



Photo: Concert-Action/Tony Steib- Haïti 2013



# TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

*Direct assistance to children in need*

# editorial...



I shall not evoke dramatic crises or recurrent problems nor poverty and injustice in the countries where we support projects. Nevertheless the hard facts exist.

I would rather talk about hope and the project "WATER". Hope gives us the strength to fight the injustices done to the children in many countries. Yes, we have many opportunities to cry, to lose heart but we have to go on and show positive energy. You shall find in this issue

some realizations, sometimes small but always necessary which give a better life to distressed children, thanks to your help. We must go on and fight together with our dedicated partners! We are the sentries of hope!

This year, we wish to increase our efforts in all the projects related to water. The right to water is vital as water has a huge place in the daily life of all people as well adults as children. The right to water includes the right to drinking water and the right to suitable means of purification. Water is used for direct consumption, cooking of food and irrigation of agricultural land. Water should be available, attainable, of quality. You can sponsor these projects.

Aqua-filters, economical, efficient and user-friendly are going to be tested in Vietnam and have been distributed at the time you are reading these lines.

*"We realize that what we achieve is only a drop of water in the ocean. But if that drop did not exist in the ocean, it would be missed".*

*Mother Teresa*

You find information about these filters in this issue. We must not forget the education to hygiene which goes together with the quality of water. There is a necessity in education. By allowing access to a water of quality we give not only access to health but also access to a better future and dignity to other human beings.

The financial balance of the tax year 2013 is positive. The members of the Administrative Committee and our partners wish to thank profusely all donators, sponsors, volunteers who were always present when needed.

Let us together fight all the too many injustices in this world.

Simon Rey, Président



TDH Alsace  
3 rue des Prés  
68170 RIXHEIM  
Tél. 03 89 70 17 35  
tdh.alsace@wanadoo.fr

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Simon REY

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**Design and Layout:**  
Géraldine Bastide  
Eric Russ

**Contributors to this issue :**  
Brigitte Flammen  
Jacky Flammen  
Tania Fuchs  
Huber Haller  
Jean-Jacques Kieffer  
Simon Rey  
Gérard Romeder  
Jean-Jacques Sanglier  
Fernand Schneider  
Antoine Steib

**Cover :**  
Photo Concert-Action/  
Tony Steib - Haiti 2013

# Agenda 2014

## Traditional Popular Walk, TdH Alsace

May, 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday°)

The start (7-8 km, Jura circuit) starts at precisely 9.30 am at the *Autruche farm* in Sundgau (Monique and Francis Zundel, Sondersdorf, near Ferette). Lunch together around noon. Non walkers are welcome. Packed lunch. Grills and drink available. The lunch takes place at the *Autruche Farm*. <http://.sundgau.autruche.free.fr>

## Fleat Market

June, 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)  
Bantzenheim

## Park

**La Commanderie,**  
August 31<sup>st</sup>, from 2 to 6pm  
(for a walk and meeting  
with the Administrative  
Comitee)  
La Commanderie, Rixheim

## October Event

Octobre, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>  
Parc-Expo, Mulhouse

## Popular walk Muespach

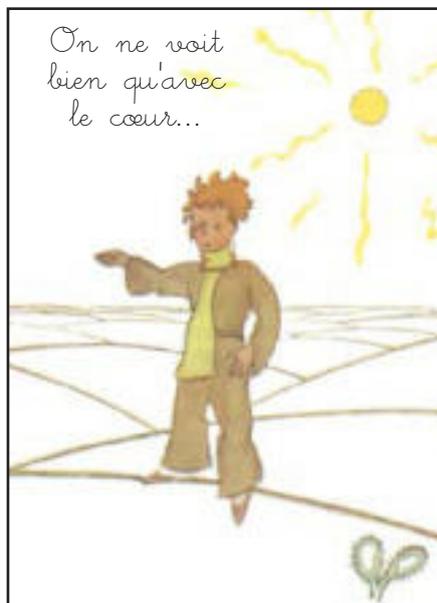
September, 21st (Sunday)  
Muespach-le-haut

