



Responsable de Publication: Hubert FABREGUES
 Rédaction: Muriel BONET – Hubert FABREGUES –
 Claude NEVERS – Jean-Michel COUTEAU –
 Mise en page: Muriel BONET

NEWS FROM INDIA AND FRANCE

Bulletin de l'**A**ssociation **F**rançaise pour l'**E**nfance **A**bandonnée

A.F.E.A : 17 rue Voltaire, 44000 Nantes – Tel/fax : **02.53.45.12.18**

E-mail : accueil@afea-sneha.org – ccp : Nantes 3093 77 N

Site : www.afea-sneha.org

THE SENSE OF FAMILY



Every year Snehasadan celebrates a major “home coming day” for the former children who get the opportunity to meet the people who took care of them and to express their gratitude. They like to rediscover the house of their childhood and its environment, so rich of good memories. It is a comeback to the roots and a revival after such a demanding but salutary period.



The sense of family is displayed with splendour, and everyone feels proud of belonging to such a community. The impressive results of the Snehasadan disinterested work, regardless of caste or creed, are visible on this particular day. It is rewarding, for managers as well as for donors, to witness what the children made of their life : teachers, nurses, skilled workers, managers ... Many are married with happy children and try to reproduce the climate of love they benefited from. Initially perceived as an antisocial burden, they now contribute to the society.



This event remind them that Snehasadan will always keep them in its heart : « This home-coming is a morale booster for everyone. It displays, powerfully, what a difference this kind of work can make for the future of our society and our country. These ex-boys and girls, who are doing so well in life, are our best trophies”.

To illustrate the remarks, we publish « family success stories » by former children of Snehasadan (now 55 years of experience !) but the same atmosphere is prevailing in the homes of our more recent partners, NAVAJYOTHI and ARULOLI. Everywhere, house-parents and Sisters, who are at the heart of the day-to-day action, maintain this passion for the “family spirit”.

Dear friends, with your precious help, let us pursue this beautiful mission salutaire.

Jean-Michel Couteau - Président

EDITORIAL

- page 1 Editorial of Président
- page 2-3 House-parents
- page 3-6 News from India
- page 6-10 News from France
- page 10 helping us





HOUSE-PARENTS_(part 1)

Needless to insist : house-parents have an essential role ! Of course like any other parent in the world, but in the houses that we support, parenting is a very special theme : first because there are no less than about twenty children, second because each boy or girl comes from a different background, with a unique but often tragic experience. When they arrive, they are bad-tempered, frustrated, and suspicious, as many have been mistreated. Yet despite all that, may be because of that, they strongly call for love, hoping to find what they missed.

How parents can manage such an enlarged family ? The challenge relates to three main issues :

- house-parents themselves : their motivation is fundamental, it is a real “calling”, difficult and demanding, given the extent of the task. They may require training in order to balance affection and discipline, love and authority. Their personality evolves over time, they permanently look for their personal and private balance.

- relations with the group of girls or boys (sometimes with their own children !) : they must take each child as he is, with his weak points first and progressively with his strong points to be discovered. The discreet supervision and the sanction sometimes necessary are combined with an extraordinary indulgence and trust in the child who remains totally free.

- the institution itself : it promotes in the homes the education to moral values such as : availability, compromise, patience and above all a selfless attitude. The parents ensure they praise everyone and recognise the qualities of a child in front of the others, thus contributing to create a strong feeling of belonging to a community where, in full respect of individualities, life has a meaning.



Left : House 4



Right : House 16



Left : House of Nuevem
at Goa



Right : House of Aruloli
Pondichéry



Wich qualities are required from a parent faced with such a challenge ? Father Fonseca summarised them with humour : *"They must be able to do ten things at one time, they must sleep with their eyes open, they must listen to what the children are not saying"*. uelles sont les qualités requises pour être des parents à la hauteur d'un tel rôle ?

C'est le Père Fonseca qui les a résumées avec humour :

« Ils doivent être capables de faire dix choses à la fois, ils doivent dormir les yeux ouverts, et ils doivent entendre ce que les enfants ne disent pas » !

The house-parents presently in charge of houses are **either couples** - usually the husband works outside and the mother runs the home - in total 7 (of which 6 are former street children who lived in the homes, well aware of the issues, thus giving back what they received), or **team of religious Sisters** (for girls) in total 13 who work for different congregations partners.

To be continued : what are the living conditions in the homes ?

News from India

NEWS FROM SNEHASADAN

Renovation works have been completed recently.

