

**The end of the year is close. It is the time for assessments. The successes of the members of REPER are numerous and encouraging, even if all the efforts did not always reach the expected results. But courage! Courage for all in 2008 and best wishes for all your hopes and projects.**

**Martine BERGE**

## SPORT, AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL

### Reflexions and experiences

*For a child, sport is at first a game: he just wants to enjoy himself. Little by little he discovers that, to practise a sport, he has to apply to the rules, respect the decision of the referee and play in a team by passing the ball to his friends. Through sport, the child discovers, little by little, the satisfaction of effort, the desire to surpass himself and the pleasure in attaining that aim. He also discovers team spirit and the necessity of practice, the role of others during the match in case of victory or defeat. The child gains confidence in himself and wants to do well. He is proud to be part of the team and to wear its uniform. A social link develops with his team-mates and with the members of the opposite team; he learns to control his aggressiveness during the match, in either victory or defeat.*

"For children who have grown up on the streets, sports and especially team sports, is a necessary release of stress and a tremendous means to teach discipline and effort." **Ashalayam**, Calcutta, India.

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"We are convinced that sports can help every child to reconstruct himself. That is why we equipped a sports area of 2.5 hectares so that all the children of Bangalore can use it." **Père Guezou**, India.

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"We organized a big sporting and artistic event for the street children of Madurai. More than 500 children participated enthusiastically in these events, folk dances or competitions of eloquence on themes such as the rights and difficulties of children." **Nanban**, Madurai, India.

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"For the 80 little girls and adolescents in our care, the sports activities help to rid them of the aggressive behaviour they have accumulated during the mistreatment they received. It helps them to evacuate their pain and traumatisms and enables them to build up a new life. A way for them to be in the winning side. A revenge on life. A collective sport it is to have a common project in a regulated opposition, it is to

accept the judgment of the referee. It is to fit into a society regulated by rules, where each has to find his place by showing the best of oneself and to accept teamwork. Martial arts inculcate courtesy, loyalty, perseverance, self-control and a fighting spirit. Climbing, which is practised in binomial, obliges the establishment of a relationship of total trust of the other person and develops self-respect." **Caméléon**, Ilo Ilo, Philippines.

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"Getting children off the streets by organizing football games can be a start. But in Argentina football is the dominant. The teams are numerous. In order to attract and retain the street children, other activities have to be proposed, such a literacy classes." **Oxygène Plus**, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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"Sport plays an important role in the promotion of education, health, development and peace. Here, sport has become an important means of assembling the Burundi youth of all ethnic groups: Hutu, Tutsi, Twa. Facilitating the gathering of youths of all the different ethnic groups encourages dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect. Such are the objectives in the supervision of the young people by the sport. It will help us to promote national unity and peace of which the Burundians so much in need." **The Burundi Ministry of Youth and Sports**.

"Sport puts on equal footing those pupils at the top and bottom of the class as well as those young people who have not had access to school. These inequalities create frustration. Little by little they gain confidence in themselves on the playing field, although sometimes this can be shaken by lack of understanding by certain teachers." **Atelier sans frontières**, Paris, France.

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# NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

## ➤ AFRICA



**MULEMBA, Luanda, ANGOLA**, receives 1 763 pupils at all levels, supervised by 63 teachers. The heavy rainfalls have considerably hindered the activities, rendering the roads inaccessible and causing catastrophic flooding.

**E-mail:** mulemba@multitel.co.ao

**Site:** www.mulemba.org

**AAERO, Ouahigouya, BURKINA FASO**, is launching a training programme in market gardening which has enabled the permanent employment of five young people. This source of income participates in local spending. Identity cards are established for street children who are placed as apprentices and followed whenever possible.

BP 201 Ouahigouya

**COMPAGNONS BATISSEURS of BURKINA** has been given the responsibility of an international camp for environmental education which has grouped 3 000 young people from different backgrounds. In addition, school books, etc. have been collected for the street children.

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**APECOS, Kirundo Province, BURUNDI**, is looking after 670 AIDS orphans and their community (food, health, schooling as well as legal, economic and psychological assistance). Early-learning games and development are proposed. A programme for the prevention of AIDS has been set up.

**Site :** www.kirundo.org

**CEPROVA, Douala, CAMEROON**, has opened a training centre for young girls who have not attended school and who have never been prepared for life as women and mothers. A literacy centre receives children and adults and an educational programme has been set up for children in prison.

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**RELAIS ENFANTS PARENTS, CAMEROON**, looks after the children of prisoners. To maintain the family ties, accompany the children, avoid the risk of repetition from one generation to another, react to the children's confusion owing to the separation from their families - these are the objectives to be attained. Meetings are organized with the prison authorities to create rooms and playrooms especially for family visits so that the parents and the children can meet in a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

**E-mail:** info@repcam.org

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**La Fondation Félix Deschamps, Yaoundé, CAMEROON**, accompanies children who work in the streets by providing them with the necessary equipment for their trades. The Foundation helps them to open a savings account from which they can draw funds under the control of an educator. Loans for professional insertion can be negotiated with the bank where the child has his (her) account. As the savings increase, we suggest to the child that he rents an independent room.

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**La Fondation Emmanuel et les Enfants Déshérités (FEED), Yaoundé, CAMEROON**, supports vulnerable children and unmarried mothers (health, fight against AIDS and SMD). Information between young people and the administration. FEED accompanies them in their activities and helps them to learn a trade.

