was the opportunity to assemble on June 2nd in the TREFLE at Rixheim all the volunteers, partners or friends and celebrate with dignity that event by sharing news, stories, emotions or simply by being present and looking at the program staged by the Administrative Committee after many months of intense preparation. It was really a great moment; the

put our feet in their traces and adapt ourselves to

300 people present could discover at their arrival

a beautiful picture exhibition and stalls where they could taste exotic food; the theme of our Gala was called: "Come and look, taste, the world" and the tables decorated had each a name in common with our projects such as: Pan Flute, Ricefield, Sertaõ, Chameleon, Little Prince etc.

That evening was enhanced by the presence and testimony of some partners and of 2 beneficiaries of our programs; we had dreamed to have them coming from the end of the world and our dream came true! Sister Cristina from Peru- Sister Daniela from Angola- Tim- Aline and Duy handicapped young man, saved at the age of 7 by Maison Chance in Vietnam - Ashok from India- our partners from Inter'Aid for Haiti -



Mr Ashok Kumar

Come and look, taste the world...

Dr Joro from Madagascar - Oumoul young woman from Senegal, operated some years ago by Dr. De Geeter in the program "A Beating Heart" himself coming from Strasbourg. We have to say that the costs for the travels of our guests have been graciously sponsored and not taken from the funds given by our donators, their living costs have been covered by their respective programs coordinators.



Dr De Geeter & Oumoul

The evening was also honored by the presence of Mrs. and Mr. Jean d'Agay, nephew of Antoine de St-Exupery and Mrs. Christiane Bollinger wife of our regretted president who founded the Association Terre des Hommes Alsace. The gala started by the singing of our song "Take a child by the hand" created by Yves Duteil who could not be present but sent a message of friendship read by Tony.

...a fairy of soap bubbles which by their short life reminded us of the fragility of children

The evening was punctuated by moving testimonies given by our partners as well as some surprises such as a little shoe cleaner from Brazil to illustrate the work of children, a fairy of soap bubbles which by their short life reminded us of the fragility of children. Magnificent dragons swayed over our heads to illustrate the year of the Dragon, gracious dances from Vietnam and more wild ones from Brazil punctuated by African percussions, all have enchanted the public.



Duy & Tim Aline



Mr Jean d'Agay

The raffle for example which the prize was a stay of a week in a residence of the South of France and sponsored by a donator, the arrival in rickshaw of our Indian partner and the interview of Oumoul face to face with the surgeon who saved her life.... And in conclusion how can we forget in France or in the world all those who still need us.

Thanks to all the people present for these moments of sharing, Thanks to Nadine Gradoux-Pigeot, our presenter for her investment and her contribution to the success of that evening and also Thanks to all, present or absent for their help and their company on the path of solidarity. Let us be reminded of that citation by Edmond Kaiser: "Each child is unique and irreplaceable and when his path crosses ours..."

Hubert Haller

Thanks to all the people present for these moments of sharing !



14th SOLIDARITY HIKE



*September 23rd
Muespach-le-haut*

*Our 40th Anniversary
Hike in favor of
Madagascar has been
a great success!*

456 hikers, 347 meals, 42 volunteers, the raffle of the youngsters, the handiwork stall with items from Madagascar, the sponsorship of the Town Council of Muespach le Haut and the neighbouring Councils, lovely weather, a convivial atmosphere and a result which corresponds to : 27 000 meals!

No need to say much, except THANKS to all the actors and note the next edition which shall take place on Sunday September 22nd 2013.

Simon Rey

LIMITED HELP, *a little help to go to school.*

The story started in 2011. A young girl from Mongolia, was found at the Foreigners Office at the Mulhouse Station. She did not know what country she was in and was heavily pregnant. She was given a place in a home. Terre des Hommes Alsace rapidly organized clothing for the baby to come and after birth found a pram. The girl was quite happy as she felt now protected. Very quickly she learned French and worked to give her child a future.

When she came of age her situation got very precarious and there was a great risk of her being deported. She was directed to another home and again TDHA could help by providing some china, a microwave oven etc. Then finally good news: a day-care center was found for the child and the young woman had the opportunity to integrate a school. But there was still a problem: she had no money to pay for the necessary school material

*Baby-clothing, some help
for schooling, can change
the future of a family.*

of 150 €. TDHA gave a hand there too through her teacher.