NIVARA : (contact center at the Borivili station)

Toilets and a study-play room have been renovated.



HOUSE N° 3

a safety barrier on the terrace has been installed, allowing childrento play safely



Before and after the works



The New Year started with lots of joy, hope and many positive vibrations in all the children's heart and mind. Soon the following week there was another celebration, the festival of harvest called "PONGAL" in Tamil Nadu.

The DCPO advised in the meeting that another person from outside, a counsellor, could take counselling so that the children feel free and comfortable to share their emotions, needs and wants, personal growth and development etc... We found an experienced person who was also a teacher in the Govt.School. She started coming on 8th March which will be continued twice a month regularly.

On 10th February Anthuvan's brother and sister in law came to visit the children. They wanted to meet them all, particularly Swathi and Catherine. Sr.Angela was present to greet them. The visitors also encouraged the children by sharing their own personal experiences and development in life.

On the same day Sr Angela took a session on the moral values of life and self-esteem. It was quite interesting with stories and practical incidences. This was instructed by the DCPO and all the children appreciated and benefitted from the class.

The students who are in 10th and 12th class started their board examinations on 1st and 16th of March, namely Ishwarya Ravi, Yashini, Kalaivani, Sneha Ravi, Ishawaya Sundaramoorthy. On the day of their first exam we all waited to know whether it was easy or tough ? They returned with a smiling face and they continued to write their other papers with the same hope and courage.

Our Provincial Philo D'sa arrived for her visit on 10th March in Aruloli Home. The children were very happy and welcomed her happily. She explained about the importance of their study and development. She appreciated their growth and maturity in one year after her visit.

On 16th March Sr Hazel and Sr Pascale surprised all our children by their visit. They intervened the children as a group and individuals to know about their comfort and experience in this Home. Sr Pascale was very happy to meet her godchild "Saraswathi" whom she convinced to continue her studies.

On 15th March one of our neighbour, uncle of Anthuvan, passed away. All our children used to wish him while going to school and he used to wave his hand and smile at them. We all regret his absence. Our children all the more miss his presence as a grandfather.

We continue to co-operate with the Government policies and do the needful for the running of this home for girls, in order to educate them and bring meaning for their life. There used to be a meeting once in three months which is called HMC (Home Management Committee), now on it should be conducted every month. Norms by the authorities are demanding and we do carryout the tasks and responsibilities.



Photos : visit of the counsellor, of Bernard Anthuvan's brother, of Sr Hazel and Pascale



NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI DAVANGERE

extracts and adaptation from Sr Kutty Amma' report

The mission of Sisters Adorers in Davangere is to help young women and girls at high risk. It also offers short stay Home for rehabilitation of women who are victims of prostitution and marital discord.

The house Nilaya is for children who are victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking, parental neglect, broken families, marital discord, single parenthood, children of battered women and other situations that enslave them. There are 25 girls, most of them returning in their family in the evening, this is why there are only 9 girls sponsored by AFEA godfathers/godmothers. They attend school and the weaker students are given special attention to cope with their studies. All are provided with opportunities to complete their basic education through various activities : health care and hygiene, art and culture, gardening, summer camp, etc ... including workshops during holidays : tailoring, basic computer training, public speaking ...

We attended the leadership training and youth programs of other NGOS and we work closely with the regional government authorities. Our home has been managed successfully for several years, as illustrated by the behaviour modification of our children and their motivation to “be someone” in the future, prepared to face the challenges of life.



Girls of the Davangere home on their way to school, in the garden and in a park

REPORT OF VISIT TO ARULOLI by Mr and Mrs ROUVIER

I am part of the family of Bernard ANTHUVAN, AFEA Board member. I was honoured to work for Mr DELEUZE and my wife and I met them on many occasions. We became friends and often talked about our home country in Pondichery.

Mrs DELEUZE expressed her wish to sponsor a child and, further my request to Bernard ANTHUVAN, deacon in Lyon, a girl named “Swathi” was proposed. Mr and Mrs DELEUZE, hearing that we were in India, asked us to meet their goddaughter and to take photos of her and her friends.



On Feb 10th, we visited "ARULOLI" where Sr VIMALA greeted us, in the presence of Sr ANGELA. The atmosphere was warm and moving. We discussed at length with the children and took photos. We noticed that the children's eyes were shining of interest and hope.

During our stay, we were pleased to learn that Ann, a friend of our daughter, sponsored "Catherin" a girl from the home.