## Loto

November, 15th (Saturday)  
8pm  
Muespach-le-haut



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



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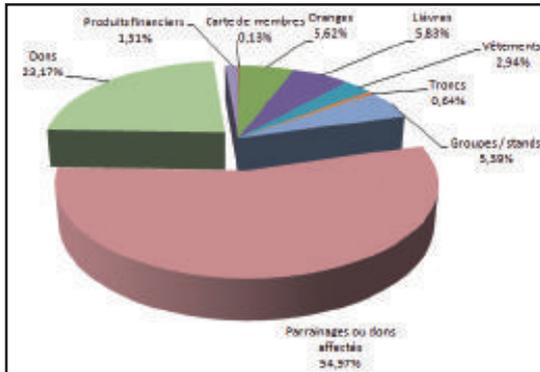
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# Summary

## LET US CHECK THE BOOKS



### Takings 2013: 675 660 €

The 2013 takings have gone up by 5%

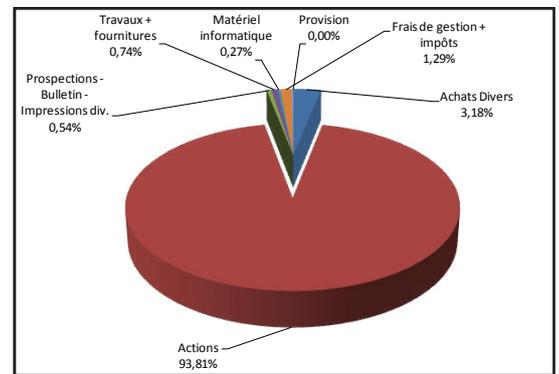
The sponsorships and donations represent 78% of the collected sums (527 981 €). Deduction of a bequest of about 50 000 €, we have to underline the real stability of these takings compared to last year's. The operation "Oranges" reaches 38 000 €. The selling of Easter Bunnies attained a sum of 39 000 €. Our association has been regularly represented by our volunteers and the sales realized at various events (stalls, clothes, collecting boxes) to **totalize many hours and 60 000 € !!!**

### Expenses 2013: 631 607 €

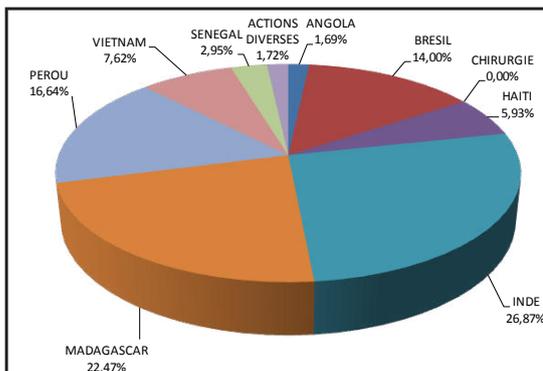
Voluntary help, our remedy against expenses and this since 40 years!

**Running expenses** represent only **1.29%** of the expenses (8 125 €) which allows the association to give priority to the 'actions', help given to the most needy people (592 523 €) = 93.8% of the total expenses.

The running costs represent 31 000 € (6.2% of the expenses, running expenses included).



## HELP given... More than 1600 €/day!!!



### Actions 2013 : 592 523 €

We have sponsored our usual partners and answered without fail to punctual demands, wishing to develop particularly our help in France. A few members of the Managing Committee have done missions overseas during 2013 and did check in the field the good use of the money sent directly on place.

Remember, in 2012, an exceptional help of 10 000 € had been given to each program. In 2013, at a sum of 592 523 €, the budget allocated to the actions went back to normal.

The bookkeeping of Terre des Hommes Alsace, represents:

**10 000** accountancy writings,  
**9 500** unique donations, punctual or on a monthly basis to be allocated to 1900 donators!

An annual review of the accounts sincere and thorough (about 4 hour's work).

I remain at your disposal for any question; the simplified statement of accounts is available on demand.



Emmanuel Lassiât, Trésorier

# PROJECT WATER 2014

Water is the fundament of life. Its lack, responsible of terrible dehydrations and its too frequent insalubrity causes diverse illnesses, mostly diarrheic, is responsible of the deaths of over 1.5 million people per year, three times more than malaria (OMS). Children suffer mostly when the water is unhealthy and the hygienic conditions disastrous. 90% of these deaths concern children under the age of 5. Every 20 seconds a child dies for those reasons. Clean water, not polluted, is a pledge of health and dignity.