This shows that a little help can do wonders....

Brigitte Flammen

ZOOM ON...

ZOOM ON...



OCTOBER DAYS

The October Days 2012 have been exceptionally good for the participation of Terre des Hommes Alsace.

The October Days 2012 have been exceptionally good for the participation of Terre des Hommes Alsace. Our stall is well situated and has received many visitors. The visitors have come mainly to admire the beautiful FOLLY- FLOWERS. The exhibitors were less numerous, probably due to the crisis and the high cost of the sites. Our stall measures 9 square meters and in spite of a 50 % discount, we still spend each year 780 € for the renting. We try every time to get an additional discount but there is no way.

Nevertheless, it remains a good source of revenue and offers a good image of our Association. We also have a special permit to organize a raffle and are the only ones with that prerogative.

THANKS to all the volunteers who were present during 11 days. Their efforts shall provide 22500 MEALS, which we put together with 2 euros coins.

Brigitte Flammen



in numbers...

11
*days of
présence*

>>

22 500
meals for children

ANGOLA

Sister Hildegarde and Mrs. Yvonne Halm



The two friends in Morschwiller-le-Bas

project...

Sister Hildegarde is well known by the elders from Terre des Hommes Alsace. In fact, that Missionary sister from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Saviour at Oberbronn, is at the origin of the partnership between Angola and Terre des Hommes Alsace. With Mrs. Yvonne Halm, her youth friend from Morschwiller le Bas, they work together since many years to bring help and comfort to the children in Angola.

... hand in hand, from one continent to the other, they have worked to reach the same goal.

I had the great pleasure to meet the 2 friends June last, during a stay of Sister Hildegarde at another friend's place.

They told me of their humanitarian and spiritual commitment, how hand in hand, from one continent to the other, they have worked to reach the same goal. As soon as 1970, Mrs. Halm organized actions such as Solidarity celebrations, raffles, release of balloons, to get sufficient funding to send containers filled with food, clothes and other necessity items to Angola. Mrs. Halm and her troop of volunteers managed to send 25 containers to a country devastated by a war and where only the NGO's were able to help a starving population taken as hostage by the conflict.

After 1985, help took another way. Terre des Hommes Alsace supports financially 2 orphanages: the Abrigo de Infancia at Benguela and the Lar dos Pequinos at Huambo. Sister Hildegarde knows very well those 2 structures as she was the Sister Superior there during many years. She knows also quite a few numbers of missions lost in the bush where the sisters care and educate the lost or abandoned children or children living too far in the bush to be able to go to school daily.

At the end of August, Sister Hildegarde went back to Angola, more precisely to the Ganda Mission to her children.

There are now 60 years that Sister Hildegarde arrived in Angola and her vocation is still the same: help the poorest. Her faith and great humanity have touched me deeply. Her determination also, for she has the project to build a home for girls who have to leave Ganda to go to school in town. We shall see if and how Terre des Hommes Alsace can help her for that purpose.

Danielle Grumet



*By the end of 2010
everything seemed to be perfect for Brazil...*

By the end of 2010 everything seemed to be perfect for Brazil. The country had an economic development with a growth rate of 7.5 % and brilliant prospects. One year later, the growth was falling at half and the country was in front of an economic crisis, very weakened with on top of it an inflation rate which touched mostly the poorest.

During my last visit I noticed very much the inflation while checking the accounts of our partners.

All the figures, the statistics and reports we can read regularly, had no influence on the great injustices and inequalities in that country. When I arrived there, the principal subject in the media was the lawsuit of the greatest political corruption scandal which accused 38 well known personalities. A plague which has lasted already too long.

What shall we tell the children in our projects about all this? Not much, that is why I think that our support is still a capital necessity.

While visiting Salgueiro, in the State of Pernambuco, with Padre Remi, we met and talked with Marcones Liborio de Sà, Mayor of the town who was reelected October 7th for another 4 years mandate. He informed us clearly that he wanted to apply the Federal Law requesting the Municipality to take charge of all



A sincere handshake

children till the age of 6.

