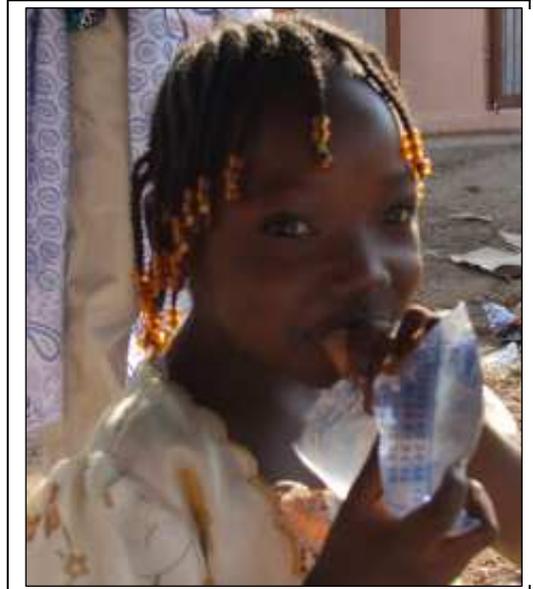
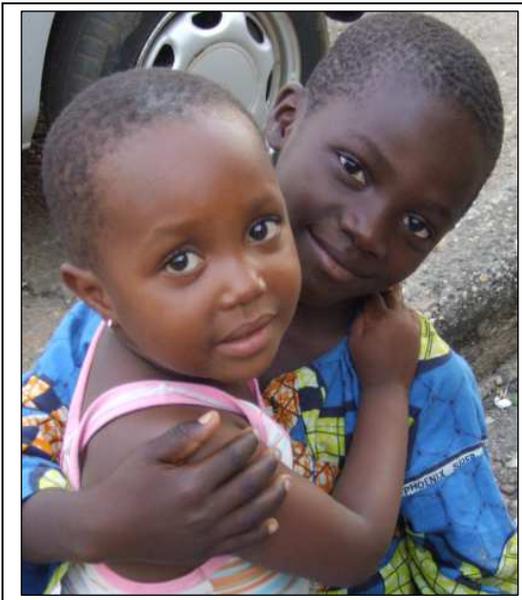


THE FRIENDLY HAVEN

Annual Report

Sept. 2012 - Dec. 2013

www.maison-des-amis.org



Introduction

1. The Friendly Haven and its partners

2. Our programs in Togo :

A/ Orphanage and day care centre *The Hope Foster Home*

B/ Orphan children sponsorship

C/ IGA program for widowed mothers

D/ A commitment to nonviolence

3. Our programs in DR Congo :

A/ Fighting against sexual abuse and for education

B/ Supporting refugees

4. Future perspectives

A/ Continuation of our projects in Togo : towards autonomy

B/ Continuation of our projects in Congo

C/ New perspectives : a partnership in Cameroon

5. Conclusion

Appendix : Financial report

Introduction

This year 2013 has been a decisive step for our NGO created in 2008. It was marked by the realisation of one of our main projects: the creation of the orphanage “**The Hope Foster Home**” in **Togo**. This achievement strongly motivates us to continue and deepen our projects, so that they can be sustainable and enable our beneficiaries a total autonomy.

This year was also important for our team. **We went to Togo twice in order to supervise the progression of the construction of the orphanage as well as our other projects.** This work was accomplished hand in hand with our local partners whose serious and reliable work we praise.

2013 has been the year for our dreams to come true and it is **now the beginning of new ambitious challenges : to find funds in order to finance the operating costs of the orphanage so that it can be financially independent as soon as possible. Last but not least, we need funds to achieve and deepen our other projects with conviction.**

As a guide, this annual report corresponds to a 16 month period from September 1st, 2012 to December 31st, 2013. We used to write a report from September to September (corresponding to the school year) but this time, with the end of the construction of the orphanage, we wanted our annual and financial report to be a whole coherent document, marked by the launching of our orphanage.

1. The Friendly Haven and its partners

The Friendly Haven remains true to itself : an organization created 5 years ago and only composed of volunteers serving local initiatives dedicated to children, within the framework of a North/South partnership.

Our local partners form our fundamental pillars, because we only support projects that are originated from a local initiative. From our point of view, the seriousness and the reliability of our partners are a crucial key : that is the reason why we carefully pay attention to standards of rigour and incorruptibility in order to ensure our sponsors with a strong trust. Our partners have been credited by renown authorities, such as the IFOR France (International Fellowship of Reconciliation) and The Non-Violence XXI Foundation.

In Togo, our most faithful partner is the R.A.G.C. organisation (Reflexion and Action Group for Cohesion). Indeed we are deeply grateful for its remarkable voluntary work for the creation of the orphanage. In addition, we must also mention the **Akaralé** organization that is committed to helping children suffering from HIV/AIDS and the **CRAPEF** organization (Reflection and Action Circle for the Emancipation of Women). The CREJe organization (Circle of Reflexion and Action for the Emergence of Young people) left our common program after a leadership disagreement in which we cannot invest more time and energy than we already did, in spite of numerous reconciliation attempts. Nevertheless, we will still help the children who were sponsored via the CREJe organization because the well-being of children represents our core priority.