TdHa has done quite a few actions for WATER during these last years (see for example at Madagascar). We sponsor an important project for water supply in Haiti. We are going to distribute aqua-filters among some partners. These filters are manufactured by a British non-profit making Humanitarian Association, *The Safe Water Trust* ([www.safewatertrust.com](http://www.safewatertrust.com)). They are economical, easy to use (manual pumping) and maintenance light (keep clean, every now and then rinse with diluted bleach, oil the mechanical part and store away

from strong sunlight). They exist in two versions: one familial, the other for communities. In a 1<sup>st</sup> step one shall be given to a school in a poor suburb of Ho Chi Minh City in a partnership with *“les Enfants du Dragon”* and the other to a group of families in the Mekong delta also in Vietnam, in a partnership with the *Sisters of Providence*. This shall give to children and families drinking water and thus a better life quality. That filter, easily transportable, gives one liter water per minute. These filters are already used by big organizations such as *“Handicap International, Médecins sans Frontières...”* in many countries (Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya...). Terre des Hommes Alsace intends to do an evaluation before programming a bigger project. These first deliveries were done in March 2014 and the required instructions for use were given directly by one of our members.



*Aquafilters The Water Trust © 2014: familial and for communities*

The familial filter costs only 42 euros, without sending costs.

By supporting that project WATER, which is not limited to these filters, you save the health and life of children. They thank you.

*The group WATER*

## Some News about a « Beating Heart »



With my retirement, the program in Strasbourg welcoming children with cardiologic diseases coming from underprivileged countries stopped altogether as it was difficult to organize the logistic when you have no access to the usual care connections.

Huge thanks to all donators, foster-families, sponsors, medical teams, Terre des Hommes Alsace who helped to cure so many children from Africa or elsewhere since 25 years. We have good news from these children now adults or from their families.

To continue in that direction, we are going now to these countries with the hope to cure there and diminish the costs, the limit being the technical equipment as treatments in pediatric cardiology are very technical and rather expensive. In VIETNAM, where we had trained medical teams 10 years ago, the situation is exceptionally good. While staying recently in Ho Chi Minh, Hue and Hanoi where only the “difficult cases” had been left for me (everything went all-right) I noticed that their level of expertise is excellent, reliable in a very satisfactory technical environment. Our help is no more needed, or maybe only punctually or for foetal cardiology which they do not yet know well.

In RWANDA, a mission with AME International, regrouping 10 specialists and dentists, was a success for my fellow-doctors but a flop in my domain. At Kigali, I gave many consultations and courses and was asked for a sponsorship of 8 million euros for the creation of an operating theatre for pediatric cardiologic diseases. ...I never went back... in BURUNDI, a neighboring country, the situation is not any better to develop a local cardio-paediatry, as the hospitals are in a very bad state.

In ALGERIA, under the auspices of the Health Ministry, if the prospects seemed favorable on paper, the reality in the field was very different with difficult technical conditions and contacts uncertain. ...I did not return there either.

It is therefore not easy to export one’s knowledge, skill and good will as the reception on the human and technical level is not always in tune.

### Projets:

- IRAK, Bagdad. It is a huge medico-surgical mission with 8 people going there in February 2014,

# project...



under cover of the Health Ministry and at the University Hospital where 2000 children with cardiac diseases are waiting to be cured.

- TOGO, Lome in April 2014 where pediatric friends are waiting for me since a long time with the cardiologic pediatrician who came to Strasbourg a few years ago. It is a mission of contacts and exploration of the local possibilities of care and teaching.
- MADAGASCAR, personal participation under the impulsion of Brigitte Flammen and in the frame of a multidisciplinary gynecological- pediatric care and teaching with AME International (Dr. Charles Nsengiyumva and his team).

We hope that as in Vietnam, the next missions will be efficient and agreeable for all. And of course, we shall inform you without fail.

Thanks for your help!

*Fernand Schneider*

*Dr. Bernard de Geeter*

We received a proposition from volunteers who wished to develop a new activity at the heart of the Association in the Polyvalent Center at Entremont: **Charity Knitting!**

The results of knitting can be proposed for sales or eventually go to our programs if needed. For example, the Pediatric Hospital at Fianarantsoa needs baby-clothes for premature babies.

To start that activity, we need wool. If you have any wool left, please phone to the secretary of Terre des Hommes Alsace who can tell you where to bring it (containers 11 rue de Petit Landau at Rixheim).



**03 89 70 17 35**  
***Thanks for your help***

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## Wrong or unknown – addresses – E-mail Addresses

You are just discovering news about our programs all over the world in this issue and also news concerning local activities of TDHA. Probably, you received news about the General Assembly, sponsorship and donators, the subscription to our traditional hike of May 8th and more important the tax-return forms.

