

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Senegal



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Letter from the Editor

Here comes February with great sunshine of changes and sometimes a fresh air that tends to make us put some jacket on. Nonetheless as you already know, nothing prevents our great volunteers from giving up their love, their knowledge and their time no matter where they are.

We will start this edition off with a food story and an Italian corner in the life of the beneficiaries of the Microfinance project. Indeed, the pizza night became a tradition for the Microfinance volunteers as it is a good way to gather people around and make profits to launch their business.

Change is always in our life; at least it should be around because it guarantees improvements, this being a sure reason why the ASF Care Centre now has a new coordinator at its head. Read more about Amina's prospects as the new coordinator of the centre.

Have you already crossed the sight of one of the talibes in Senegal? Their eyes seem to tell a story and it remains with you long after your stay. It probably explains why lots of volunteers want to keep on helping even after they leave. Read about the great donations sent to the Talibes Children that come to the ASF Care Centre to benefit from the assistance and care of the Projects-Abroad volunteers.

Have a good read!



We would like to invite you to find our Official Facebook Group by searching Projects-Abroad Senegal – The Official Group. Also, if you would like, add us as a friend so that we can be in touch before, during and after your trip to Senegal.

My Facebook name is Arame Projects Abroad. Or if you are a Twitter fan, you can also follow the latest news here, our name is Proj Abroad SN.

Best wishes from Senegal.

Arame

Pizza Night at the Microfinance Office



On Thursday, 15th of January; the Microfinance team organized a Pizza night at the Projects Abroad Centre located in the HLM area. The meeting point was across the bridge at 8:40 pm.

All the volunteers were invited to join the event. The beneficiaries specializing in restoration prepared some good pizzas that they sent at 1,000 francs a piece. The beneficiaries also proposed cans of soda; those were sold for 500 francs a piece.

All the volunteers had a great time and appreciated the moment!

Thank you to Kina and Helge, one of the first volunteers of the Microfinance volunteers who greatly contributed to launch the project and who visited the project during their second travel to Saint-Louis.

Many thanks also to:

- Ousmane (Coordinator of the Microfinance office),
- The microfinance volunteers Remko from the Netherlands; Gloria Iliu from Switherland; Ben from the United Kingdom and Kathryn from the United States.

Special thanks to the ben, especially Zacharia to whom all the money collected was donated.



Care update: New Coordinator at the ASF Care Centre



Aminata Niang, nurse at the ASF Care centre, is now the new supervisor of the Care centre. Ami, as she is usually called by the volunteers, is full of new ideas and ready to receive lots of advice from volunteers.

After one month as the Coordinator of the centre, she took the time to take a seat and shares her first impressions with us:

Ami has already implemented many changes in the centre in its different sections.

In the Healthcare section they have started to:

-Better report of their actions and outreaches in order to better the situation of the talibes (street children). The volunteers in the healthcare section take care of the talibes and clean their wounds at the centre, as well as at the Daaras. The Daaras are the places where the talibes live and learn the Quran. "The reports allow a clear overview of the situation. We can now know the number of the Daaras visited and the most frequent diseases encountered. In addition we have chosen three different colors to identify the Daaras; green, blue and red. A Daara that is marked in red is a Daara where we should go often as there are many children unwell and needs to be taken care of and to be watched carefully."

-Inventory the medicines supplies every week. "Every week, there is a volunteer appointed to check the supplies and make sure that we do not run out of medicines."

In the Education section:

A part of the donations received is used for the purchase of exercises books and materials so that every new child coming to the centre can have their own materials.

The "gouter"

Regarding the "gouter", a little snack that usually consists of a slice of bread with chocolate, have also had some changes. Indeed, conscious of the importance of variety, they started to give as gouter bissap juice and a sandwich with onion sauce and beef liver or tuna. Fruits can sometimes replace the sandwich.

Last important point is the important emphasize put on the hygienic activities. The talibes children are coming to the centre not only for education and healthcare, but also to take showers. Ami insists on the fact that it is really important to always remind them the importance to have good hygiene despite their difficult living conditions. Thus at least once a week Lamine, the supervisor of the Education section, sensitize and talk to the children about that issue.

