

# newsletter

#23 / January 2016

## IT WAS ONE BIG CELEBRATION ON 28 NOVEMBER IN DELHI!

We – French, Indians, and expats from all over the world – celebrated friendship and togetherness during the French Charity Fete, which was held on Saturday, 28 November at the Lycée Français de Delhi and in the gardens of the Institut Français.

We are incredibly happy that this event was a success despite the Paris terrorist attacks on 13 November. We would like to thank everyone who came together to enjoy the French way of life; do some Christmas shopping; savour our cuisine, cheese, and wine; have fun; and let your children enjoy all the events organised especially for them.

Despite a drop in the number of entries, especially due to the last minute communication on this subject, the results are positive and much more than last year. This helps us continue providing financial aid to the 12 NGOs we help.

Four among these NGOs were present at the Fete this year: Kamalini and Muskaan sold their artistic creations, Tara Girls and Kamalini performed dance numbers on the stage, the young children from Tara Boys and Big Birds were there to help, and the young girls from Jagriti helped us and enjoyed all the events held at the Fete!

We would like to thank a number of people for making sure this event was a success – you for coming, the 92 exhibitors of which 21 were new this year, the artists who livened up the day, and all the volunteers, more than 100, who made this event a success and gave Delhi a taste of French culture and way of life!



Save the date for  
2016's Main Tendue  
Charity Gala Dinner:  
Saturday, 2 April



We hope that you have had  
a merry Christmas  
and a wonderful end-of-year celebration;  
we wish you a  
**very happy new year 2016,**  
full of joy and success!



# news from our NGOs

## **MOTIA KHAN – A centre for underprivileged children that provides healthcare and schooling assistance**

Our volunteer team provides food and healthcare to the children four days a week. The number of children here varies: one day they may be very few, and on others there are many. The women are interested in hygiene and prevention of vitamin deficiency (such as lack of folic acid that may cause congenital disorders during pregnancy), and we are looking for ready-to-use Hindi prospectuses to distribute.

On the school front, the team visited a school founded, 8 years ago, by Samarpan in Kishangar; the school has 600 students today. This example pushes our team to consider opening a new school, in an apartment close to the shelter, to be free to lend a hand and leave material there.

We are currently looking for an ideal location.



November 24, information meeting in Motia Khan about hygiene and health as part of Main Tendue medical project. On the programme: prevention of spina bifida by mothers feeding and supplementation of folic acid, and then discussion about laundry. Distribution of folic acid and lye.

## **THE SHELTER - Residential centre that provides education and healthcare for abandoned children**

We are looking for a new coordinator, residing in Gurgaon, to act as a link between Main Tendue and The Shelter, which provides, under the guidance of its founder Sandra, a conducive, stable environment for 20 children between 8 and 18 years. The mission: one shopping session per month based on the list provided by Sandra, and regular follow-up to identify this NGO's requirements. If you're a resident of Gurgaon, feel free to contact us!

## **SEVA OASIS – A centre that receives and helps send slum children to school**

Classes are going on, and the children are regular. Well done, kids! On 15 December, the children were able to go on a "class trip", thanks to Main Tendue. On the agenda: Akshardham temple (lunch on site), Children's park at India Gate, Iskcon temple, and Science museum

## **KAMALINI – Professional training centre for underprivileged women**

Good news: the clothes on sale, made by the centre, were a big hit during the French Charity Fete! There were various products ranging from 100 to 1000 rupees. They delighted our couturiers and encouraged them in their work! A sense of professionalism is now present in this production centre, in terms of managing accounts, selling products, and sales monitoring. The volunteers wish to donate a 2mx2m table to be able to spread out patterns and fabric, and also buy good measuring devices. In the kitchen, a new oven has been bought; this is good news for the international cuisine department!

## **MOTHER TERESA – Residence for disabled orphans**

November and December were months of celebration for the children here: Diwali and Christmas were perfect for fun-filled and musical activities. Congratulations to all the volunteers for organising these festive moments and thank you Santa Claus for having visited on 12 December!



On December 12, Santa Claus spend some time with the children of Mother Teresa's orphanage

### **TARA HOMES - Residential centre that provides education and healthcare for abandoned children**

It's official: Tara Girls, the 3rd Tara home, received its certificate of existence! Tara is currently seeing some activity: two boys from Tara Boys will be transferred to more specialised centres that are better adapted to their handicap, two boys from Tara Tots will come to Tara Boys and three sisters will be joining Tara Tots. We would like to thank the three boys from Tara Boys and two from Tara Big Birds for having helped us at the French Charity Fete, and also thank Tara Girls for dancing for us!

They were wonderful!

Please note that we will be celebrating the 4th anniversary of Tara Tots on 16 January.



*Some of the children marched in Malviya Nagar on the occasion of Children's day*

### **JAGRITI A PIONEERING SOCIETY - Residential centre that provides education and healthcare for abandoned girls**

The French Charity Fete was the perfect place for games for this centre's 22 young girls, to whom Main Tendue provided a few hundred coupons. We saw them run around with enthusiasm in the Lycée Français' courtyards; they rushed from the bouncy castles to coconut shy, and even managed to grab a piece of cake on the way!