All these information are obviously very useful even necessary and we hope that we have attracted your attention and responded to your hopes. You must admit it would be a shame not to have them.



We noticed that a big number of mailings are returned to our office due to wrong or incomplete or unknown addresses. We suppose that you do not want to miss any news about our activities, so we advise you to check the legibility

of your letter-boxes and their access. We would really appreciate if you would let us know about your change of address following a move for example.

This information would help to reduce the costs of sending as well as a loss of time searching the Web or the Telephone Directory to try to trace you. We really do not wish to lose any of you.

We would also appreciate if you could give us your E-mail address and thus speed up the communication with sponsors and donators.

We thank you for your comprehension and participation.

*Hubert Haller*

# BRAZIL

## The « COPA » in Brazil, billions of euros - and the mechanical cow!

Following the announcement of the price increase of bus tickets (prices which can easily represent 25% of a minimal monthly wage, presently 250 €), manifestations started over all parts of Brazil. They led into a movement with wider protests criticizing the Government's politics and mainly the costs related to the organization of the World Football Cup 2014. The protesters think that the World Cup is useless and they estimate that the money should be better used for social health or education purposes.

*"It is money thrown down the drain while we are in a catastrophic situation regarding the level of health and education. How can our country grow under these conditions?"*

Question asked by a friend teacher at Recife, in a very risky zone, with over 40 pupils per class. That teacher to be able to lead a normal life, has to have 2 jobs with a 50 hours week.

But our world seems to need such events and we get used to huge figures: 11 billion euros for the Football World Cup 2014 in Brazil, 21 billion in 2018 in Russia, 144 billion in 2022 in Qatar, 37 billion for the Winter Olympic Games at Sochi...

- Is it not normal that people suffering should make themselves heard? As the media denounce the expropriations, the corruption, the numerous attacks against human rights and the huge damages to the environment!
- How long shall we be able to put up with all that? Unfortunately, I do not have any answers to all these questions, instead I propose, for example, to go on and do our best for the mechanical cow to produce soya-milk for the children but also for the elderly who cannot survive on their pension.



- A qui profitent les retombées économiques que génèrent ces manifestations?
- Who profits from the economical spin-offs which these manifestations create?
- How many of these infrastructures will ever be used again?
- Can we caution that and stay insensitive to the misery of the people who are crushed by a few ruthless rulers of this world?

During my last visit I asked if we should stop the production of soya-milk, the answer of the favela "Espírito Santo" at Salgueiro was a very definitive **NO**.

Simon Rey

In our last issue we pointed to an objective slightly different from our usual programs: "the problem of water". Our main goals tend usually to feed, care and educate but we do not underestimate complementary aspects such as adult-training or access to drinking water which shall be developed in 2014.



In Haiti, since 1997, we have sponsored a dispensary, hydraulic programs and punctual actions after the earthquake in 2010.

Presently, it is a huge schooling-program which represents our main implication with the Association Inter-Aide and now the Saint-Exupery Foundation.

## *The Foundation Antoine de Saint-Exupery for Youth A significant help*

In June 2012, M. Jean d'Agay, nephew of Antoine de Saint-Exupery, with his wife, gave us the honor to join us and they marked by their presence the 40th Anniversary of Terre des Hommes Alsace confirming their unfailing sponsorship given to our Association 30 years ago.

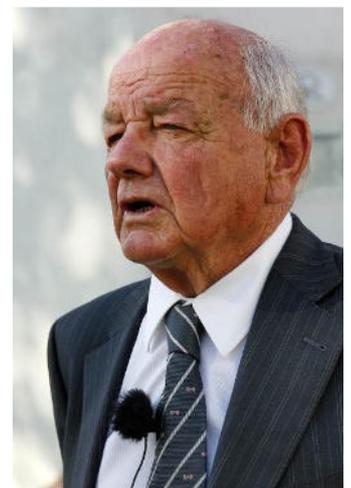
A long time had passed but finding each other again with the same scale of human values was very moving and appreciated by the members of TDH Alsace and their sponsor.

Some days later, Jean d'Agay confirmed his trust and proposed to ask the Foundation Antoine de Saint-

*M. Jean d'Agay*

Exupery for punctual help. The dossier was created and presented as soon as I came back from Haiti at the end of 2012 and was intended to support the schooling in the rural zones of Petit-Goâve.

