River of Hope

Non Profit Organisation... Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe

Yearly Report 2013

It is our pleasure to present our yearly report, for the first time also in English due to the growing number of international partners and friends. It was a wonderful 2013 for River of Hope and our project, the center "Tala Mosika" ("look beyond", in Lingala) Kinshasa. We met all the goals set bacin 2012.
http://www.riverofhope.org/media/reports-jahresberichte/

Creating our Center

Building our center „Tala Mosika" - At the end of 2012 we purchased 4ha of land, near the village of Selo/Kasangulu/Bas Congo, 40km outside Kinshasa on the main street N1, heading to the main harbor. The villagers are directly involved in the building of our center. Véronique Cialfi (Swiss/ Congolese) and I share the work on the ground. I am normally present on site in spring to work and speak with the team, our partners, and the local authorities, where we try to involve the people as much as possible. The goal is to build a trustworthy base for a long-term sustainable and successful cooperation - a "win-win" situation for all of us. Véronique traveled this year down to Kinshasa in August / September. Her work is very important since she understands both cultures and languages, and can promote mutual understanding. In addition, a change in thinking takes place in the operation and daily procedures. The local team is working with pride and a lot of passion. They invested every spare minute of their free time to achieve a better future. Well done and thank-you!

Starting with the Constructions

In January 2013 we began construction of the security house at the entrance gate. The working conditions were a huge challenge because we had no water, electricity nor a car. The water was carried by women and the building material for the bricks transported to our site by trucks. Since July we have a pick-up truck, which makes life much easier. For the well we were recommended to a Canadian Foundation and we hope to start with the digging in the spring of 2014.

Furnished the first building at „Tala Mosika" - Construction of the first school building began in early July 2013, after the Medicor foundation committed to the financial support for the construction of the school for the next 3 years. Each building has 3 rooms and functions as an individual unit. 10 weeks after the beginning of the construction the first building was finished and we could start as planned with 3 programs in September. We furnished one room as a classroom for 30 students, another room as office/storage & bedroom, and the third room as sanitary facility for both genders. By the end of 2013, the security wall and another building will be completed: http://complexe-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch/

Programs

Football "CIPERFOOT" U-18 Team from Sanga Mamba: Our U18 team has qualified for the 2nd time in a row for the final round of a tournament organized by Manchester United and Airtel. The Prokredit Bank in Kinshasa, sponsored our team not only for the tournament but also for this current school year, so that they can continue to train. When we informed the players that they have a national bank as a sponsor, they could not believe it: "What - Someone out there believes in us?" We decided to organize a workshop about "we are fair play" (a program of the German foundation "Kick ins Leben") during my last trip in April, in the form of group work and presentations. The outcomes were visible both on and off the football pitch and we were all very proud of the way they presented themselves.
Pictures: http://ciperfoot.blogspot.ch/ **Training Movie**: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7_d-BmCD2s&feature=c4-overview&list=UUJdzxfy2Gax3CQS2tws4Zlw

Football-Program for 6-16 years old in Tala Mosika: in October, the kids started with the football training. A targeted offer aimed for disadvantaged children and young people living in poverty and on the streets of Kinshasa. The training takes place 3 times a week, and the children are divided into 2 age groups. Most families cannot afford to pay for the program, and we urgently need support to finance the various programs, the coaching, meals, medical care, etc. We are in touch with a football partner. http://ciperfoot-talamosika.blogspot.ch/

Tailor - Atelier „Tala Mosika" The tailor-atelier was sponsored in December 2012 by the Swiss Embassy in Kinshasa, and the program was launched in January 2013. Since we had no premises at the time, we rented a building in Sanga Mamba where we started three years ago. We train young women and take in orders from customers with the goal to become a self-sufficient small organization. The atelier will be moved in the beginning of 2014 to our center "Tala Mosika" to ensure a better supervision. Products will be sold at our shop directly at the main road N1 between the capital and the main harbor. The biggest challenges are the hand powered machines which brake easily and we are looking for alternative solutions. http://atelier-couture-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch/

Planting trees for many reasons The planting of 400 Acacias & 50 Moringa trees planned for last February, was postponed to the beginning of the rainy season in October, due to lack of water. The trees have been set aside and our agronomist waters them until the moment has come. The Moringa tree is also called "Tree of Life", a natural and fast-acting remedy for malnutrition and over 300 other diseases: http://www.100-days.net/de/projekt/campus-fuer-strassenkinder/news .We are very happy to have Caritas Linz/Kinshasa as our partner for the agricultural project.