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**AFFD (Aide aux Filles et Femmes en Détresse - Assistance to girls and women in distress), MADAGASCAR**, created, in partnership with the nuns of Madagascar, homes for mothers and their babies as well as professional training workshops. Its aim is to help these young women to escape from prostitution.

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**L'Association de Développement de Quartier, Niamey, NIGER**, supports small projects, such as training, the rights of the child and their social and economic reinsertion.

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**VOIX DU CŒUR, Bangui, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, has purchased 10 ha of land near Bangui on which 4000 trees have been planted. Unfortunately forest fires and drought means that only a few trees remain. A garden project and an orchard are under preparation to provide work for the young from the town. A well is being dug for water.

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**OPDE Congo, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**, houses 34 children in two homes. The 15 social workers work also in two listening centres. In addition, 196 foster families house children of which 212 attend school, among which there are 92 girls.

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**ORPER, Kinsasa, DRC**, has changed its director : Alpha Mazenga has replaced Father Zibi. Having worked with Father Roelants, the founder of ORPER, Alpha Mazenga will not be flying the flag in unknown territory.

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**CENTRE DE VIE POUR TOUS, Lubumbashi, DRC**, is faithfully following its agricultural activities. At the moment, children are drying the seeds of the country's wild fruit. In addition, the search for insects from the bush for sale to collectors takes a lot of time.

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**DOOMI NEPP, Thiés, SENEGAL**, is setting up an apprenticeship programme in the leather trade in liaison with the AEJT and the Federation of Leather Professionals of Thiés. This project has the ambition to serve as a model for other apprenticeships and to identify partners who could usefully assist in their creation.

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**MAEJT, Dakar, SENEGAL**, has provided exceptionally dynamic services to mainly African associations, but also to some Latin American and Asian associations. This organisation has made great progress. An important study on the exodus and sale of children to the cities has led to a joint plan of action in 7 African states.

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**MAREM (Mouvement d'Action pour la Réintégration des Enfants Marginalisés - Movement for the Reintegration of the Marginalized Child), Lomé, TOGO**, consists of young volunteers who contact street children and try to help them to return to their families. Debates are organized to make the population aware of the problem. The subject of the last debate was "Violence, the daily experience of street children".

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## ➤ LATIN AMERICA



**CARITAS SAINT ANTOINE, Port-au-Prince, HAÏTI**, works daily and for over ten years on the streets of the town. Its 'hot Tuesdays' are extremely successful : up to 400 children participate in sack races, games and dances followed by a hot meal. A home accommodates about thirty children who receive psychological and educational support as well as being enrolled in the State schools. Approximately 80 children a year return to their families. Caritas continues to pay their school expenses.

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**LA CANOA, Iquitos, PERU** , cares for 159 children and adolescents of which 70% are children who work (odd jobs in the markets). Several programmes have been set up concerning the Rights of the Child, school and family education, hygiene and health as well as cultural identity

through dance and music, sports and educational games. An agreement with the authorities has facilitated the creation of a school programme for working children : school classes are held three times a week outside working hours. A teacher has been appointed especially for this purpose.

Extra teaching is proposed to those children who are backward at school. A workshop has been opened to introduce the children to computer sciences.

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## ➤ ASIA

**LES AMIS DU PERE GUEZOU** has informed us that the target, set over ten years ago in **Yellagiri in the South of INDIA**, has been reached : the pariahs have been trained in computer sciences. The success is such that a very important extension of the project is under study. It will serve as a model training centre to be extended first in India and then world wide. The tests to recuperate water from dew are continuing rapidly. Most of the children from Sivagasi work in the making of matches and fireworks. It is therefore necessary to assist the families of the 370 children who go to school. A large playing field is being created for sports activities for the development and enjoyment of the street children.

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**ASHALAYAM, Calcutta, INDIA,** houses 600 children in 21 centres of which 5 are reserved for girls. Another 3 listening centres exist of which 1 is for girls only. Efforts are made to teach them English as this is a great advantage when looking for work in India. 15 members of the Ashalayam rugby team were invited to France during the world cup.

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**CAMELEON, Ilo ilo, PHILIPPINES,** opened a second centre for girls who were ready for reinsertion into the society. There are 21 this year and, next year, some of them will leave centre to live with their families or go to foster homes or, for those attending university, to student hostels. The 110 girls who have successfully been reintegrated into society return regularly to the centre to help the newcomers (dancing or extra school lessons).

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**ERDA FOUNDATION, Manila, PHILIPPINES,** provides schooling for 31 000 kindergarten children. Father TRITZ, just over 93 years of age, believes that this number is much too low when consideration is taken of the amount of children who do not have access to schools.

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**RCVC Kareen Mane, Duchambé, TADJIKISTAN,** will be able to keep her premises permanently for her activities. We give our best wishes to Mavjuda and Danielle Mane for their unfailing support and for the success of their endeavours.

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## ➤ FRANCE

**HORS LA RUE, Paris**, continues its work with young Romanians in distress in the Paris region. Fifteen isolated minors returned to Romania in 2006 with the assistance of the association. Their protection in France is essential and their return home has to be very carefully prepared so as to stop them from wanting to leave their homes again to go to another Western country. Hors de la Rue is trying to have the regulations modified as the Franco-

Romanian agreements could impede the protection of some of the minors.

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**CITOYEN DES RUES** has knitted close ties with the street children of Irkoutsk in SIBERIA (Russia) : Clothes and some meals have been distributed to them. The work is carried out in collaboration with the town's orphanage. The general

population is not motivated by the problems of the street children as they are considered to be part and parcel of the street scene. This question is not a priority of the population which is facing its own economic problems. Students have been made aware of the situation.

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