That help was granted by the Foundation in July 2013, with an annual amount of 15.000 € over 3 years.



## Topicality of our program in Haiti Revival of Elementary Schooling (sections of the Palms and Delatte) Municipality of Petit-Goâve, West Department, Haiti

### *The present situation*

As a recall, the project is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a cycle to support the schools on a 5 year basis. Up till now and following results of assessment organized in June 2013, 33 schools out of 37, go on getting sponsorship. Three schools, with almost no implication in the activities, did not reach the minimal required level to justify a support and one school did not show up for the assessment despite being reminded. We are talking about "help" and not about "charity".

These 33 schools (20 at the Palms and 13 at Delatte) had altogether 4475 pupils, which represent about 135 pupils per school.

### *Assessment of 2013*

These figures cover of course work and strategy well thought of Humanitarian Action, devised together with the beneficiaries. The "small NGO's" such as TDH Alsace in a partnership with Inter-Aide can offer the luxury to give priority to human contact, essential when exercising solidarity. It does not consist only by sending money periodically.



*Traditional school of Fénelon (The Palms)*

Here are resumed, the main activities in that program:

- \* **Training/Structuration:** training of parents about their responsibilities in the schools.  
Directors' Training: Pedagogic training of teachers.
- \* Textbooks, teaching material and furnitures donations, as well as building schools.
- \* **Assessment of the agreement contracts** (see here up).

2014 foresees to continue these goals with 7 building projects.

**Right: the new school of Bellevue, achieved ends of 2013, simple but functional and earthquake safe.**



*Text and pictures: Inter-Aide / Antoine Steib*



35°

# SENEGAL

## NEWS from Gamadji Saré

While writing these lines, our partner in Senegal, Djiby Sarr, is not yet in France. The organization of the visit is not easy and as the date of the voyage nears the stress grows. The request of documents by the French Embassy to obtain the visa is quite complicated, but we do our best to be sure that Djiby will be with us for our General Assembly.

If here in France we worry about the delivery of the visa, Djiby on the other hand worries about the temperature which he is going to find in Alsace. To let you imagine his worries, we shall tell you about the climate in Senegal and the temperatures around Gamadji Saré.

*The climate is tropical. It is characterized by a long dry season from November to June and a wet season from*

*July to October. Nevertheless, the coast (from Saint Louis till the Cap Verde peninsula) gets trade winds during the dry season. The average day temperature is 23.3 °C in January and 28.3 °C in July. In the region of Fouta where the Gamadji Saré school is located, the temperature stays around 30 °C and tops around 45° at the beginning from march.*

The planning of the visit shall be quite dense with projections in schools, sales of easter Bunnies, meetings with volunteers during the General Meeting and a meeting with the Administrative Committee.

When reading that article, Djiby shall have returned to Senegal with, we hope, a clear idea of the work we do here in Alsace. It is crucial for us to visit regularly the programs but it is also important that our partners understand how we work and how we collect the money we send them.

*Jacky Flammen*



# PERU

## Country of contrast and disequilibrium



*Splendor of Peru: the Plaza de Armas at Lima*

At the beginning of 2014, you could read in economical revues snappy reports such as “Peru, new star of the American Continent” thanks to the revenues which the country finds in its agricultural resources (5<sup>th</sup> world producer of coffee, 11<sup>th</sup> producer of cocoa etc...) and from its mineral resources: in the 1<sup>st</sup> ten producer for silver(2<sup>nd</sup>), copper (2<sup>nd</sup>), tin(3<sup>rd</sup>), zinc (3<sup>rd</sup>), lead(4<sup>th</sup>), gold(6<sup>th</sup>). These resources allow the country to have a trading excess of over 7 billion \$ and the projections in the future foresee over 50 billion \$ investments in projects being in nearly stages or in realization.

Seeing these facts, we could say: “all is well, what is the use of our help?”

Unfortunately and as often, that godsend is not used to relieve the poverty of the people. Some figures to illustrate:

- ¼ of Peruvians have no drinking water
- The national rate of poverty culminates over 30% but in rural zones it is over 60%
- 7 people out of 10 have no permanent job

No wonder then about the migratory influx (volunteer or forced) from the countryside and increasing the shanty-towns around big towns and thus contributing to increase the poverty of people.

