

NEWS FROM INDIA
AND FRANCE

Bulletin de l'Association Française pour l'Enfance Abandonnée



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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 NSite : www.afea-sneha.orgFacebook <https://www.facebook.com/afea.snehasadan.1>**Fashion**

At the risk of being slightly provocative, I can't resist sharing a recent anecdote with you. A magazine made its front cover with a puzzling catchphrase: "The new much desired basics". A rather promising title, at that, with perhaps great ideas on life and humanistic aspirations? Too bad, this article was only about the world of luxurious costly fashion accessories: clothes, bags and jewels....!

Which words come to mind then: ridiculous? Even pathetic or just a bit too exaggerated in the way it was put? Without the faintest criticism of the world of luxury thanks to which a lot of people earn a dignified life and which is often generous, we sail on different waters with the AFEA and our partners Snehasadan, Navajyothy and Aruloli. Our own manner is not unpredictable, it won't go out of fashion, it is about fundamentals not about accessories. Admittedly the world surrounding disadvantaged children in India is changing; it changes at an incredible pace indeed and the technological progress of these "accessories" of life (telephones, mobile phones, the internet and other amenities) is staggering. But what are these "basics" that the girls and boys who live in our children's homes long for? There is nothing new about them: material and emotional security, a sense of sharing, a search for meaning, a taste for dreaming....

Dear members your contribution is decisive, your moral and financial support brings about impressive results with the people in charge of the homes and of the children as it is shown in our successive bulletins.

An enormous thank you for your invaluable fidelity.

Jean-Michel COUTEAU, President

SUMMARY

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My stay in India by Mr. Guillaume VIEL



During my stay in India on behalf of the Catholic Delegation for Cooperation (CDC), I visited children's homes 5 and 6 of the NGO SNEHASADAN and saw the beginning of the renovation work financed in part with a donation from the NGO ANBER.

This visit took place last February 12th. It had been organized by Father Noël Pinto. Claude Nevers was with me too and we were shown around by the likeable Raju, a former Snehasadan child. Homes 4 and 6 are about 30 minutes away from Vinalaya, the Jesuit center in Andheri north of Bombay.

The first thing that struck me since my last visit to India a year ago was the development of motorways, of the traffic and of the tower blocks sprouting up everywhere. Homes 4 and 6 are in this kind of environment alongside a motorway, an aerial metro under construction and innumerable tower blocks.

In spite of the noise, the pollution of this motorway, of this metro in construction and these tower blocks you reach a beautiful park that is somewhat beyond time. It is a superb 2-acre space with lots of trees and an attractive sports area. N. 4 and 6 homes are at the bottom of the park. It is difficult to imagine that such a beautiful and quiet place can exist in such an environment!

We were met by Mr. Barat, the person in charge of home N.6. He showed us round the home, the kitchens, the showers and various rooms. The children gave us an extraordinary delightful and kind welcome. You can feel a good and sound atmosphere there.

We went round the ongoing works: big levelling excavation works especially for waste waters drainage and for the reconstruction of foundation walls. This building job was necessary for the monsoon, the age of the walls and the foundations required quick repairs. We also visited home N.16 which will need refurbishing but less extensive though.

This visit confirmed that the funds had been legitimately invested for the children to enjoy a more pleasant living environment.



Work in progress



End of works in front of homes N. 4 and 6: Since Mr.Viel and Nevers's visit, the works mentioned on page 2 of this bulletin have been completed. Here are some photos.



A supporting wall and a diversion for rainwaters have been completed.

A new sports Centre and playground at Snehasadan:

Children will be delighted to play and let their hair down on two sporting grounds and for the smaller ones on a playground. We would like to thank the charity Abdesselam most sincerely for helping us to finance this project. Below are some photos taken by Mr. Claude Nevers and Isabelle Lecoq during their visit last February



Football and volleyball grounds + playground



Inauguration of home N° 5 :

In April, children who were temporarily housed in the premises of the former "Amchi Kholi" technical school were able to integrate a brand new home. It was an opportunity for them and the coaching staff to participate in a small inauguration party.