Agricultural Program At the beginning of the rainy season in September, we started an agricultural program in collaboration with Caritas Linz/Kinshasa. It is important for the villagers to become self-sufficient and they are actively trained and involved. We started with 6 hectares of land, whereby 4 hectares are owned by the villagers but prepared, planted and cared for under the guidance of an agronomist. In December 8 goats found a new home at our center. We were also honored to welcome the responsible person from Caritas Linz-Austria, who expressed his satisfaction with progress over the last few months. http://agriculture-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch/

Program for illiterates - On September 14th, approx. 60 illiterate women started a 3-year educational program. Parents living in poverty should realize that they can offer a better future to their children through education. Through gained confidence and success fewer will deny their children an education, and send them to fail in the streets. Thanks to the great "Birthday Gift - Initiative" of the Liechtenstein couple S. & J. Hadermann, we could finance the program for the entire school year. http://talalmosikaprogrammescolaire.blogspot.ch/

Important Issues

Water – Digging for water and installing a fountain requires a budget of over $30'000. We were recommended to a Canadian Foundation, and if all goes according to plan, drilling will start early 2014. As a pre-requisite, our project manager will fly at the beginning of January 2014 for one month to the Balavikasa center in India, to attend a seminar about "Community Driven Development-CDD". To offer training and development to our local team is an important investment for a healthy growth of the center and its sustainability.

Light & Electricity by using simple solar solutions, spaces can be operated individually. A complicated wiring system and constant power failures are an inadequate solution, whereas the bright sun never lets us down!
We are in negotiation with an international startup company aiming to solve current distribution and sales problems for solar powered products in developing countries. The goal is substantial improvement of the economical, educational and environmental situation for people of the "bottom of the pyramid". At the beginning of the year, the Swiss company "Solargovia" donated a practical and robust portable solar panel for loading mobile phones and laptops. http://solar-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch/

Health – We have 2 doctors on our team offering basic care to our football kids. Children from our center passed a health check-up, and the results were not encouraging. Problems: malnutrition, malaria, water & hygiene related diseases. The next medical center for the villagers is 28 km away by foot, and poorly equipped. We would like to change that in the near future. http://dispensaire.blogspot.ch/

Coming up

Container – In October we bought a 20' container, with the aim to fill it with important material for our Center "Tala Mosika" until the end of January 2014, and ship it to Congo. Once in place, we will position it on the land we bought on the main road N1, next to center between the capital and the harbor. The container will be converted into a shop and sell snacks thus boosting the economies of both village people and our Center. Our new shop will open at a strategic meeting point where we will also offer small meals and drinks. This will be done in combination with the project from "Cuisine sans frontière" (see next paragraph)http://reich-die-hand.blogspot.ch/

Dining Room & Kitchen - We are very proud to inform you, that with we found a new partner in the Foundation "Cuisine sans frontière". We will start building a kitchen with a dining and multipurpose room for a 100 people in 2014. Upon completion we will offer training in hygiene and nutrition to our staff members and local partners.
http://www.cuisinesansfrontieres.ch/en/home

Programs – All programs that started in summer 2013 will continue in 2014. Next summer we will add the new school program and different training workshops for adults.

Solar – If all negotiations go as planned, we will start training staff on how to use and install simple solar lamps and how to become entrepreneurs by selling the lamps.