In his annual report, Father Geremias, in charge of the four Lima Canteens, tells us about the difficult situation,

sometimes even dramatic, of these displaced families, where the help of the Government arrives sporadically or not at all and where the actions of Humanitarian Associations such as TdHA is vital. Thanks to your generosity and the actions of volunteers in the field, many children survive malnutrition and illness.

### Project Water

As written in other pages, sensitivity and concrete actions among our partners have been programmed and concern drinking water.

In that view, the orphanage of Misericordia asks for a help to clean their water tower and the purification of their used water: costs of the project: 1000 €. The Administrative Committee has just given its agreement for the financing.

*Jean-Jacques Kieffer*



*Poverty in Peru: a shop in a shanty-town of Lima*

# MADAGASCAR



The Great Isle has a new president: Hery Rajaonarimampianina. After 4 years of turbulences, that election brings new hopes to the population.

The work is huge and a great will shall be needed to improve the living conditions of the poorest.

The site of health shall pass necessarily by the treatment of malnutrition. The causes of that plague are multiple: natural disasters, conflicts, epidemics or poverty. But solutions exist and we hope that the new Government will take the measure of the problem and envisages solutions. Another issue is security which is problematic. Here is the conclusion of an article in a local paper: "the population wishes the miracle of a State's Chief capable to put order in that chaotic environment dominated by an institutional disorder".

Let us go back to our mission in 2013. I would like to share some small events of that mission.

The goal of the visits is to evaluate and control the

use of the money sent by TDHA. This goes of course through a financial audit but also by sharing the daily life of our partners. Our help will be more efficient, if it is thought through beforehand by the people who are in the field. With each visit we measure better and better all the stakes of our partnership.

Making such visits with additional persons allows crossing our eyes and impressions with the purpose to improve our help.

In 2013, I was accompanied by 3 friends who could use their competency for the greatest pleasure of the children; Christelle Lassiart is educator for young children and came already a few times to Madagascar. She explained to the team of the PMI at Tana the use to make early-learning activities for the children, develop their capacities and facilitate their access to school. The real change will go through knowledge; we noted that mothers who are mostly illiterate cannot direct the future of their children. For health, that lack of knowledge puts the children in great danger, the mothers are too much lost when seeing signs of illness and they react often too late.





**Marie-Laure HUMMEL** who cared for the children in the scope of the surgery program and who knows TDHA well is also a big traveler. As Corinne, she has discovered Madagascar and has been able to make many observations on the meals and their distributions. She played a lot with the children and she wished to build a small playground for the little ones with always the idea to experiment to learn.

During our stay, we did quite a lot of kilometers to visit all the programs and share the daily life of our partners. At the Pediatric Hospital of Fianarantsoa, Christelle and Corinne organized an animation "Soap bubbles". The sick children, their parents and the medical team joined in. You do not have to know the language, playing is universal and you follow on the children's faces the pleasure they get.

**Corinne SCHERER** who is a nurse has been able to follow the work of the doctors and of the pediatric nurse. Here are her impressions:

*"The rooms are timeworn even unhealthy. Roof damaged, walls and furniture worn.*

*And nevertheless, what a motivated team! Of course they would like to get better working conditions, better results but they make do and look to the future. Philosophes with empty hands!*

*I dream for them! Of a bigger working space, nicer with zones of internal games (playing carpets, shelves, mobiles and decorations made, exposed and admired by the children) and outside swings, sandpits, balloons). Why not create a garden, keeping hens?*

*A building with clear examination rooms allowing the patients to come in turns and the basic hygienic rules can be observed.*

*A bigger kitchen better equipped and more ergonomic with a storage area nearby allowing the kitchen people (2 small and frail women) not to have to carry 15kg loads of rice over 100 meters each day".*



Brigitte Flammen





May be you remember the gift given to the children and the Sisters of Lar dos Pequenos in 2012: donation of a field with a surface of more than 100 acres by a dentist in Huambo.

The Sisters have used the godsend of the 10.000 € given to each program following the 40th Anniversary of Terre des Hommes Alsace, to install a water-pump and so use the water of the river to irrigate the field.

They did also build a dam as you can see on the picture.

Sister Emilia, the Mother Superior, who sent these pictures told me that fruit, vegetables, potatoes and corn are growing and that the harvest has been very good and the children make good use of the production. Unfortunately the rain very heavy has caused some damages.