Father Noël with children of house 5 and staff

NEWS FROM ARULOLI (PONDICHERY)

(extracts from report of Sr Angela january-march 2019)

The month of january is a special month in Tamil Nadu as it is the celebration of the festival of Pongal. A festival in which the famers show gratitude for the harvest. At Aruloli too we had a simple but beautiful celebration. All the girls enjoyed not only cooking but also dancing around the cooked Pongal



Drawings for the Festival of Pongal

We had visitors from France, Mr Bernard Anthuvan’s cousin and his wife (Mr Anthuvan is a member of AFEA staff). We also received Pascale Puppink, Saraswathi’s godmother and our Provincial Sister Philomena D’sa. The girls were very happy to receive them.

The new team members of CWC visiting us. New rules were given to us as to produce medical certificates and water sample certificate after testing the drinking water for the children. On the whole they were satisfied with our home.



Pongal Feast (dances)



NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI (SISTERS ADORERS)

In order to thank all the teachers who generously come and spend their time in giving tuitions, children of Navajyothi Marol performed a beautiful program followed by fellowship meal on teacher's day.



Program given by children

SUCCESS STORY OF SHERLY SEBASTIAN

SHERLY SEBASTIAN

Sisters Adorers welcome me to Navajyothi home at the age of 12. I was very smart, naughty and intelligent. AFEA was kind enough to give me a donor.

I completed my 12th grade with good percentage, after that I expressed I want to go for nursing, so took the admission for me close by one of the best Nursing School, and I continued performing well in the nursing school and completed my nursing in the year 2018, and now I am working in a famous hospital named "APPOLO" at Chennai.

I can't forget AFEA who took care of me and helped me to achieve my goal. I am so great full to AFEA and my godmother. Sisters taught me to remember and pray for our donors every day. Now I am proud of Navajyothi home because it gave me many things. For me it is my house, even if I am away from my parents. I never felt that I was alone. I lost my father when I was in 8th grade. I was worried about my mother who was not well but Sisters took care of her and kept her in a safer place. Now I am happy and I go to visit my mother. Now I too have little dreams that I too want to help someone who is in need, and to live with my mother. When I look back I think that I was lucky to have angels to help. Once again I thank God, AFEA, my godmother for taking care of me and giving me a future.





NEWS FROM FRANCE

A new system of partnership: sponsoring homes

Our current system of sponsoring one particular child remains at the center of our activities: each godfather/godmother has a special relationship with his/her godchild which implies exchanging letters twice a year.

We know that problems may occur to keep up a lasting relationship, for example when some children leave their homes more quickly than had been foreseen (their family situation has changed) or when others do not necessarily stay long (because of their age).

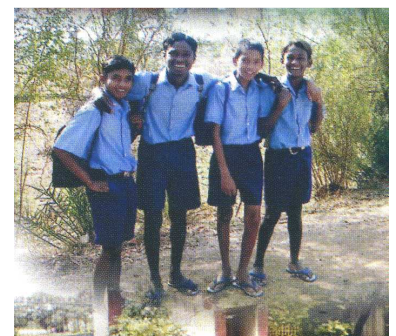


These particular situations have become more frequent with the new Indian legislation, according to which entries and stays in homes are organized by a government board which applies very strict criteria. Problems are dealt with case by case by Muriel to solve the renewals of sponsorships in the best way.

While still favoring the option of an individual sponsorship, we are thinking of offering a new formula: “sponsoring homes” so that no child would feel isolated or treated in a different way from the others. It would be a collective sponsorship then aimed at all the children and in return they would regularly receive a report on life in the home written by the parents in charge.

As is the case for individual sponsorship, three levels of “prices” are suggested: 23 euros a month (everyday expenses) - 35 euros a month (everyday expenses and supervision) – optional allowance (expenses and upkeep of the home included);

This option is gradually being introduced in one of the girls’ home **at Navajyothi in Davangere**, and we are hoping it will meet everybody’s expectations. We will listen to any of your questions, comment or reactions to this proposition.



Minutes of the General Assembly

The General Assembly was held in **Nantes** on Friday April 6th at Muriel and André Bonet's house (the secretary and the treasurer of AFEA). They entertained us in their lofty living-room where at the end of the meeting a lavish "Thé gourmand" gave the members an opportunity to get to know one another better. A big thank to our friend for their kindness and marvelous welcome.

The chairman greeted the members and thanked them for attending the meeting. He then asked each person to introduce themselves.



Then followed :

- **The financial 2018 report**

- report on the main accounting entries
- Special events 10.663,16 euros
- Regular donations 168.134,33 euros
- Exceptional donations, legacies and grants are to be added up to these sums. The total receipts for this year amounts to 244.710,04 euros
- Expenses 49.016,74 euros

We have been able to send to various homes in India **147.950,00** euros, 13.600,00 euros of which to refurbish homes.