What a lovely surprise! The words of a book taken with me (Mass destruction from Jean Ziegler) "When a child

We can then concentrate more on the children and teenagers of the streets. I met a young woman and a young man who came to thank me for having had the luck to be taken in the PROAC program. It was their springboard and they are now teaching Music.

« When a child is suffering from malnutrition, he will never catch up his growth retardation and will stay invalid his whole life. »

The next visit was for the project Lar Da Menina at Belmonte in the South of the Bahia State. The structure is developing new activities. I met a biologist who is a volunteer in the project and trains the girls in the technics of composting and in turn they teach their parents.

is suffering from malnutrition, he will never catch up his growth retardation and will stay invalid his whole life" had been understood and in application by a Government.

Of course I was given a flute concert. I noticed some stress among the girls and discovered that there were

"Salgueiro will be an example, he said, knowing that the law would not be applied in many other cities. I visited the 1st day-nursery built in that optic and I felt the need to do well and I am conscious of my responsibility."

The moral contract was sealed and the handshake was sincere. We have now to prepare the modalities of transferring the Day-Nurseries sponsored by Terre des Hommes Alsace. It will take time, but I know that Padre Remi shall watch each detail and guarantee the best conditions for the children's future.



I shall of course keep you informed on the evolution of the situation but we can be very satisfied by that proposition.

not enough flutes for everyone. The worry was cleared with the help of a donator.



The partners and the children never forget to thank all the actors of the big and beautiful family of Terre des Hommes Alsace

Simon Rey

These smiles are for you, Thank you!



Formation pratique des enseignants

HAITI

Terre des Hommes Alsace schooling programs in Haiti

Lyonel Trouillot an Haitian writer, was saying on the radio this September: "if you wish to help Haiti, the 1st thing you must learn is to listen".

The other one is mainly a person of speech... It is for me unbearable the people who arrive with a program already made, with fixed ideas and who say: "this is what we are going to do". And I feel like asking them "Who did you talk to? Who did you question?"

*"if you wish to help
Haiti, the 1st thing
you must learn is to
listen*

On what do you make your decisions ? "...

It is therefore impossible to "parachute a project key in hand" taken after our European schemes but better to tell a community: "if YOU wish, we shall help you to improve one aspect of your life, it shall be YOUR project and YOU shall be responsible for it".

You need to create the human conditions necessary for the creation and the duration of these activities. The goal of that article shall be to give you an insight in the work of the association Inter'Aid which is the partner of TDH Alsace in Haiti since 15 years. That insight recounts the main steps for the success of the project.



Lyonel Trouillot

A first condition: Motivate the parents

The improvement of the access to primary schooling in the most far and poor zones depends on the mobilization of the parents for the education of their children. The 1st step is a census. If that census does not show a claim from the population, then the project is abandoned. The theoretical duration for supporting the project is 3 years.



Census before a school opening

The effective implication of the community.

A simple wish is not sufficient. The aim is to promote with them, then progressively with all the actors of the school field, (parents, children, teachers, school districts or village, public institutions) contracts of achievements periodically evaluated and renewed with the purpose to increase the welcoming capacities

(ex: building of school classes), improve the training conditions (equipment in furniture and pedagogical material), act on the quality of the teaching (training of teachers). A managing committee is created for each school.

Meeting of parents and local authorities.

The aim of these meetings is the writing of a deed which binds the parents to respect a certain amount of obligations: assiduity of the children, payment of the school fees... The parents who are informed on the importance of the access to education are responsible for its start and its viability. They participate to the purchase of school material for the pupils and the salary of the teachers, the supply of local material for the building of the school... Local elected members and representatives of the Ministry of Education are included in the process.



Meeting with community leaders

Teachers' training meeting



Préparation des cours

Often, everything has to start from scratch: building of the school, training of the teachers. Pedagogical meetings are organized centered on specific themes: use of a dictionary, of maps, preparation of lessons, planning of work... Concrete applications are proposed during lessons in front of a class. The pedagogical feed-back consists in a continuous training.

The material conditions

If that article stresses the primordial implication of the community, there is of course the need to compensate the material shortcomings including the rehabilitation or the building of the school! In this domain too, a professional training happens as well for example in masonry.