You shall get more news in the next issue after my visit to Angola, October next.

I shall bring news and pictures.

*Danielle Grumet*



# VIETNAM

## Thuy, a new partner in Vietnam

# project...



We wish to honor Thuy and the action she is conducting in the region of Can Tho. Can Tho is the biggest town in the Mekong Delta and the county town of the province. University town of the Delta and important crossroad junction, Can Tho is experiencing now an important economic expansion as well as a big touristic development. A flotilla of pirogues and sampans loaded with fruit and vegetables animates daily the very well - known floating market.

Thuy works as a teacher at the Can Tho High School, after studying Physics and Chemistry( especially in France and she speaks a very good French). Since a few years she uses her free time for the cause of the poorest. Marc de Mynck (Les Enfants du Dragon) our correspondent with whom we develop our project on Water, has told us of her actions and of her problems to find financial support.

We met Thuy during our last visit to Vietnam and we helped her punctually. In 2013, we wished to increase and consolidate our support so the AC decided to allocate her an annual budget of 3000 €. That news was welcomed.

Since then, she is visiting villages to distribute help when needed. Unfortunately, there are a lot of particular situations in that province counting 1.000.000 inhabitants. Her visits detect tragic familiar situations and she reacts consequently (financial help to families, help to students in towns, rice, clothes and school uniforms). She sends regularly reports with pictures and thanks from the beneficiaries. We share with you these pictures, testimony of her mission and of her energy.

*Emmanuel Lassiat*



## Evaluation mission in India, November 2013



The team was composed this time of 4 people: Danielle Grumet who joined me for my previous visit, Simon Rey whose last visit happened the year of the Tsunami, Gérard Romeder who had been across India many times but who was doing it in the frame of a humanitarian mission for the 1<sup>st</sup> time and me. Three members of the Administrative Committee and a newcomer: Gérard who was going to look after the programs in the North of India: Howrah South Point (HSP) and Park Circus.

Gérard is reporting his impressions and feelings collected during this visit:

Our trip started at Calcutta, an unclassifiable metropolis, fascinating and troubling by its contrasts. Calcutta shows an unquestionable richness and is since a long time the cradle of the Indian intelligentsia as well as the omnipresence of poverty and shanty-towns. Let us not forget that Calcutta has absorbed, from one day to the other, millions of persons coming from Bengal after the partition of the British Empire in 1947 and since then, its population has gone on increasing steadily after a rural migration coming mostly from the neighbor State of Bihar. Those people were attracted by the dream of a better life. Up till now, Calcutta, Howrah on the other

side of the river Hooghly, and the other suburbs count over 13 million inhabitants with a population density of 24760 persons per square kilometer, the highest density in India.

In that context, Howrah South Point (HSP), is our historical partner. With a budget nearing almost 1 million euros in 2013 (source: Annual report 2012-2013) HSP is active in the caring and rehabilitation of mentally and physically handicapped children, the education of socially underprivileged children and the medical monitoring and the distribution of basic food to young



mothers in the shanty-towns ( Mother and Child Health Program). HSP looks also after workshops producing batiks, which are sold during Christmas times.

With a budget of 42.000 € in 2013, the contribution of TdHA may seem desultory but TdHA is since many years a truthful partner for HSP and what we have seen and lived during that visit reinforces us in that choice. TDHA sponsors at Calcutta the program "Mother and Child Health" centered mostly on the 4 shanty-towns and concerns 875 families. Promiscuity, environmental pollution, the lack of sanitary facilities and often the lack of dwells and drinking water as well as malnutrition are the main causes of diarrheas, anaemias, pneumonias and other chronic illnesses which are fatal to babies and young children. Social workers visit these families on a regular basis, teach them a basic sanitary education, control the health and vaccination books and give food relief (rice, lentils, oil and salt). A new challenge for this program is the galloping inflation these last months with an increase of vital products prices such as rice, lentils, cooking oil, salt and potatoes. The only income of these families is a daily salary of 200 rupees (less than 2 €) and which is often very uncertain. As a comparison, November last, the price of 1kg of rice was 30 rupees, 1kg of lentils 60



rupees, 1kg of potatoes 25 rupees, apples or chicken 150 rupees, fish at 250 rupees being a luxury.

Moreover, the food relief given up to now by another association will not be maintained and HSP has to find new sponsors. The task is huge and we are conscious that this program is a very small step but after seeing all these very young mothers attentive and sensitive to the advices and sometimes reprimands given by the social workers, we are convinced that this little step is going in the right direction.