In Congo, we are still very close to the following organizations : Friends of Sister Deborah, UCPDHO and SVH who are all fighting for peace, nonviolence, and against any type of sexual abuse.

If you need any further information about our partners, don't hesitate to look at the Partners/partenaires page (in the "WE"/Nous menu) of our website www.maison-des-amis.org.

From a financial point of view, **our partners are our sponsors and donors**, they are about a hundred from all around the world. We are also trusted by several companies, banks and investment companies from diverse nationalities. In return, some want to remain anonymous in order to avoid any excessive solicitation from other organizations. We of course respect their wish. **We sincerely thank all the persons and companies who gave us funds but also time, so that our projects can come true and so that lives can be enlightened forever.**

2. Our programs in Togo :

A/ Orphanage and day care centre "The Hope Foster Home"

Let's start with a guided tour around the place :



Paillote Central house and dormitories (above), playing room/library and playground



Opened on December 6th, 2013, after a wonderful official inaugural ceremony, the orphanage and day care centre "the Hope Foster Home" is our most significant fulfilment up to now.

It is made of a 100m² central house, two dormitories (boys/girls), a playroom and a well supplied library (thanks to our sponsors!), a playground, a kitchen, a canteen, a food reserve room, an office for the head office staff, a meeting room, bedrooms for the instructors, the manager and also for the guards. Let's underline that the orphanage has **two water wells** and **a vast land measuring 25 acres** on which we've already started to grow palm trees and "tooth-pick" trees (a special tree whose wood is used to make tooth picks in Africa).

It is a true haven, both close to the city of Atakpamé and in the very heart of nature, served by a 50 seats bus bought in December 2013, ready to take the kids to their different schools. **Nowadays, «The Hope Foster Home » permanently welcomes 30 kids, but can host up to 40 children when needed.** Those children are chosen according to the following criteria : loss of both parents, very low life standards, psychological traumas requiring the help of our instructors

and psychologists. The kids are not facing a delinquency situation (*we made this choice in order to preserve the peace of the place ; however we are able to offer a host family to such kids*).

Moreover, we have a hosting capacity enabling us to welcome 20 kids in the day care centre so that they can come and wash, dress, study, eat and play. They can also be taken care of by our instructors.

The staff of the orphanage, chosen according to criteria of professionalism and integrity, will be accommodated and paid : it is the first time for us that we evolve from a voluntary to a salaried status. Our staff is 100% African in order to support the local employment. We can now count on a director trained in France, 2 instructors, one part-time psychologist, two cooks, one bus driver and two guards.

We invite all the members of The Friendly Haven from all around the world to come and develop projects with the children in the orphanage : we can provide you with accommodation and welcome you with seriousness and kindness!



The inauguration ceremony

On this occasion we had the privilege to be broadcasted on the national TV of Togo and on the radio (go and see the films on www.maison-des-amis.org, section: “ Film and photos”).

B/ Orphan children sponsorship

From the beginning, the priority of our NGO has been the sponsorship of orphan children. Presently, we sponsor 332 children. About a hundred of them are registered to a full sponsorship (living in foster family/ school equipment, schooling fees, health, food, clothes, educational and psychological support all provided). The others are sponsored to different levels according to their situation. The orphanage does not aim to replace the sponsorship programme but to complete it, in order to provide a global support structure to kids in severe distress.

Our support program for widowed mothers (see below) is arousing our optimism : indeed several of them act as foster families for sponsored children. Their improving economical situation enables them to provide for the children by themselves, which fulfils our wish : make the beneficiaries of our projects perfectly autonomous, responsible and proud of their achievements.

C/ IGA (Income Generating Activities) Program for widowed mothers

During our mission in Togo **in February 2013, we had noticed how alarming was the situation of the 100 widows registered to our IGA program (Income Generating Activities)**, launched in 2009. Indeed, we did not have enough funds to provide sufficient help and respond to the needs. Moreover the majority of these women, who had lost their husbands at war or due

to AIDS, were also suffering from severe psychological traumas and additionally infected with HIV.

However, when we came back in **March 2013**, thanks to the support of one of our most faithful sponsor - to whom we once more send all our gratitude - the program could really come to life. Consequently, we have been able to support 10 groups, each made of 10 widows, according to their profession : loin clothes sellers, broom sellers, dressmakers, yam, soya, millet, manioc, palm oil, wood and coal sellers.



A glimpse at their activities: Sewers and yam sellers

The Friendly Haven commitment is to unite them, finance the launching of their activities so they may become autonomous, feed their children and recover their self-confidence.

When we came back to Togo in December 2013, the widows had made tremendous changes : they were happy, smiling and confident, proud to show us the results of their work, on the way to a psychological healing.

