



## THE PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL



DEAR DONORS, DEAR FRIENDS,

This year, the **Fondation Aide aux Enfants** celebrates its **30th anniversary**. Since 1985, we have devoted time and efforts to improve the living conditions of marginalized communities, particularly those of women and children in need.

Our Foundation concentrates first and foremost on education and training, health, a good diet, the valorization of individuals and support to secure an income. Thanks to our close cooperation with the Colombian authorities and the work of a devoted interdisciplinary local team of specialists, we are proud to have contributed to improving the daily lives of some 16'000 children and 4000 parents since the Foundation's creation.

Your donations enable the Foundation to keep on fighting and to give them a better future. I wish to thank you for your interest in the Fondation Aide aux Enfants. My thanks also go to the Board of the Foundation, our staff and volunteers, as well as our Colombian partner organizations for their important activities.

*Hans Rudi Spillmann*

### BOARD OF THE FOUNDATION

Hans Rudi Spillmann (President), Marc Groothaert (Vice President), George Petty (Treasurer), Marc Aubert, Michel Barbey, Hilda Burger Calderón, Daniela Burrus, Cristina M. Fedele, Alexandre Liebeskind, Judith Monfrini Crettol, Patrick Spillmann, Sophie Turrettini, Françoise Vermeil.

*In 2015, the Fondation Aide aux Enfants celebrates 30 years of humanitarian work for Colombia's children in need. We take pleasure in presenting you with **BambiNews**, our newsletter retracing the Foundation's activities during the last year, as well as, our achievements since the creation of our Foundation in 1985. We hope it will provide for good reading ! For more information on our present activities and future challenges, please consult [www.fondation-bambi.org](http://www.fondation-bambi.org).*

### IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST 30 YEARS

- we have helped **16.000 needy children** since 1985.
- **4000 parents** were able to build a better future, thanks to the socio-economic intergration program PROMEFA, created in the year 2000.
- every year, **400 parents** were offered professional training courses adapted to their needs.
- every year, an average of **1.200 children** were taken into our Bambi homes.
- **75 percent of the children** we cared for in our homes were able to return to their own families.
- **5 Bambi homes** were created in 4 Colombian cities in the past 30 years.



### OUR MISSION

The Fondation Aide aux Enfants endeavors to improve the lives of the poorest citizens of Colombia. Children between 0 and 6 years of age in extreme situations are taken into the Foundation's five Bambi homes, where they recover their physical and psychological balance. Simultaneously, the Foundation helps their mothers to acquire sustainable financial autonomy through training (PROMEFA) and by financing independent structures for gainful activities. Recognized by the Colombian public partner organizations, the Foundation is a major institutional actor for the protection of children's rights.

### OUR ACTIVITIES

Out of Colombia's 47.7 million inhabitants, 4.5 million are children under the age of 5, half of whom live in abject poverty. According to official numbers, more than 30% of the population live below the poverty line on 2 USD per day. About 2.4 million children lack the most basic care for their development. Every year, the Foundation **takes in 1.200 children** who are abandoned, subjected to child labour or have been abused, in order to give them back their physical and psychological balance.

About **400 parents** of these children benefit from the PROMEFA training program. Due to the resulting improvement of their economic situation, 75% of the children who are taken into our homes can return to their own families.





## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

### *Closer bilateral cooperation*

In 2014, the Colombian government financed 60% of our programs' annual budget – a further step confirming the soundness of our humanitarian action.

### *PROMEFA and the creation of 80 additional jobs*

By the end of 2014, some 200 out of 359 participants had managed to improve their economic resources by securing gainful employment or by creating an independent production entity. **By the end of the second quarter of 2015, an additional 75 candidates will finish their apprenticeship and obtain a training certificate and 55 new production entities will be created.**

The Foundation's partnerships with enterprises and training institutions were strengthened. An additional program (Hogares Sostitutos) was launched in cooperation with the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF), creating 80 jobs for day-care mothers. This continuous training is offered free of charge and aims at professionalizing parental support and improving candidates' knowledge in the fields of health, hygiene, stress management and preschool teaching. **About one hundred children are already benefitting from this measure.**

**For parents' testimonies visit [www.fondation-bambi.org/en/medias-videos](http://www.fondation-bambi.org/en/medias-videos)**

## THE SITUATION IN THE BAMBI HOMES

### **Bogotá**

Due to the various alliances concluded in 2014, we were able to take in 61 community children, 75 ICBF children, 117 day-care children from the neighborhood and 158 children from various specific programs. The Bambi home in Bogotá is a model of success and a reference for many institutions.

### **Cali**

The refurbishing of the Cali home has started in January and will be followed by the construction of the new wing as of March. The building is expected to be completed by the end of August. While in 2014, the old home could take in 40 community children and 222 from the ICBF program, the extension of the structure will increase this capacity by 20%.

### **Medellín**

The Medellín home has concluded a number of partnerships with local foundations and institutions and can now take care of 82 community children.

### **Darién**

The Darién home is still mainly supported by a number of donors from Spiez. The PROMEFA program is implemented with success and children from neighbouring communities are cared for. In 2014, 89 children and 73 parents received psychological and financial support.

### **Marinilla**

The 41 community children and the 117 day-care children were integrated in a new program which is fully financed by the Colombian government and cares for a total of 450 children in 5 municipalities. The Marinilla home was therefore closed in December 2014.



### **EVENTS 2014**

- Exhibit at the Magnolia Art Gallery and tombola to the benefit of the Foundation in April.
- Ceremony to present the Foundation with a 50'000 CHF cheque offered by the Fondation Nuit des Neiges in Crans Montana in August.
- Fourth « BePart » auction in New York in October.
- Traditional Christmas Circus in Geneva in December.

### **EVENTS 2015**

- Opening of painter Daniela Bittar's exhibition in favor of the Foundation on March 5, 2015.
- Publishing of a book illustrating the Foundation's 30 years of humanitarian action in Colombia.
- Christmas Circus in Geneva in December.
- Charity concert in Bogotá.
- Inauguration of the new home in Cali in the presence of the Colombian authorities in October.

**BECAUSE EVERY ACTION DOES COUNT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION !**

**FONDATION AIDE AUX ENFANTS FOYERS BAMBI**

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