Upcoming project: Regular visits by middle school students from the Francophone Catholic Community of Delhi for various activities on Saturday afternoons.



*Welcoming our volunteers in Jagriti with a Christmas carol on December 16!*

### **MUSKAAN-DERA - Residential centre for disabled adults**

Candles, paper bags, envelopes, biscuits, dry spices, and more were part of this NGO's stand for the French Charity Fete. These colourful and creative products were made by handicapped adults; well done Muskaan-Dera! Thank you Maria-Giulia for guaranteeing monthly groceries for Muskaan.

### **SHAKTI SHALINI - A centre for receiving and training domestic violence victims**

The centre's activity is in progress: in addition to being a crisis centre for victims of domestic violence, this centre will now become a crisis centre for rape cases, on demand, in collaboration with the State's Woman & Child department. We are looking to hire a 2nd professional counsellor to welcome individuals in emergency situations.

### **SALAAM BALAK TRUST - Residential centre that provides education and healthcare for abandoned children**

Catherine P, who was the coordinator between Main Tendue and SBT, has left Delhi. The children and volunteers bid an emotional goodbye to Catherine. Our 5 volunteers conduct various activities every Thursday: Yoga, colouring, Lego, puzzles, etc. They make sure to vary activities and adapt to all situations, even when they found the games storage room closed one morning!

### **TORCH - A centre that receives and helps send street children to school**

Sushitra, the centre's teacher and organiser, left on Thursday, after having quit on Monday! This has been difficult for the children, who haven't stopped asking for her. Rajkumari has replaced Sushitra now. Amélie C, coordinator at Torch, has agreed to help manage the transition in the best way possible.

Children who have already started school are applying themselves and the game dynamics with the young ones are excellent. As for clothes, after having distributed underwear, Main Tendue will now distribute new sweaters to the children!



*Christmas preparation in Torch*

# Our association

## 2016 FRENCH CHARITY FETE, A BIG THANK YOU TO:

**Mr François Richier**, French Ambassador to India, our honorary chairman, for his unconditional and continuous support.

**Mr Jean Pierre Faou**, Principal at Lycée Français de Delhi, for receiving us warmly, his availability and efficiency.

**Mr François Vandeville**, Director of Institut Français, for the superb space given to us.

We would like to thank all the personnel of the Embassy, Lycée and Institut who were a great part of making this event a grand success! Again thank you to all our sponsors, especially for the cafeteria: the kitchens of the French Embassy, Amour Bistro, L'Opera, French Farm, Coup de Food, Dabon, Hospitality Magic, Malteries Soufflet, Ploof and Pernod Ricard. Last but not least, a huge thank you to the chief organizer of the event, Caroline Wagner !

## THANK YOU AND GOODBYE CATHERINE & CLOTILDE!

**Catherine Palasti**, an active member of the Main Tendue team, left India on the evening of the French Charity Fete. And what was she doing on that day, you ask? She was selling clothes for the NGO with Anne-Céline! Catherine was a volunteer at Salaam Baalak Trust for many years and also agreed to coordinate between Main Tendue and SBT from mid-2014. She also participated in our CAs and coordinated our volunteers. Thank you Catherine for your energy, happiness, passion, and pizzazz!

**Clotilde Monnet**, imaginative, radiant, and talented, left Delhi last Tuesday after having spent more than 3 years here! She started as a volunteer at Salaam Baalak Trust, where she actively organised creative activities for homeless boys, Clotilde went on to become our corporate identity manager. Clotilde used her skills while keeping in mind Main Tendue's vision, feelings of everybody, and the elegance required to make us dream! Thank you Clotilde for your involvement and patience!

Even though those who are leaving are being replaced by new recruits (Catherine has already handed over the reins to Véronique G., Clotilde will be replaced by Flore T.) it's always difficult to let go of our volunteers.

Good luck to the both of you!

Thank you to Swathi Narayan (swathi.mkn@gmail.com) to translate this Newsletter



## Focus on 2 partners.

### Genesis

Come get that custom-made jewellery you've been dreaming about at this trusted jeweller, and donate to Main Tendue at the same time! For all purchases made by someone from Main Tendue, Genesis will donate 3% of the turnover to Main Tendue. Feel free to visit their showroom: M-10 Greater Kailash 1, Main Road, 110 048 New Delhi. [genesis.jewellery@gmail.com](mailto:genesis.jewellery@gmail.com).

### Veolia

On 17 November, Main Tendue organised a workshop to raise funds in exchange for provision of services and ensure volunteers' vocations in the company. Bharti, Manager at Shakti Shalini, and Kamalini's Rushika were there to talk about their NGOs.

There were very interesting discussions, especially about the place of the Indian woman. More in 2016, on the occasion of Women's day!