- **Activity report and latest 2018 news**

In Snehasadan we have 174 sponsored children. Numerous homes are undergoing renovation.

In the various Navajyoti homes (Sisters Adorers)

- **In Marol** (Bombay) 28 girls are currently sponsored. Sister Elsy is head of the home.
- **In Goa**, 18 girls are sponsored in two houses. Sister Sunita and Sister Philo are the heads of these homes.



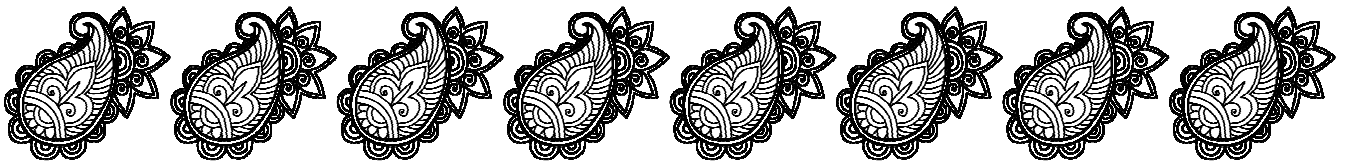
- **In Karwar**, the home accommodates 27 sponsored children with Sister Shobana at its head.
- **In Davangere**, 8 children are currently sponsored with Sister Kuttyama as the head.
- **In Kerala**, 47 children are currently sponsored, with Sister Catherine at the head of this home.
- **In Arul**. Sister Catherine and Sister Angela run this home.

So there are 322 sponsored children at the beginning of 2018 as against 346 the previous year.

* [The work of the A.F.E.A](#)

The board of directors met twice during this year to ensure that the association was doing a good job. Regular meetings were held in Nantes and Paris.

The events organized to make us known and to collect donations have been particularly numerous and varied all over France: Nantes, Lyon, Montpellier, Paris, Toulon, Willer sur Thur (Alsace), Bordeaux and Montmirail (Marne). Thanks to the organizers, the exceptional sponsors that have joined us, the results have allowed us to make up for the decrease in sponsorships and regular donations. We do express our admiration and are extremely thankful for the members to have committed themselves in this way: it is a great encouragement for the future of our mission towards the underprivileged children in India.



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

News from NANTES



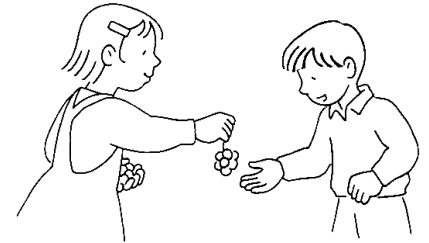
Lent and Rice bow

Two members of the AFEA of the Nantes region have preached the good word to 8th grade pupils. These youngsters were attentive and have liked the film on India and on the life of the children in their homes. Lots of questions burst forth and they promised to take part in the Rice bowl, the money collected being given to the AFEA.



News from LYON

We wish to give our most sincere thanks to the parish of the l'Esprit-Saint des Portes de Lyon à la Tour de Salvagny who handed over to us a check, as a gift of Lent through Mr. Claude Nevers.



Young people who commit themselves



The Adventuress

Big thanks to Chloe Pommeau who gave us a sizable check at our General Assembly in Nantes. (from the profits she got by selling her clothes)

You can buy all the products of the make l'AVENTURIERE online:

<https://www.laventuriere.com>



Do not hesitate to visit her site.



Big thanks to Ariane Gervais aged 14, at the moment an expat in Los Angeles, who as part of the citizenship course promoted by the "brevet des colleges" organized the promotion of AFEA and raised funds as well on **GoFundMe**. The sums collected have been transferred to the home in Kerala where the young girl she sponsors with her parents, lives. It is Saranya. As a reminder this home created in 2002 is located in the village of Moothakara, 3 kms from Quilon, the main town in the district



of Kollam. This home hosts orphan girls in great distress. It also receives distressed mothers with their babies for a short stay, and it helps poor families in the village. This fund raising was launched on the international law day for Women's rights so as to raise money for everyday expenses and for the education of a young girl that is to say 420 euros a year.

If you wish to contribute, here is the link below. You can also send your gift directly to the AFEA specifying that they are for Ariane Gervais's project. Thank you.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/mmehh-help-for-indian-girls-education>



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. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour toute information.