My visit to the programs that Terre des Hommes Alsace supports in Haiti with Inter'Aid and the Fondation de France shall be the object of my next article in the next issue of the bulletin; I shall be very watchful to stay the link between the Haitian people and the donors.

Antoine Steib



New school



Professional training - masonry



STEP, Sustainable Tribal Educational Project, one among the projects sponsored by Terre des Hommes Alsace

In the South of India, in Tamil Nadu, more precisely in the district of Tiruvanamalai are the mountains of Jamunamarathur where very poor tribes live in isolated villages. There are no roads, not even a real path to reach these villages. The only possibility is on foot along paths which are dangerous and without any markers.

The people living in those villages have often only the income resulting from growing and harvesting scanty crops on small patches of land. Sometimes they get the chance to work for a few days for a farmer and earn a few rupies. There are food-cards given by the Government which the poorest can use to buy 1st necessity products in State Shops and at a low price. But these shops are often closed and if opened they have hardly any goods. Some of the villagers walk miles in the hope to get some food and find the doors closed. We noticed that during our visit in February.

Because these villages are very isolated, it is difficult for the children to have a normal schooling, or rather said as normal, because the Governmental schools have an uncertain planning and are opened if it suits the teachers. We witnessed that fact: 15 children wearing rags rather than clothes waiting in front of a closed school. They were waiting not so much to learn but mostly for the meal provided by the Government (midday-lunch). It is supposed to motivate them to go to school rather than go to work.



The population living in those mountains is very poor, uneducated and away from civilization. It is the perfect hunting ground for many unscrupulous traffickers. The children are the main victims of these gangsters, unfortunately.



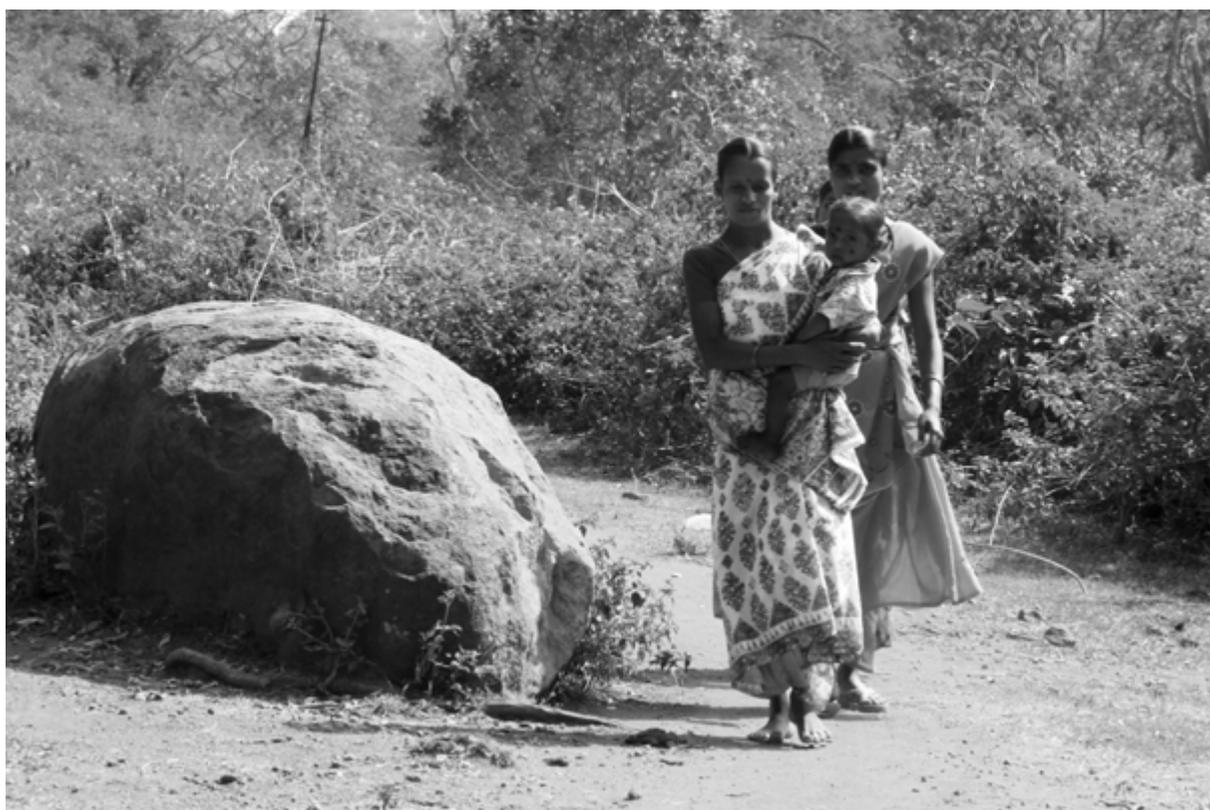
For small sums of money, the traffickers rent or buy a child for 6 months, one year. They take him away in another State if possible, so he will not try to escape. These children work hours on end, without pause, for example in the fields to pollinize the cotton flowers (small hands have to do the job as the bees have disappeared thanks to the “progress of chemistry“, or doing notches on weaving looms to connect the threads, roll incense sticks etc. in the best of the cases

