

SOME REFLECTIONS ON SPONSORSHIP

A certain number of newly created associations hope to find sources of financing by sponsorship. But this is not simple to implement and it is wise to reflect and to be organized before launching out. Here are some thoughts and many questions to be asked according to the situations.

It is necessary to distinguish between the sponsor and the donator. The donator can also be the sponsor. But the sponsor inevitably does not have the means of making an important financial donation, whereas the through sponsorship, his small monthly contribution is valuable in that it benefits an unknown but very real child. Sponsorship has the advantage in that it commits the sponsor over a long period of time providing that there are no failures which could damage the image of the association in the eyes of the sponsor or the public in general.

The first decision to be taken is the choice of sponsorship: an individual sponsorship by child, or community by "house" or class. Sometimes, when the child can return to its family, certain associations practice sponsorship in the form of a family allowance which it pays once a month to the person responsible for the child (mother or grandmother) provided that the child goes to school regularly. An educator checks on this each month before handing over the money. If the children are housed in the association's hostel and if the sponsorship is individual; certain questions can arise. For example, what explanations can be given to those children who do not have a sponsor so as to avoid their feeling 'left out'?

How to manage the bonds between the sponsor and the child? Is it necessary to try to establish personal contact, a privileged relationship between them? Is this bond illusory or even untrue, when the child has great difficulty in expressing itself and even more so in the unknown language of the sponsor? Under these conditions, the child's letter cannot be spontaneous and the sponsor is likely to be disappointed when receiving a stereotyped reply.

The correspondence can be unequal, certain children receiving many letters, others receiving only a few. What should be done with the parcels of presents? Should their contents be divided amongst all the children without privileging the official recipient?

Lastly, is it necessary to accept the visits of the sponsors? If the child lives with its family, the meetings between the sponsor and child should preferably take place at the association so as to avoid the begging which can happen when visits are

made in the family home and thus bring about the lassitude of the sponsor.

In the case of a sponsor abandoning the project, what should the child be told and how to face the expenditure engaged on its behalf? Vice versa, is it necessary to inform the sponsor of the disappearance of the child (return to the street or death)?

It is necessary that one of the organisers be responsible for this activity. He should ensure the follow-up by keeping up to date the addresses, the payments, the dates to be respected, the reminders to be sent if a sponsor has forgotten to send money. There is also the organization of the children's answers, the despatching of photographs and copies of the school report if requested by the sponsor.

There are certainly many other aspects to this question. We invite you to tell us about them and share your experiences with everyone. At present, we thank the association Street Children from Madagascar and Virlanie of the Philippines for their contributions to these reflections.

Martine BERGE



NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

➤ LATIN AMERICA

CASA TAIGURA in Sao Paulo in BRAZIL has been receiving adolescents 24 hours a day since 1996. About thirty very young children, boys and girls up to the age of 12, are housed in the casa TAIGUARINA. The results have been so encouraging that the Town Hall, inspired by the project, has opened other houses to with 20 to 25 beds. A second hostel for adolescents is underway. The adolescents will have to confirm their detoxification and can continue their studies or go to work.

Website: www.casataiguara.org.

AMAR in Salvador de Bahia in BRAZIL has just published a book written jointly by Pierre Demouliere, founder and director of the association, and a group of young people belonging to the association. They describe their lives before knowing

AMAR and the subsequent changes. This book is both sincere and moving and leads its readers to see the children from another point of view as well as to help teachers reflect on educational methods for street children. *À Grosse de rue, tu es aimé* is available for 12 euros plus 3 euros for postage from Editions B_n_vent, 1 rue de Stockholm, 75008 PARIS.

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SOLO PARA MUJERES in GUATAMALA now proposes a clear choice for girls who are unable to release themselves from drugs. They can live in the hostel but the must follow a training course or leave. To give support to those who have left the hostel, rounds were multiplied in the places where they went to maintain contact and to meet the girls' partners

as it is very rare that a change in a girl's life can take place without the explicit consent of her partner. This important fact had not hitherto been taken into consideration. Young Maya country-women from remote regions arrived at the hostel. The new arrivals, confronted with the former street city-girls living in the hostel and still taking drugs, were at first very reserved, and then the coexistence of these two groups became completely peaceful. The mutual aid is reciprocal and all have a burning desire to learn.

