

**N°35 December 2008**



Travailler dans la rue,  
ce n'est pas toujours  
un cadeau... mais

Joyeux  
Noël  
quand même!

***We thank Joel For his good wishes which we all share !***

## ***Extracts from some reflections sent by Dominique LEMAY, Founder of the Virlanie Foundation in Manilla, Philippines ;***

(....) why does Michael, in spite of several stays at the Foundation, prefer to live on the streets? (...)

Why does Mary Ann, after several years, with Virlanie, prefer the incertitude of the streets where she finds herself in extremely difficult situations? (...)

Our questions and our doubts are justifiable. If we were enclosed by our certainties, no dialogue would be possible (...)

Sometimes, it is necessary to be more receptive, more available. We may doubt when we fail and yet all roads are open to lead us together and to enable all these children to be accepted and loved.



## **NEWS OF THE NETWORK**

### **LATIN AMERICA**

**AMAR**, San Salvador de Bahia, **Brazil**. 12 young people resumed theatre classes this summer for three weeks in pronunciation, voice throwing, articulation, body movements and positions. But, above all, the aim was to teach them to express their feelings. The pupils came out of themselves and expressed themselves with enthusiasm. The final stage production was a great success.

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### **AFRICA**

**APECOS, Burundi** : The **Kirundo** project has progressed. The stability of the government for the past three years, the decrease of the famine and infant mortality, the rebuilding of the infrastructures are all important factors leading to this progress. Parent and teacher associations, involved in committees for the protection of children, have taken steps forward for the preventions of HIV/AIDS. <http://www.KIRUNDO.ORG>

**CEPROVA**, Douala, **Cameroon**, among other activities, is the setting up of a training centre for women, where young uneducated girls and unmarried mothers receive moral as well as professional training (sewing, cooking, pastry making, embroidery, hygiene, arithmetic and basic accountancy and management to enable them to run their own small businesses). Assistance is also given to help them to receive micro loans to start of their activities. CEPROVA has also another project : psycho-educational activities for 88 minors detained in prison under horrifying conditions of hygiene and overcrowding. Attempts are made, in liaison with the prison social services, to re-socialize these children.

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**EDRPN**, Enfants des Rues, Point Noire), **Congo-Brazzaville** has enabled its staff (those looking after the street children) to follow a training course. There were two main themes 1) knowledge of the child and 2) how to be an educator. Two main points were raised : the challenge of growth and development. What is a street child educator? Shortcomings and educational behaviour; the place and the role of the educator; awareness of traps: social enquiries; family mediation, youth project.

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**ORPER**, Kinshasa, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, is very pleased that several children, of whom some were presented as being extremely difficult, were re-integrated into their families. 300 children went to three different holiday centres. 17 youths are apprentices in carpentry or masonry. Two films were made with the children to draw the attentions of their comrades to the dangers of drugs and the lack of hygiene. <mailto:orperkin@yahoo.fr>

**Children and Young Workers Movement (MAEJT)** is based in **Senegal** and continues its progress with enthusiasm. The movement in 2008 included over one thousand groups, based in 126 towns in 21 African countries. Many activities took place to improve the situations of children and young people. Please contact : <mailto:ejt@enda.sn>

**Child Survivors**, **Tanzania** has received a team of volunteers to study the possibility of helping the distressed children. Another team will examine the possibility of micro loans. A seminar on the rights of orphaned children is foreseen.

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## ASIA

**Ashalayam**, **Calcutta, India** has organized a vast campaign of sensitization on the subject of the ever-increasing disappearances of many children and adolescents. The aim is to bring about an awareness of the trafficking of children and to set up precautionary measures in collaboration with the police. All associations have been requested to work together to protect the rights of children. It was pointed out that some of the traffickers were part of the community and special attention should be given to this matter. The police have decided to reinforce its work on this subject and have requested that they be informed of any suspicious activities. <mailto:dbasha@vsnl.com>

**The Calcutta Urchins**, **India** now has 40 boys, aged from 6 to 19 years old in its charge. All the homes are full, especially during the school holidays because 24 of them are borders: On the whole, the school results are excellent.

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**Chameleon**, **Ilo Ilo, Philippines** fights for the application of the International Convention for Rights of the Child. Several conferences are organized each year in schools and villages to remind families as well as the authorities that "children have the right to receive special care so that they grow up in a climate of love and understanding". <mailto:cameleon@philwebinc.com>



## FRANCE

**ACER-RUSSIA** : The disapproving looks of the inhabitants of St. Petersburg changed, after the show given by UPSALA Circus concerning street children. At Ljubljana in Slovakia, the association The Rights of the Child presented a report on the street children in Russia to the European commission on Human Rights. Children were placed more and more in families than in institutions. Unfortunately the children seem to be considered more as goods to be moved from one place to another without account being taken of the resulting consequences. <mailto:courrier@acer-russie.org>

**Captifs la Libération** takes steps to assist youths who are more and more numerous on the streets. It is estimated that there are 30 000 in France in this situation. Their behaviour and the names they are given change according to way they are looked upon by society. First they are called hooligans, then delinquents and then abandoned youths. They are on the streets because of family or personal difficulties. **Captifs** has created several reception centres in the middle of Paris where they can take a shower, rest, have a meal, talk to volunteers and friends. It is a meeting centre which is both moving and reassuring. It is a point of departure to start off future projects. It is a place where their needs can be determined and new horizons opened.

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**Citizens of the Streets** gives support from Paris to a project in IRKOUTSK in **Russia**. This project won the "Grand Prix for Solidarity Initiatives" given by the Fondation de France. Two students were able to work this summer with Russian volunteers to give assistance to street children and to prepare a campaign in the schools to make them aware of the problem. Another project, is that of the sale and purchase of school books in Fez, **Morocco**, to finance a listening centre with the support of students. <mailto:contact@citoyensdesrues.org>



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