it is only an exploitation by work.

But a girl might risk to be abused sexually in 75 to 80 % of the cases. And some may finish in brothels at the other end of the country as prostitutes. Those will never get a chance to be rescued. We talked to 2 girls rescued by Terre des Hommes Core, our partner in the field. It is amazing that they are not conscious of the harm done to them neither of their rights. They worked 12 to 14 hours in a weaving plant with dozens of other children but were happy to see a movie each evening. The sexual abuses are included in the contract... When the traffickers release the children they give them nice clothes and presents for the family, which is the best

But a girl might risk to be abused sexually in 75 to 80 % of the cases.

publicity they can get. They go away with another load of children.



project...

Terre des Hommes Core is acting in those regions and trying to break that traffic. Rescue those children, bring them back to their families and explain the damage that was done to them, get them in a school, if necessary in a boarding school if the schools are too far away.

High School in St-Louis under the supervision of Mailys Fischer. The proceeds of that event shall help to sustain this project.

Congratulations and Thanks for that action.

Tania Fuchs

The next step will be to fight the harm at its root and create a prevention structure against children trafficking by training, informing all the actors of social life (mayors, women groups and teachers) in the process. Links have to be created with the existing institutions (education, health, transports) and create a global protection of infancy with basic rules.

The next step will be to fight the harm at its root and create a prevention structure against children trafficking

By making the communities assume more responsibility, Terre des Hommes Core hopes to break the chain of trafficking and ignorance and in the long run eradicate this scourge from the mountains.

With your help, Terre des Hommes Alsace can assume that project full of hope.

One must underline and encourage a beautiful initiative: a projection of the documentary movie "Children in slavery" with the presence of the film-director was organized by some students from the



SENEGAL

project...



News from the school canteen in Gamadji Saré

While this bulletin is getting printed, I will be in SENEGAL to evaluate our program of a School Canteen at Gamadji Saré.

The news from Senegal are rather bad, the galloping inflation on basic food causes lots of problems for the Canteen, as our partner in the field Djiby Sarr has to feed over 400 children.

The weather reports were very capricious. After many years with almost no rain, 2012 has been a year with torrential rainfalls in some places. The Capital City Dakar has been flooded.

The geopolitical situation of Senegal is not at its best with the neighbors (Mauritania and Mali) and the local papers are filled with stories of exactions being perpetrated.

But there is also good news. I could fill 2 suitcases with school material of a very good quality. It is mainly for kindergarten children and 1st classes. At the end of the school year, the Principal of



the Kindergarten at Masevaux has contacted Tony Steib to propose books and play-sets which were due to be renewed. We have the luck to be in Senegal in a French-speaking school and Tony straightaway had thought of the little Senegalese children.

During that visit, I will take pictures of the distribution of the presents and shall send some to the Principal at Masevaux as a matter of thanks for that donation which is going to bring happiness to the pupils and the teachers.