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➤ AFRIQUE



This "explosion" is very badly accepted by the population which feels their presence like a plague. 5% of them are less than 5 years old. 26%, of which half are girls, are aged from 6 to 11 years. 62% have been living in the streets for over a year. Each year, another 5 000 children, the majority of which are orphans of father or mother or of both parents, flow into the streets.

More than 77% want to leave the streets (...). The institutions are not always the best solution for the reintegration of these children and the organisation and management of foster homes should be undertaken (...). "But it is necessary to act quickly because the population is exasperated. The children of today are the adults of tomorrow and they could move from minor to serious delin-

REEJER in Kinshasa, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (*Network of Teachers and Street Children and Youngsters*) organized an important meeting reporting on the results of a study of the situation of street children during and after the civil war and of the census of the children on the streets of Kinshasa. Here are some too short (owing to lack of space) extracts, of the minutes of the meeting.

No exact information can be given on the number of children dead or wounded during the confrontations (...). The authorities threaten to carry out a "cleaning out" of the street children who are accused of helping the soldiers at the time of the slaughters and plundering.

The census carried out in October 2006 estimates that there are 25000 children in the streets of Kinshasa.

quency. Moreover, the children are used more and more for political ends by armed groups or organised gangs. The improvement in the situation cannot be reached solely with the assistance of the local NGOs. It is necessary to have a long-term commitment by the political and administrative authorities as well as institutional financial backers.

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La Voix du Cœur in Brazzaville, CONGO, received 310 pupils during the last school year. Because of shortage of rooms, only 25 children were housed. The older ones are apprentices with outside firms. The association would like to have its own workshops so as to better follow the students.

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CAS in Accra, GHANA, has developed a whole range of teaching equipment. These tools are solid, easy to use and transport to the various places where the classes in streets are held. The Hopeland Centre proposes to the children, in addition to basic teaching (reading, writing, arithmetic, English), three main categories of activities such as the farm with the breeding of farmyard animals (rabbits, poultry); lending a sympathetic ear with contacts with social workers; workshops (candles, ceramics) to produce incomes. In addition CAS and Street Girls Aid have created 4 crèches which now house 750 babies. With decrease in the amount of donations and the difficulty in finding new donors, may mean that the project will have to be modified and perhaps even to be entrusted to other organizations. CAS will carry out a new evaluation of its work. Why do we do this work? What is its impact? How is it perceived by the public? By the local official authorities?

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ENDA MALI has produced a small and very complete guide in French on "The training of children and young people in difficulty through apprenticeship". While waiting to have it put on our web site, we highly recommend you to contact this association to obtain a copy.

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INTIGANDA at Butaré, RWANDA, will celebrate its 20 years. The centre deals on an average with 140 children from 6 to 18 years of age. Half of them live in the centre and the other half have been reintegrated in their families although Intiganda continues to follow them. Schooling and professional training are the priorities, but the school is above the financial means of many of the young people.

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SOS MINORS IN PRISON in Conakry, GUINEA, tries to improve the living conditions of the children in prison since 1990. A hostel was built to help towards the reintegration of minors in precarious situations. A separating wall was built between the minors and the adults. Workshops for training (building, sewing, carpentry, welding) were created. In spite of administrative harassment, listening, facilitating contacts with the family, legal assistance, elimination of illiteracy, initiation and training in the workshops are organized by SOS Minors.

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HAMEAU DES JEUNES

Rwanda

HAMEAU DES JEUNES entrusts the direction of each of its projects to a person of the country. Its main activities are receiving and looking after 120 orphans or children with difficulties, their schooling and education as well as 800 children from the neighbourhood. The exploitation of agricultural land, work in joinery and carpentry workshops, the physical and educational support of the mothers, a crèche, and an infirmary for the village as well as sports activities for the young people completes this field of activities.

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L'ODPE (Organization for Development by the Promotion of Childhood) in Kara, **TOGO**, opened an orphanage where it accommodates 50 orphans or abandoned children who now attend school or are following professional training.

