# BambiNews NO. 14 – April 2017

THE FOUNDATION has the pleasure of presenting BambiNews to you, our newsletter with information about our various activities during 2016 and our current projects.



#### Dear Friends,

For 32 years, your generosity has made it possible for us to help so many poor children in Colombia – thank you! Despite some progress in the resolution of the conflict which has ravaged the country for more than 50 years, hardship among the 6 million displaced persons in the country remains a huge problem.

With your help, we continue to provide health, hope and security for a large number of destitute mothers and children. But there are still many more who need our help badly!

Thank you for your loyalty!

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HANS RUDI SPILLMANN President

# **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- > 4 homes in Bogota, Cali, Darien and Medellin
- > 160 steady jobs for Colombians
- > 1.200 children taken every year into our homes
- > 400 mothers following every year the PROMEFA program
- > 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

#### **OUR MISSION**

The «Fondation Aide aux Enfants» endeavors to improve the lives of the poorest people 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**

- > Providing vital support to children in physical and psychological distress.
- > Strengthening their parents' socio-economic stability *in predominantly single-parent* households without regular income.
- > Finding sustainable solutions for the children's and their parents' future.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016** IN COLOMBIA

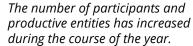
*Three months after the signature of* the historical peace treaty, which ended 52 years of conflict with the guerrilla of the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC), the social situation in the country remains critical.

# NEW PROGRAM

The program of support in favour of the victims of the armed conflict in Colombia aims at social rehabilitation and lasting improvement of socio-economic and family conditions of mothers and/or fathers who are victims of the armed conflict. This project was jointly created by our professional teams in the 4 cities and the ACR (Agencia Colombiana para la reintegracion) with the goal of promoting social and professional reintegration in the context of peace consolidation within the Colombian society.

# PROMEFA

During 2016, our vocational rehabilitation program was further consolidated. PROMEFA is now a reference for global family support and has led to very positive results among its beneficiaries.



Some parents are following their 3rd or 4th vocational training course in order to become more qualified.

introduced in all homes, parents can share their personal experience, present their production units, introduce their products and promote them.

*These events are very popular.* 

# BOGOTA

On November 2, 2016, our national director Diana Palacio was named one of the "Ten best leading personalities in Colombia" for her personal work through the Fondation Aide aux Enfants.

This award is granted to persons or organizations who have contributed to the transformation of Colombian Society through the achievement of social progress.



#### IN SWITZERLAND ZEWO

In August 2016, the Fondation Aide aux Enfants was once again certified for 5 years. The Zewo quality label is awarded to trustworthy welfare organizations with rigorous and regular supervision of their financial management.

# COMMUNICATION

In order to raise the Foundation's profile in Switzerland, particularly in Geneva, we have increased the number of our local events. The Foundation is also increasingly present in digital communication channels and social media. Follow us on Linkedin, Twitter, Google Page and Facebook.

# THE SITUATION IN THE BAMBI HOMES

Thanks to the active participation and financial assistance of the Colombian government, we were able to give support to 1130 children and 337 parents in 2016. Admissions are carried out through our various programs: community, ICBF, hogar sustituto, day-care, nutritional support, program integral and PROMEFA.

### Bogota

*Five hundred and sixty two children were admitted* to our home in Bogota: 46 children from the community program, 53 from ICBF (Colombian Institute for Family Welfare), 314 children from the "hogar sustituto" program and 149 day-care children.

# Cali

Our new home welcomed 238 destitute or abandoned children. One hundred and sixty four children were entrusted to us by the Colombian *Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF), 74 children were* admitted through the community welfare program.

# Medellin

The Medellin home took in 254 children last year-151 from "hogar sustituto", 29 from the community, 57 from the program integral and 17 for nutritional support.

# Darien

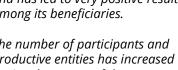
This home is mainly financed by the citizens of Spiez, Switzerland, and took in 67 children from the community program. The home is a model of success of the vocational training program PROMEFA. Last year, 62 parents were able to improve their socio-economic conditions.











On "family day" which was



# BECAUSE EVERY ACTION DOES COUNT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

# **EVENTS 2016**

- > February: awareness-raising week about children's rights at the Institut Florimont, Geneva
- > March 25, 26 and 27: Latin American Dance Convention with the support of Afro-Latin Concept
- > April 28: Lions Club Annual Dinner to the benefit of the Foundation
- > May and June: two board members' birthday parties to the benefit of the Foundation
- > May: first participation in the solidarity run Race for Gift, Geneva
- > July: EATA meeting about identity, integration and borders
- > October 19: Salsa evening in Spiez
- > October 20: BePart auction in New York City
- November 27: traditional Christmas Circus in Geneva, with the presence of 450 children from Geneva welfare associations
- > December 8: sale to the benefit of the Foundation at the Boutique La Bourse du Luxe, Geneva

# **PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2017**

- > February 21 and 22: Human Rights week at the Institut Florimont, Geneva
- > February 21: Presentation of our activities at the Fondation La Clairière, Mies, Switzerland
- > February 24 and 25: participation in the forum "Solidarity in all its shapes", Plan les Ouates, Switzerland
- > three-month partnership with the restaurant La Bodega (Eaux- Vives, Geneva)- 1 CHF added to every check to the benefit of the Foundation
- > May 21: second participation in the solidarity run Race for Gift, Geneva
- > End of May: soirée for the presentation of the Foundation, organized by a board member in Zurich
- > November: BePart auction, Madrid
- > December: traditional Christmas Circus, Plaine de Plainpalais, Geneva

FONDATION AIDE AUX ENFANTS FOYERS BAMBI



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