D/ A commitment to non-violence

Once more, this is a top priority commitment for The Friendly Haven, consisting of :

- **spreading the non-violence culture in a country that has gone through civil war in 2005** (barely related by the medias) : by celebrating the Peace Days, promoting interreligious and interethnic communication, as well as creating peace supporters groups in schools, and maintaining our plea for special teaching times dedicated to peace at school.

- **Giving our sponsored children a completely non-violent education, free from physical violence as well as moral and psychological ones**, welcoming and loving all children without distinction, supporting them with careful listening and empathy towards a full psychological healing.

- **Following the motto of our spiritual master, famous peace contributor Jean Goss : "Servir et non se servir " which means "Serve others before yourself".**

For five years, we've followed this motto by being all volunteers, working for free, and the amazing results stimulate us to keep the same spirit in the future.

3. Our programs in DR Congo

A/ Fighting against sexual abuses and for education

Since its creation in 2008, The Friendly Haven has been supporting peace initiatives in DR Congo, especially those fighting sexual abuse in the east of the country (in North and South Kivu). Rape is still being used as a massive weapon in the civil war that devastates eastern Congo. That's why we organized special training for women to help them unite and protect themselves, as well as medical and school support for young victims of sexual abuses. We also started a plea for the evolution of traditions (fighting against excision and vagina enlargement, painful and hazardous customs).

In 2013, the funding for this absolutely critical program is still very low, therefore we could only offer limited support for a few young victims.

In 2014, we hope our program will grow stronger, with the help of our donors, and that we'll be able to bring a more significant contribution, for Congo's women and children to live in peace.



B/ Supporting refugees

For four years, The Friendly Haven has been committed to supporting Human Rights defenders in Congo, especially those belonging to our NGO partners. For they have denounced corruption and violence amongst the rulers of the country, some of them endure persecutions and in some extreme cases threats, intimidation, or even torture and murder, including acts of aggression against family members.

One of our partner had to escape from the country in 2009 for this reason. He's now living in Turkey. After many efforts, he obtained the official refugee status by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but could not have the authorization to live in Europe, Canada or United States, as he hoped for. We still take great care of his case.

4. Future perspectives

A/ Deepening of our projects in Togo : towards autonomy

All our programs in Togo share the same goal : to make these achievements sustainable, financially independent and efficient on a long term perspective. Here are our priorities for the year 2014:

- **To run the orphanage smoothly on a daily basis, with operating costs including food, health, staff wages** (*please find details in the financial report*)
- Within the framework of the **widowed mothers IGA program**, we wish to purchase a **truck to relieve the women from the transportation costs** that impact their economic activities. Indeed, a lot of women have to go to remote places in the countryside in order to buy basic goods, that they retail afterwards on the market. Their profit is lessened by these high costs. **The purchase of this truck would allow them to become 100% autonomous !**
- **To launch our animal breeding and farming project on the land of the orphanage in order to insure its self food subsistence and to sell the products we will harvest.** This program will also be useful to train our young residents in farming practices. In addition, we will use this program as a pedagogical farm to help our children in their healing process. **This project is crucial for a quick empowerment of « The Hope Foster Home ».**
- **To end the construction of the inn/hotel/conference center, located just next to our orphanage.** This project was part of the picture since the beginning, that's why we started building the inn at the same time we built the orphanage. **The inn will indeed help to raise funds to make the orphanage financially autonomous.** In Togo, there is a high demand for such accommodations : local tourists, members of the government and groups of priests will come, gather and relax in a beautiful natural environment like the one we offer. The result of our market study on this project is very positive. When we'll find fundings, the whole program launched in Togo in 2008 will be completed and will stand on its own two feet.

B/ Continuation of the projects in Congo

As we mentioned in the previous section, we would be happy to broaden the scope of the programs in Congo in particular to **the fight against any type of sexual abuses: offering a support to the victims on a physical and psychological level, prevention campaigns, support to the mobile courts that sue the aggressors.**

We also want to ensure a better **help to the numerous defenders of Human rights in Congo** whose lives are at risk and continue to follow those who were forced to leave the country and are now fighting to obtain a refugee status.

C/ New perspectives : a partnership in Cameroon

On a longer run, we plan a partnership with a NGO from Cameroon that is committed to preserving peace, especially through education.

This NGO was praised by our international partners for its programs favouring “peace clubs” for students and citizenship trainings programs that seem really promising.

5. Conclusion

Since our creation five years ago, 2014 comes with our most significant achievements thanks to the inauguration of our orphanage and the widowed mothers’ program. However, this also implies new responsibilities : on the one hand we need to ensure the operating costs of the orphanage and on the other hand, we have to make it financially sustainable and independent.

As mentioned in the financial report, we risk a short term lack of funds for the smooth running of the orphanage, not to mention the financing of the other projects (animal breeding and farming project, inn/hotel/conference center). The situation is really urgent by now.

We are grateful to all the persons who are supporting us,

Thank you so much for continuing to stand by us and for helping us to change these lives with you...

The one who saves one life saves the entire world.

Quotation from the Talmud