Balls for our center!! - In 2006, **"One World Futbol"** inventor Tim Jahnigen, realized there was a global need for a nearly indestructible ball that could withstand the harsh conditions often faced by youth living in refugee camps, disaster areas and other disadvantaged communities. With a concept and material in mind, Tim set out to design a ball that played like a soccer ball, but would never need a pump and never go flat—even when punctured multiple times. His idea remained in the concept stage until a conversation with his friend world-renowned entertainer Sting. Once Sting heard Tim's vision for the ball, he provided the initial funding to do the research and development for a prototype of the "One World Futbol". We are very proud to be associated with Tim and part of this wonderful story. We will report on the arrival of the balls in Congo as soon as possible.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYV86ogAuQY / http://www.oneworldfutbol.com

Football Partner - Football plays a central role in our project and discussions with possible partners are ongoing. We will report as soon as possible.

Looking for support

Sponsoring School Children – In summer 2014 we are starting our school program for 6th graders and above: that's when most children stop going to school. We offer a day school for kids from Selo and the neighborhood, as well as a boarding school for kids from Kinshasa, where we will collaborate with different organizations. We will offer a strong educational program based on national standards, which enables them to learn a profession or to pursue further education. We want to provide access to sports, academics, and extracurricular activities. Children receive the necessary support to become independent and confident individuals, ready to face the challenges of their personal and professional lives. We aim to free them and their families from the cycle of poverty and misery. Further details about the program will follow.

Medical Center - We are urgently looking for a partner to set up a small medical center. We have already 2 doctors in our services. There is no medical center near by, please help us so that we can care for and inform the people from the village and the center about important health issues (over 1'000 people).
http://dispensaire.blogspot.ch/
Workshop about Health and Hygiene already given in the past http://drinking-water-kongo.blogspot.ch/

Professional Center – Since we developed a few professional fields such as tailoring, construction, woodwork, agriculture, etc.. we would like to combine the different disciplines into one center and offer courses leading to a certificate/diploma, so that people have the possibility to get a job, or become independent.

Sponsor a classroom or a dormitory: http://www.ariverofhope.org/help/name-a-room/

Information from Switzerland

River of Hope Board Members – Following her move to Canada our Vice-President, Trine vom Braucke, decided to resign her role at River of Hope. We thank her for her support and dedication over the years! Debby Tarqua has now taken over this role and we are excited to have her on board and benefit form her enthusiasm and fresh outlook.
The entire team in Switzerland and in Congo has done an outstanding job and proves that they deserve all the support they can get in order to change their future. Thank you!

Events in Switzerland - Kaspar, a student at the ISR developed with the CAS-project a Candy business and donated all the proceeds to us. César Ritz Colleges and St.Georges School organized a number of different fund-raising activities. In June we took part in the "Intercultural Festival" in Buchs and together with the International School we held a stand at the Bahnhofstrasse. International women supported us not only with baking muffins and self made art work, but also helped Noa Doron, our children's ambassador to manage the stand. At the end of November we organized a children's flea market in Buchs. The demand for tables was high, and even though we would have liked to see a higher flow of potential buyers, business was overall good. We offered a wide selection of fine muffins and Tchibo coffee. A big thank you to the sponsors: Concordia, Helvetia, Mobiliar, and Raiffeisen. Kids could participate in a dice game and win great prizes. Thanks everyone for baking, setting up tables up, and cleaning up at the end!

Press - The Press has also covered our story: http://tala-mosika.jimdo.com/media/
Interview: Children Football Alliance http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/river-of-hope/
For our 3 years presence in Congo, we have prepared a video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TYOhnmtL1w&feature=c4-overview&list=UUJdzxfy2Gax3CQS2tws4Zlw

For your information – we would like to point out that all board members and associates of River of Hope work on a voluntary basis. Therefore all funds collected are injected entirely in the project. All administrative and project-related costs have been so far always covered by specific donations aimed to that effect. A big thank you for that.

Time to say thank you – It is amazing to see that we were able to achieve such results having started from scratch. This was made possible thanks to many individuals and organizations that trusted us and believed in our vision.

Financial controlling performed by: ACV Revision in Buchs/SG.

Thank you so much for your support – together we are strong

Claudia Doron-Zahner
President & Project Manager