The land where the house is built belonged to our family. In the old days, some members of our family lived there, and it has a major meaning for all of us. This is where Bernard ANTHUVAN is born and lived his childhood. We both share a major unforgettable memory : the opening ceremony of the ARULOLI home.



After all these emotions with the girls, it was hard to say good bye. We pray for their future and we hope that the house will welcome many other children.

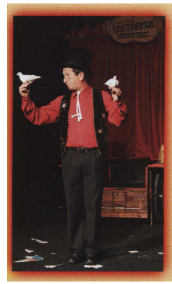
NEWS FROM FRANCE

LYON : The AGM was held on March 24th, chaired by Jean-Michel Couteau in the presence of VIPs : Mr Subra Veerappa Somu (President of a local tamul ONG) and Mr Mohamed Jamal (President of another tamul ONG) with some of their members.

The year 2017 was exceptional as it marked our 50th anniversary, with the visit in France of Father Noel Pinto, Director of Snehasadan, and many various events organised by our members all over France. We are extremely grateful to them for their motivation and dynamism as it stimulates us to pursue our mission for the benefit of children in India.



Concert Roop Verma Lyon



magician Montpellier



sale Nantes



concert Haute-Savoie

Quelques photos des différentes manifestations passées dans diverses régions.





Photos of the A.G.M LYON.

News from Montpellier

Our friend Jean Savajol organised an afternoon session with a magician and with the “Kumbaya Gospel Choir”. Many thanks to all the participants who enjoyed the event and contributed to the support of children in India.



News from Willer sur Thur

The event “Walk through Art” takes place every two years in the main street of the village, where artists display and sell their works of all kind : ceramic, wood, textile, paintings, photos ...

We are grateful to Paul Hurth, our regional representative and to all participants. The revenues were shared for helping children in Madagascar and in India



News from Nantes

Lent in Perverie :

As every year, AFEA organised a “rice bowl operation” in the Perverie college.



Children were presented with a video and raised many questions to learn about the way of life of children in the homes. Their contribution will be a significant help.



Sale :

The annual occasion by the Nantes team had a mixed success as a storm disrupted the afternoon but we hope to renew the event in September.



AN “ETHICAL” PARTNERSHIP

In our previous bulletin, we presented the “Clojo’s” project but the name has changed to l’AVENTURIÈRE www.laventuriere.com. The idea is original : it combines the production (in India) and the marketing (everywhere) of travel clothes and accessories but it is not only a “business”, it has a humanitarian ambition as the dressmakers working in Jodhpur are rehabilitated women and part of the sales revenues will be devoted to a project for the Snehasadan children.

The creator-manager Chloé Pommeau met Father Noel Pinto and the children in Mumbai. She writes her feelings with great sensitiveness : “street children are passionate ... each of them has a story, often dramatic ... Snehasadan aim is to provide them with the love they missed and to offer them a bright future ...

What about if we were all creasy enough to ensure each child in Mumbai is smiling ... ?
Join the adventure, this is how the world lives ...”

Dear friends members, do not hesitate to support the promotion of this moving project, share the idea around you, the “favourite (coup de Coeur)” purchases will help the dream comes true.
We are extremely grateful to Chloé for choosing AFEA as partner of her nice adventure.



Chloé



One modele of her collection



travel accessories





Chloé with Snehasadan children

Bulletin de parrainage : formulaire à retourner à AFEA, 17 rue Voltaire – 44000 NANTES

Si vous souhaitez régler par prélèvement automatique, merci de le signaler au secrétariat de l'AFEA qui vous adressera un formulaire à remplir

- ☐ Pour parrainer un enfant : 23 euros par mois (8€ par mois après déduction fiscale)
- ☐ **Pour parrainer un enfant et aider son foyer : 35 euros par mois (12€ par mois après déduction fiscale)**
- ☐ Pour aider un foyer ou une réalisation précise : somme à votre convenance.....
- ☐ Pour soutenir et recevoir notre bulletin : 30 euros par an

En retour vous recevrez : le bulletin de l'association, par mail ou par voie postale, un reçu permettant une déduction fiscale de 66%, et pour ceux qui parrainent, un courrier de leur filleul

NOM.....PRENOM.....AGE.....

SITUATION FAMILIALE.....PROFESSION.....

ADRESSE.....

.....TEL.....E-Mail.....

Informé par.....Date.....signature.....

PS : nous sommes habilités à recevoir des legs