Jacky Flammen



MADAGASCAR



A summer rich in events for Madagascar

In June we welcomed Dr. Joro, our partner of the Pediatric - Hospital in Madagascar. The main event was the Gala for our 40th Anniversary. Dr. Joro was very touched when our President said that 2012 was the Year for Madagascar with the slogan : "A MAX FOR MADA"

That slogan is since the beginning of 2012 our visiting card for all our manifestations and media interventions. The results, 2 months before year's end is quite encouraging and we hope to be able to respond to the demands of our partners. In September the installation of washbasins was programmed and the building of the covered courtyard finalized.

During his 3 weeks stay, we could show him a certain number of medical or social structures

where our projects are competent. The Institute for Handicapped People at Pfastatt, the Maternal Center at the Ermitage, the St-Andrew Institute impressed our partner. The means displayed in France, which



Dr. Joro

to us seem insufficient left him gaping with wonder and he had the feeling of being on another planet. His words were : "Where is the Magic Stick to transfer all this to Madagascar". Another aspect of his stay was the discovery of the work accomplished by all the volunteers to collect funds. He realized that the land of plenty is like a flower with many thorns.

In July 2 young physiotherapists went to Madagascar to train the teams there. In the program were: respiratory-therapy and the use of a special item to ease the children from the mucus accumulated in their bronchi. A badly cared cold can have dramatic consequences especially on a population weakened by lack of food. It was necessary and not easy to convince the mothers to wash the nose of children... we hope to get shortly statistic results on respiratory diseases at the Pediatric Hospital at Tananarivo and at Fianarantsoa.

Thanks to all the people's good will, they carried back the handicrafts articles which are going to be sold here.

Other good news: our colleagues from Partage & Solidarity who have taken up the sponsorship of the schools and the medicines at Tananarivo.



Thanks to that help we can give a supplementary snack to 120 children as a mean to fight malnutrition.

Brigitte Flammen

Other event: the number of people travelling to Madagascar has increased and this has helped us to convey plenty of material back and forth :

- Medical material thanks to the Association Partage & Solidarity through their President Véronique Absolu and also some stitching thread for Sister Victorine who was delighted to get all the choice of colours which at Madagascar costs a fortune or cannot even be found.
- Warm clothes for the children as the cold period has been very long this year

PERU



Visiting our Peruvian partners...

In our last issue I described our visit to the Orphanage Our Lady of Mercy at Puente Piedra. Now we are going to visit our other Peruvian partner in the Andes cordillera: the Orphanage of the Daughters of Divine Mercy at Abancay.

We needed 16 hours on a bus through high mountains to go there and we decided to do it in 2 steps. Lima-Nazca and: Nazca-Abancay. The 1st step takes about 7 hours following the Pacific coast. While in Nazca we had a look at the famous lines in the desert which can only be seen from the air. Our 2nd leg was very tiring

and the altitude made us very sick. We arrived finally at our destination and were welcomed by Sr. Doris and Mother Lucina the Superior of the orphanage. In the evening, fit again we visited a Center where the mothers meet and learn different activities such as: knitting, weaving, housework etc. Of course we were greeted with songs and dances.

The next day we visited the premises of the Orphanage managed by Mother Lucina, a German nun who cares for order and discipline. We started with the Nursery where babies and children up to 3 years are cared



Knitting



Orphanage : older children section

for. A sister is responsible for that section helped by 2 boarders aged 16 and 18. We followed with the visit of the middle and big sections. There too, everything is perfectly kept and the material conditions seem very good. The Orphanage cares only for girls: 70 of them. Why? Because they are the majority of the abandoned children and the boys are taken by another establishment. We checked also the bookkeeping and the good use of the money sent by Terre des Hommes Alsace: nothing to complain about, all is clear and well kept.



The new bakery

The Mother Superior took us to a place she is very proud of: a small bakery – cake-shop with a sort of adjacent tea-room where people can buy and eat the products. That bakery works thanks to a sister who had a special training and helped by some boarders. Presently the sale and the customer services are done by 2 German girls who are making a training course to learn the language during their studies. That realization which

a 2nd step bring some self-financing which should give some less dependency on help like ours.