We are leaving Calcutta for Jalpaiguri located about 500 km North, in the middle of tea plantations and facing the Himalaya Barrier. HSP has built a haven of peace for mentally and physically handicapped children and TDHA is an active partner in that project. We were particularly impressed by a simple plastering technic which allows in a few months to correct a club foot in young children. To complement the article already published by Tania in the last issue, we must emphasize rising prices of vital food products. To top it the number of gas bottles for cooking is reduced to a quota of 9 per year, which explains also the bad state of the trees in the neighborhood, as people go back to cooking with wood. We were also very moved when on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, birthday of Gerard (Dadu = grandfather) we were invited to dances, songs, cakes and presents among them a beautiful cloth covered with prints of little hands.



# project...



HSP started in 1976 and thanks to a motivated team transforms each day our material contribution into happiness. We congratulate them for receiving December last from the Government a certificate of gratitude for their work in favor of handicapped people (Award for the Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrie – Free Environment for the Persons with Disabilities).

Daliya manager of the Jalpaiguri Center is very dedicated. She is present from morning to evening 7 days a week and has achieved a course in psychology while

caring for her son, a happy teenager. She should now do a training in a specialized center for a few months to validate her exam but it is difficult for her to leave Nirmala Nivas even for a short time.

Now we go south to Tiruvannamalai at the South of Chennai in the State of Tamil Nadu where our partner TdH Core is established. Tiru is a great center of Hinduism and it is well seen to climb the sacred mountain or to go around between meditations in Ashrams. We have a heavy program of visits.



TdH Core is managed like a firm by R. Chezhan with a lot of programs which form a coherent whole based on rehabilitation of handicapped children, development and education of young children, often girls, sometimes orphaned or abandoned, abused, some with physical damage or with AIDS, fight against traffic and children's work, schooling and education of distressed children. We spent, of course quite a long time in the programs we sponsor but we visited also other programs to understand the extent of the work done. If you except historical donators such as TDHA or the MDM Foundation, Chezhan is looking every day to find new local money sources which can represent 20% of the budget. TdH Core is not lacking good ideas, for example the installation of a basket field (we missed the inauguration by a few days), the fitting of a wheelchair permitting to play football, the building of a new center Maya II (for young children with AIDS) in a very modern design and sponsored by an Italian architect. The only bad mark in Tamil Nadu is the absence of electricity till 5 pm. TdH Core has already installed an eco-friendly generator and an estimate for more of them has been prepared. TDH has been a partner from start and we shall be proud to celebrate the 20th Anniversary this Autumn.



# project...



# project...



As well at HSP as at TdH Core, we have been impressed by the dedication of these people men and women who set the happiness of children higher than any material or financial considerations. We also checked the book-keeping of our 2 partners and found no problem. HSP might be in a transition period as Father Laborde's health is deteriorating, but there will be someone to follow.

We went back home, the four of us, with the certitude that without these two partners, the euros we collect day in day out, would not have great value.

*Gérard Romeder et Tania Fuchs*



*Share your happiness,  
sponsor a child!*



TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE  
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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How to help us ?

# Water, source of life

Water can also be a source of death for a part of the population. The year 2014 shall be for Terre des Hommes Alsace the year of the water. **Sponsor our projects!**



At Madagascar to wash, to cook etc...you have to walk to the fountains and fill buckets with the precious liquid.

That situation is usual and many Malagasies are making do with that solution which is not for free even if it represents only a few euros per month but is often too expensive for most of them. The sanitarian risk is enormous

In Brazil, the dryness is a plague unfortunately too often present in the Nordeste. The populations suffer and the consequence of that dryness is poverty.  
  
We participate in the building of dams (about 5000 € / dam = water for 50 families living in rural zones), even if we are dependent on rainfalls.



In Vietnam, access to drinking water is also very difficult in the Mekong Delta. Using the Mekong water causes severe pathologies.

The main cause of infantile death in the Delta is and stays diarrhea because people living near the river drink its water. In 2013, we fitted 23 water-pumps in the Khmer quarters in South Vietnam



**TERRE DES HOMMES ALSACE**  
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

### I wish to sponsor the project "Water 2014"

- I give 30 €
- I give 50 €
- I give 150 €

I send a donation of .....€

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