Her last words were an invite to all the volunteers, "This is a great fight, the fact of taking care of these underprivileged children. We cannot stop the situation overnight, but we can help to make it less difficult for them."

Ami states: "this is just a start, maybe within six months we will see if the changes implemented are effective and with the help and commitment of the whole team (staff and volunteers), we will be able to reorient our aims for the wellness of the children and future of the country."

Donations to the ASF Care Centre

Former care volunteer, Lorella Brignardello, sent a donation to the ASF Care Centre



Lorella spent three weeks at the ASF Care Centre.

The first part of the donation consisted of two packs.

One pack for the Education section:

- 7 packets of marker pens (each packet is composed by 12 m.p)

- 4 packets of pencils (each packet is composed by 12 p.)
- 4 packets of watercolors
- 1 packet of colored chalks (12)
- 3 rubbers/sharpeners
- 2 normal sharpeners
- 2 normal rubbers
- 2 packets of scotch

A second pack for the health care section:

- 2 packets of cotton swabs for children (each packet is composed by 56 c.s.)
- 2 packets of cotton
- 2 packets of bandages
- 4 packets of patches
- 1 packet of sterile dressing

And in the last pack there were lots of medicine, particularly medicine and vitamins for the children.

Always willing to help the talibes Children; Lorella also sent a financial help which amount is 110 Euros.

In order to thank Lorella the children of the centre did some artistic activities with the material she sent to them.



Donations from the Rotary club west Worthing –UK- to the Talibes children



The A.S.F Care centre received a donation from the Rotary Club West Worthing. This club donated £300 to the Talibé children after Peter Slowe (the founder and director of Projects Abroad) with his friend, Sheila Luke, did a presentation on the situation of the Talibes children in Saint-Louis-Senegal.

The community is really thankful for this great donation from the Rotary Club West Worthing which corresponds to 234 000fcfa. We also warmly thank Peter and Sheila for sharing the story of the Talibes Children and raising awareness on the hard living conditions of these children.

After reception of the money, our country Director in Senegal, Moctar, gave the money to the volunteer in charge of the money at the ASF Care Centre, Elena Fischer from Switzerland accompanied by Général, assistant at the centre.

Anonymous donator

We received a great donation from an anonymous donator from the United Kingdom. The amount is £500 which corresponds to 394 000 fcfa. Our Country Director, Moctar handed the money to Elena Fischer (Switzerland), the volunteer in charge of the finance at our Day-care centre.

Whoever the donator is, we address them our most grateful thanks on behalf of the 'talibé' children in Saint-Louis

Donation from Gretchen McCarty

Gretchen McCarthy, young girl who volunteered in Senegal for her Odyssey project, sent a great donation to her former placement. Gretchen's Care placement was at the ASF Care centre that cares for the Talibés of Saint-Louis/Senegal, also known as street children. Gretchen focused on teaching the Talibés during her one month stay in Senegal.

Six months after her stay Gretchen sent \$100 to the ASF Care Centre for the underprivileged children who come to the centre to benefit from the Projects Abroad volunteers assistance. The money was given to the volunteer in charge of the money at the centre.

Thank you Miss Gretchen, be assured that the money will be put to good use!



Have a look at our Photos album:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.senegal/photos/>

Have a look at the videos taken in our projects on our YouTube Channel!

Sports Football Project:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtWkkV5HLs4>

Care Project:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwlfrOVsEY>

Music and Culture Project: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUzWh2eSXmk>

Microfinance Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaP4GakDTkk>

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Read our monthly newsletter

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/senegal/newsletters-from-senegal/>

Want to contribute in our newsletter?

Each month we will be featuring a photo from Senegal in the newsletter. If you are a former volunteer your photos are also welcome. Show off your best shots!!

Send your pictures to: aramefaye@projects-abroad.org, finasenghor@projects-abroad.org