



DEAR FRIENDS,

In 1985, struck by the extreme misery and the complete lack of assistance to young children in the slums of Colombia, we opened the first «Bambi» Home with 15 children.

30 years on, we are proud to have accommodated 16,000 children in several homes throughout the country. Who could have imagined it?

In 2000, seeing the deep suffering of mothers, we have created Promefa, a professional training program intended to the parents.

Until now, more than 4,000 mothers have benefitted from this support program and have learned a trade that enabled them to regain their dignity as well as to take care of their children.

I would like to thank all the people who, throughout these years, have contributed to the success of our action by their infinite generosity, their daily work, their availability and their total commitment!

Hans Rudi Spillmann

Board of the Foundation

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

IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST 30 YEARS

- 4 homes in Bogotá, Cali, Darién and Medellín
- 160 steady jobs for Colombians
- 16,300 children taken into our homes
- 4,200 mothers benefitted from PROMEFA and learned a trade
- 75% of the children returned to their original families with a two year follow-up by social workers
- Order of Merit and Order of the Colombian Congress
- ZEWO and ICBF labels, ISO 9001

The «*Fondation Aide aux Enfants*» is pleased to present you with *BambiNews*, a newsletter retracing our activities in 2015 as well as the current projects.

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 four 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, 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 lives 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 labor 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.





In Colombia

Events in the year of the 30th anniversary of the «Fondation Aide aux Enfants»

CALI: On November 4, 2015, the new home in Cali was inaugurated. A large Swiss delegation and numerous Colombian personalities attended the ceremony. On that occasion, the «Fondation Aide aux Enfants» was awarded the Medal of the Order of Merit, in recognition of its accomplishments. The new home can shelter up to 150 children. 70% of the children are entrusted to us by ICBF (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar) the others are part of our community programs.

BOGOTA: An exceptional concert was given on November 5 at the residence of the Swiss ambassador to Colombia, in the presence of Ambassador Kurt Kunz and his wife. A large crowd of private and public sector donors listened to Colombian soprano Martha Senn's performance.

MEDELLIN: Our existing home has become too small to cover the numerous programs entrusted to us by the government on top of our community programs. The construction firm Arquitectura & Concreto has donated a plot of land in Medellin to the Foundation in order to develop a larger structure in the framework of an urban development project they are currently implementing. The Swiss delegation visited the location of the project and noticed the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. A construction project will be jointly developed with our local partners, the municipality and new donors.

In Switzerland

LOGO: On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, the «Fondation Aide aux Enfants» decided to renew its identity with a modernized logo. In cooperation with the Geneva based communication agency «Hémisphère», it was decided to transform the circle into an icon representing an adult protecting two children, as a symbol of home, family and PROMEFA.

BOOK: «The faces and landscapes of Colombia» was published by the publishing company Slatkine in October 2015. The book was realized by Cristina M. Fedele, former Secretary General of the Foundation and Nathalie Tolu, a former member of the Foundation board and depicts the many different facets of Colombia. The reader discovers a country rich in history and culture. The proceeds of the sale of the book are destined to the Foundation. Order now on our website www.fondation-bambi.org!

THE SITUATION IN THE BAMBI HOMES

In 2015, the Colombian homes benefitted from a new project, fully financed by the government in the framework of the peace process. Through the Presidential Cooperation Agency (APC), we were able to approach families whose members had been part of the armed conflict (especially guerilla groups) in order to include their children in our homes' programs.

Bogotá

In this city of almost 8 million inhabitants where a constant stream of victims of the armed conflict flows towards the slums, our home welcomed 479 children. The various alliances we created in 2015 have permitted us to take in 60 community children, 42 from the ICBF (Instituto Colombiano del Bienestar Familiar), 158-day care children and 219 from various specific programs. The home remains a model of success and a reference for many other institutions.

Cali

The refurbishing and extension works for the new home in Cali were concluded in November 2015. The city with its 3 million inhabitants suffers from the consequences of armed conflict and drug traffic, which have plunged the entire region into insecurity and poverty. Our new home will have the capacity to shelter more underprivileged children. In 2015, The Cali home cared for 225 children: 168 from ICBF, 53 from community programs and 4 from the rehabilitation program.

Medellin

Last year, the home in Medellin took in 201 children: 89 from ICBF, 67 from the community and 45 from APC. In addition to the current programs, the local team carries out two field missions: one of them is an «outpatient» activity aimed at monitoring the nutritional and physical development of children living in the neighboring communities for 6 months, the other one provides nutritional supplements for under 2 year-olds which are given to their parents.

Darién

Our home, located in Darien with 18,200 inhabitants is still mainly supported by the community of Spiez (Switzerland). This particular «Bambi» home has become a model of success for our professional training program PROMEFA; it takes in many children from the neighboring municipalities. In 2015, 82 children received support.

EVENTS 2015

- Opening of the exhibit of painter Daniela Bittar in Geneva on March 5
- Exhibit at the Magnolia Art Gallery in Geneva and tombola organized to the benefit of the Foundation in April
- Launching of the Foundation's new website: www.fondation-bambi.org
- Ceremony and award of the CHF 50,000 cheque by the «Fondation de la Nuit des Neiges» in Crans Montana in August
- Publication of a book illustrating our 30 years of humanitarian activity in Colombia
- Inauguration of the new home in Cali in the presence of the Colombian authorities on November 4
- Charity concert at the Swiss Embassy in Bogotá on November 5
- Cirque de Noël on November 29 in Geneva
- Salsa evening to the benefit of the Foundation, supported by the Afro-Latin Concept on December 27



EVENTS 2016

- 3rd Congress of Latin Dancing, supported by the Afro-Latin Concept on May 25, 26 and 27 in Geneva
- Geneva Lions Club annual dinner to the benefit of the Foundation on April 28
- Participation in the Race for Gifts on Sunday, May 29
- BePart art auction in New York in October
- Salsa evening in Spiez with the friends of the Darien Home on November 18
- Cirque de Noël in December

and many more events to come... join us to support our activities!

TWELVE MONTHS FOR A TRANSFORMATION: LET US HELP THEM TO GROW UP!

FONDATION AIDE AUX ENFANTS FOYERS BAMBI

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