



## The President's Editorial

The solidarity shown by our donors in 2012 in a difficult economic environment reveals a profound commitment to our cause: underprivileged children and respect for their fundamental rights. Just before celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2015, we want to thank them for their support and dedication.

In 2012, our Secretary General, Cristina M. Fedele left us after 14 years of faithful services – she can now enjoy some well-deserved free time. Her commitment and her passion for field activities are precious elements, which she will continue bringing to the Foundation as a Board member from January 2013. Thank you Cristina for your boundless devotion! The Geneva office is now staffed by Diane Grobet Granelli and Sabine Rosset.

In Colombia, we are facing a new challenge: As local authorities have been imposing ever-stricter standards, our three Cali Home are threatened by closure. In view of our very positive experience with the new home in Bogota, the Board has decided to use the same approach. In cooperation with Colombia, we are now looking for partners willing to finance this crucial project.

We count on your support to help us ensure the future of the children of Cali.

Hans Rudi Spillmann

The **Help for children Foundation** has the pleasure of sending you our **BambiNews**, retracing **the impact of your support** on our main activities in 2012 and highlighting perspectives for the current year. We hope you will enjoy reading it and invite you to our website [www.fondation-bambi.org](http://www.fondation-bambi.org) for details of all current activities and future challenges!

## > OUR ACTIVITIES

The commitment to children in early childhood is an essential contribution to tomorrow's world. Support for children during the **first six years of their life has a crucial effect on their development and their future!**

Since 1985, many a project has become reality in our 7 BAMBI Homes in Colombia, improving the lives of 13.600 children from 0 to 6 years. To this end, we give those children access to a balanced diet, medical and educational care and provide a reassuring environment.

For **12 Swiss Francs/day/child**, we make sure they can be integrated into the school system and become autonomous adults. But all this would be incomplete without an approach, which is typical for our Foundation: there can be no security for children without parental stability. In order to make sure that the children can go back to their families under favorable conditions, we take action to rebalance family life. During the last twelve years, the PROMEFA program has enabled 3.200 parents to get a hold of their lives again and ensure a better future for their children.

Taking stock, we are happy to be able to confirm that the merging of the three Bogota Homes into one, inaugurated in May 2011, has kept all its promises:

22% economies of scale and increased care capacity. The Home is considered exemplary by the Colombian authorities. **A big thank you to you!!!**

## ▪ A DESTINY FULFILLED

The 28 years existence of the Foundation show a path marked by vision and perseverance with tangible results. Above all, the first children who were taken into the Foundation's care are now adults. With great emotion one of the first children to receive care in the BAMBI Home in Cali in 1985 recently called the Foundation in Geneva. Luc, adopted in Switzerland at the age of 2, is a radiant young man, solid and full of enthusiasm. He is currently finishing a diploma as an HR specialist. In 2012 he went back to Columbia and visited the Cali Home, accompanied by Ana Mercedes Mondragon, the director who took him in 24 years ago.

**Let us work together to establish the essential prerequisites for the future self-fulfillment of a child!**

**"Give me the first six years of a child's life and you can have the rest".**

**Rudyard Kipling**



**LETS WORK TOGHETER !**

**Your commitments combined with our interventions make our joint activities possible!**

Your contributions give every child access to the basis for a better future through:

- Adequate nutrition
- Access to medical care
- Psychological development
- The security of a sympathetic environment.

**RESULTS**

- **13.600 children** have benefitted from our programs since 1985, combating child labor, beggary, exposure to social risks, abandonment, undernourishment and lack of medical care;
- On average, **800 to 1200** children are per year taken into our BAMBİ Homes;
- Length of stay: 6-18 months;
- **75% of all children are reintegrated into their families** and are followed by our social workers for 2 years;
- **3200 parents**, mainly single mothers, have benefitted from the PROMEFA programs since their creation in 2000 and have found socio-economic stability;
- Our activities are financed in **equal parts** by Switzerland and Colombia.

**FOUNDATION BOARD**

Hans Rudi Spillmann (President), Rupert Spillmann (Honorary President and Founder), Marc Grootaert (Vice President), George Petty (treasurer), Marc Aubert, Michel Barbey, Hilda Burger Calderón, Daniela Burrus, Cristina M. Fedele, Carla Hilber del Pozzo, Urs Hofer, Alexandre Liebeskind, Patrick Spillmann, Sophie Turrettini, Françoise Vermeil.

**> OUR CHALLENGES**

▪ **GENERAL SITUATION**

Despite the hope of negotiations for a peace agreement, the political situation in Colombia remains unstable. Among the **four million internally displaced persons** who come and increase the population in the slums around the large cities, more than **70% are mothers with critically low income who bring up their children alone.**

In Colombia:

- **48% of the population lives on less than 3.3 USD per day;**
- **More than 20.000 children under 5 years old die of acute malnutrition every year** (source: UNICEF);
- **More than 50.000 children are abandoned every year.**

There are many ways how you can join forces with us and every contribution counts. This edition highlights two priority projects:

▪ **THE NEW HOME IN CALI**

In 1985, the first BAMBİ Home opened in Cali to be followed by two more in this city with 3.1 million inhabitants. Today, these three homes no longer fulfill the required standards. Material has aged and there is a need for outside facilities, which are vital for the childrens' well being. In order to pursue our mission, we are urgently seeking solutions with support from authorities and local associations, in order to repeat in Cali the successful experience we made with our new home in Bogota.

▪ **PROMEFA**

Created in 2000, this program, destined to ensure the integration of the parents of BAMBİ children into professional life, is becoming ever more successful. PROMEFA is part of our core philosophy fighting the root causes of the problems. While the children regain their physical and psychological balance in the Homes, their parents get support to favor their reintegration and socio-economic reconstruction. Chosen for their will to make it through, more than 3.200 participants, mostly single mothers, have benefitted from the program in our seven BAMBİ Homes.

**> INITIATIVES 2012-2013**

- **Save the date ! On March 5**, we hope that many of you will attend Laurent Deshusses's production for the benefit of the Foundation. Register on: [www.fondation-bambi.org/fr/ld](http://www.fondation-bambi.org/fr/ld)
  - On October 25, the third contemporary art auction "Be Part" was organized by our American branch, the "American Friends of Bambi", and our Colombian committee in Miami. Christie's auctioned off 28 contemporary Colombian works of art and 20 Tiffany's creations with the proceeds going to our Homes.
  - Your generosity during the traditional Christmas Circus on December 9 in Geneva provided important support for the BAMBİ Homes.
- See you in 2013!**

**Every contribution counts – thank you for your gift !**