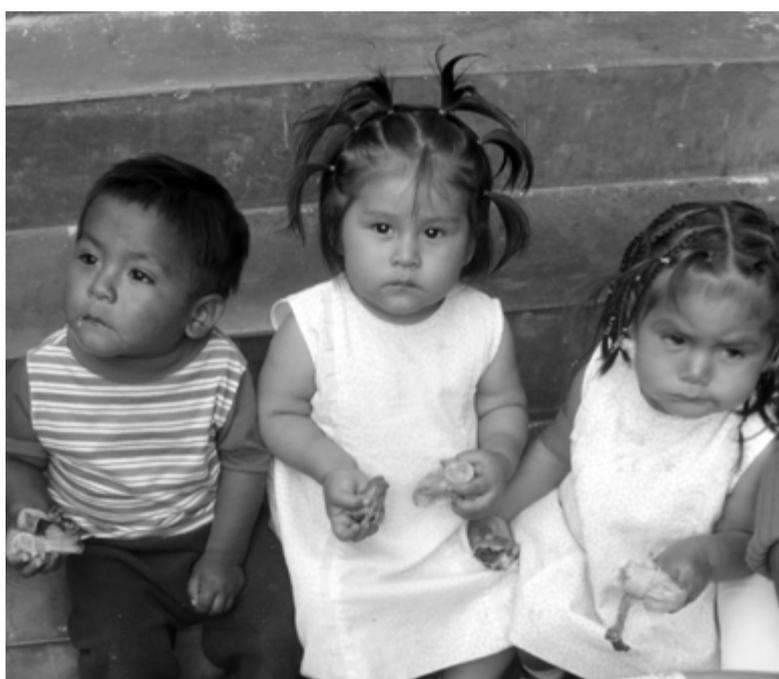
We stayed some more days at Abancay to get used to the altitude (2500 m.) and during our stay the sisters took us to a mountain village where they have started a small canteen for the children. During the trip we went over 4000 m. and it made moving difficult (shortness of breath, headaches) but beautiful landscapes.... the Andean farmers were harvesting potatoes on pieces of land with a slope over 20% and carried them in sacks weighing 50 kg to the road on top of their land. We admired them!

We left Abancay with the knowledge of having seen a place very well kept, with happy children and being able to tell our donators that the money they give regularly is well used for the good of those children

Jean-Jacques Kieffer

The Orphanage cares only for girls (...) Because they are the majority of the abandoned children

seems to function well produces some money which in a 1st step shall be used to pay back the loans and in



re-building our strength



Thuy & Duy in Mulhouse

For the 40th Anniversary of Terre des Hommes Alsace our family welcomed Duy and his wife Thuy both beneficiaries of Maison Chance at Saigon. They used that stay to renew with friends they had made in France, Switzerland and Germany. They are very popular and they have weaved lots of friendly connections.

Despite their handicap, they landed with wheelchair and luggage for a month's tour and spent 2 weeks with us in Alsace.

They were very curious of what they saw from the airport, the countryside, the supermarkets parking lots, the cleanness of the streets, the gardens, the fruits and the flowers.

They were surprised by the nice houses, the cars, the restaurants, well our daily life which we do not register anymore.

The day of their arrival we had to find a grocer, Thuy was distraught not finding all the ingredients used in Asian cooking in our cupboards. She was very surprised by the prices and the cost of living in France. She wanted to open



Thuy picking strawberries



Thuy & her new friends

VIETNAM

Two Vietnamese in Alsace...

the packets with food and buy only small quantities. We learnt to know each other, to know our mutual habits. They tried new dishes, new fruits and wines. We exchanged recipes, learned a few Vietnamese words.

They took pictures of everything.

We went on preparing our activities for the 40th Anniversary. They admired the energy deployed by the volunteers to improve the daily life of the poorest. We took them to the airport for their return trip to Ho Chi Minh and said our good byes!

"Hen gap lai" (see you soon)

Emmanuel Lassiat



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A max for Mada

*Extract from the
Children's Rights
International
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*All children have the same rights,
whatever their origin, the colour of
their skin, their sex...*

*Each child has the right to live , each
child has the right to eat sufficiently,
to have a place to live, to be looked
after when ill.*

*Each child shall have the
opportunity and facility to grow up
in good health, to go to school, to be
educated and grow up into an adult
free and responsible.*



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A max for Mada, I join in

.....€

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