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ABADACOGORA and **INTWARI** in Kigali, **RWANDA**, organized a meeting with former pupils of the association. They were all a little constrained when they found themselves on the threshold. But their embarrassment was quickly dissipated. They remembered that, a few years earlier, they lived on the streets, slept under bridges, stole to eat and could neither read nor write. But all that is in the past (...). Among those who had accepted the invitation, a hundred, there are mechanics, salesmen, dressmakers. Some work in telecommunications, the army or the university. They spoke of what should be improved and lessons to be learned. The former pupils promised to help their younger brothers to find an employment.

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ELEVANIO TOGO, seeks to promote the respect of the Rights of the Child. A project for the sponsorship for the most deprived has commenced. But the projects for the creation of a hostel, a library and training centres are on

standby awaiting financial assistance. A workshop for the training in plastic arts functions thanks to the collaboration of an artist. 11 children were able to paint pictures which were sold. ELVANIO is organizing an international

work camp for plastic arts, schoolwork help and excursions.

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ALAFIA TOGO was able to pay for the schooling of 10 children and send 3 girls, victims of AIDS, into apprenticeship. 125 girls attended school, free of charge, for the whole year.

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ASSAF TOGO brings specific or regular assistance to the children according to their difficulties. It deals with all the expenses of school or apprenticeship contracts, the uniforms, tools as well as the re-education of the handicapped. It fights against the trafficking of children and young girls.

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ATLAT, TOGO, (Togolese association for the struggle against alcoholism and other drug-addiction) is invested in education through schooling and vocation training. ATLAT set up a centre for listening and orientation as well as several programmes devoted to street children or children in difficult schooling situations. A dispensary offers first aid free of charge. Radio broadcasts are carried out with children on the effect of drugs, AIDS and the fight against tobacco.

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FED-TOGO has helped 25000 children since 1999. This year, the centre looks after 15 children. 10 are at college and 5 at school. Only orphans or abandoned children are accepted and who still have a member of their family with whom FED TOGO can make contact. Once the child is replaced in the home of this family member, FED TOGO provides assistance and a follow-up.

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► ASIE

ASHALAYAM, in Calcutta, INDIA, rejoices in the success of its shop, opened in the middle of the town centre. There, tourists find refreshing drinks, postcards or wooden toys made by the children as well as information on the activities of Ashalayam. This shop constitutes a formidable window to sensitize the public as well as competition among the children whose best objects are put on sale there. There, some of them are trained in commerce (stock-taking, reception of customers, accountancy).

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Les Enfants du Sourire Khmer (ESK) continues its support of the children of Cambodia (Kampuchea). After having created or rehabilitated six primary schools and a training centre for sewing, ESK will open a school for the training of teachers and a carpentry workshop for apprentices. ESK relies on small local firms which it supports and encourages. They are all directed and managed by Khmers.

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GALOPINS DE CALCUTTA in INDIA was able to send 10 boys to very good schools in the mountains and 4 others to an equally good school near Calcutta.

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VIRLANIE, Manila, PHILIPPINES, created, some years ago, a centre to help children to brush up their school levels. This centre accommodates over 200 children each year. A nursery class teaches small, illiterate children to read and write. At the end of 2006 VirLANIE set up a real itinerant school which is has its own van and is equipped with all the means necessary for a real classroom. The van goes daily to the most underprivileged districts. The teachers, provided with especially adapted and innovative teaching aids, give their lessons in public squares or in parks to a hundred

children aged from 4 to 16 years. Added to the usual lesson are courses on health, the rights of the child, moral values and the risks of sexual abuse. Physical education, artistic expression and recreational outings supplement the programme. A nurse regularly provides basic health care. The children are vaccinated against hepatitis B and tuberculosis. A professional provides dental care. In addition VerLANIE has set up a psychological centre to assist children of fragile mental problems which are likely to block their development and affect their adult life. This year VirLANIE will

have been in existence for 15 years during which time they have accompanied over 10 000 children.

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➤ FRANCE

ASI France has been present in Africa for over 20 years. Its last programme was the fight against malaria which kills 2 million people a year. A child dies of it every thirty seconds. ASI is launching a new programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A methodological guide book to set up means

of prevention, training and treatment in other countries is under preparation.

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COSAME in Paris, France, has organized the departures on mission this summer of craftsmen to Senegal, the Congo and Cameroun. Please consult these mission offers on the following web :

Website : www.cosame.net

In order to better present your activities to other members of REPER, we require photographs of your children. Please send them to us at :

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THANK YOU !

REPER

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