

# newsletter

Nr 17/ January 2015

## French Charity Fête: What a success !

The French Charity Fête was organised on 29th November, a bright sunny day, in the playgrounds of the French Lycée and the gardens of the Institut Français. The international community and Indian friends of Main Tendue were all present. Literally thousands of people dropped by throughout the day to do their Christmas shopping, appreciate French food and wine, let their children play and have fun.

The results were very positive ! Like last year, this will help us continue providing financial aid to our NGOs. Some of our NGOs were present at the event: Kamalini sold some of their products, Jagriti was present with some of their young girls from the shelter, and all the boys from Tara Homes were there as well!

We would like to thank everyone who took part. We would also like to thank the stall owners (93), the sponsors (41) the musicians and artists, and all the volunteers (more than 100!) who made this event such a huge success and a wonderful example of the French culture and spirit in Delhi!

main tendue 



Saturday  
29<sup>th</sup> november  
10am to 6pm

[www.maintenduedelhi.org](http://www.maintenduedelhi.org)



We wish you  
a Happy New Year 2015 !

# news from our NGOs

## Clothilde and Natasha: Two young volunteers at Main Tendue.

With Main Tendue's help, many NGOs (Torch, Jagriti, Mother Teresa) receive student volunteers regularly during the French holiday season. Since September, a couple of young women on a sabbatical year have landed in Delhi to volunteer for a few months.

Before starting university in Australia next February, **Natasha Rivera Masso** (18) decided to commit herself to a few Delhi NGOs where her mother works. Her first experience was with an NGO that deals with wellness and health prevention programmes for youngsters. This experience wasn't very conclusive for her. She felt useless, and she didn't speak enough Hindi to fit in. So, she started volunteering for Motia Khan (her grandmother was here last year) and Salaam Baalak Trust, through Main Tendue. At the same time she started learning Hindi as she is passionate about languages.



Natasha at Salaam Baalak Trust

She dedicated two mornings a week to SBT: On Tuesdays, she was with Catherine, where they divided their time between physical activities and drawing workshops. On Wednesdays with Clothilde who helped with the development of the children's manual skills. And once a week, she would go to Motia Khan, where she helped the children attending classes which were set up recently. She has also been helping the Mother Teresa orphanage. For Natasha, the past few months (4 in total) spent with these underprivileged populations have been an unforgettable and very enriching experience: it has helped her put her thoughts into perspective and has changed her understanding of this population. Her intensive Hindi classes helped her to meet different people. And for someone who wants to become a journalist, this strengthened her desire to travel and discover different populations!

As early as 7<sup>th</sup> grade, after hearing about her girl scout leader's experience in Romania, **Clothilde de Marignan** (22) decided she would later work in a humanitarian aid programme.

Clothilde at Mother Teresa Orphanage



Her project is to dedicate her time to others, particularly to children, while being immersed in a different culture. Studying in an Agribusiness engineering school, she decided to take a year off to carry out her project. She found herself in Delhi thanks to her aunt Isabelle who plays an important role in Main Tendue, and who, last Christmas, spoke to her about us and the NGOs we support. After several email exchanges during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, Clothilde arrived in Delhi early September and started working almost full-time in many NGOs, moving from one to another in the middle of the day: Torch, Mother Teresa, Salaam Baalak Trust, Motia Khan and, during the Indian holiday season, Jagriti. Her schedule: manual activities, private lessons, exchanges, hugs, affection... In short Clothilde was happy with these children... but she also made time to help us extensively with the organisation of the French Charity Fête. On the other hand, she didn't have enough time to travel (she only visited Agra). She doesn't feel too bad! She'll be back sometime!

Just like Natasha, her outlook on marginalised populations has changed with her stay. And although some may last only a few seconds, she enjoys every single encounter she makes on the streets, where she walks a lot - a look, a smile, a gesture, strangers helping her in the metro. She was amazed by the kindness shown to her and by the vitality, the fighting spirit of the young and their need to be recognised. Her outlook towards consumerism will certainly be transformed on her return to France.

Clothilde was also very pleasantly surprised with the friendships she made with the ex-pat community where she came across diversity and solidarity between different generations and origins and where everyone was treated equally.

When asked about the negative aspects of her stay, there was first a long pause and then she said, "What's painful is that you always have to bargain with Autorickshaw drivers!"

### Mother Teresa

Saturday, 8th November. Five volunteer dentists from Clove Dental and volunteers from Main Tendue came to the Mother Teresa Orphanage to carry out a preliminary examination of the children's (51) and adults' (19) dental health with a complete diagnosis and a patient file for each individual. In the end, we found only seven emergency cases. There were many cases of cavities and prophylaxis.



This intervention was initiated by Erika Lauret Tobon, a volunteer at the orphanage, who is concerned with the dental health of the children she looks after. She tracked down a dental clinic willing to work for free. She also organised a whole team of volunteers on D-Day to help look after the handicapped children and reassure them during the examination.

Could this be the beginning of a Main Tendue 'health centre' ? We already have ex-pat doctors who share their expertise with Torch (Dermatologist), Motia Khan and Tara Homes!

Like every year, on the 6th of December, volunteers at Main Tendue organised a Christmas Party. This year's theme: 'Performance and Puppet shows'. The programme included: Make-up, Keralan dance, magic shows, Didi's dance, puppets of Rajasthan, Christmas carols by the children and not forgetting gift distribution by Santa Claus!



Thanks to Indian Kids, we will be able to renovate many of the windows at the orphanage. Indian Kids also helped us fund the Christmas Party. A big thanks to our friends who rally support from France to improve the life of our orphans!



**The Shelter**  
Wonderful family photo taken in November!

### Little Animals

How to take care of others by taking care of animals. Thanks to Françoise Tauflieb's parakeets, guinea pigs, hamsters, and white mice, everyone has a good time at **Tara Tots** and at **Torch**. The children learn to take care of their little friends, feed them, and play with them.



### Salaam Baalak Trust

Since last April, **EGIS India**, an engineering company, has been financing the breakfast provided to the children at the Aasra centre at SBT.



Salaam Baalak Trust also celebrates Christmas!

EGIS has told us that they would like to continue financing SBT and would like to develop a partnership with Main Tendue in the following ways: Fundraisers for our NGOs, volunteer workshop for their personnel and organisation of a City Walk with Salaam Baalak Trust. Many thanks to Egis. This is a new kind of sponsor partnership we wish to multiply with others.

### Tara Homes

Big Birds' support programme is being set up: Tara and Big Birds signed a charter. The aim is to provide counselling in orientation and learning to become self sufficient from the age of 15. Tara has rented a small apartment close to Tara Boys for the first Big Birds, Jaan and Sidhu and for those who will come after them.

All the Boys and Tots were present at the Christmas Brunch organised by Delhi Accueil. A special moment of happiness for everyone! Bravo Delhi Accueil for a very successful party !



### Motia Khan

Huge success for the class set up with two primary school teachers funded by Main Tendue and Samarpan. The volunteers who bring food and medical care to the children here in the morning also spend some time studying with them.



# Our Association

## French Charity Fête

Many thanks to:

- **Mr François Richier**, French Ambassador in India, our Honorary Chairman for his unconditional and permanent support.
- **Mr Jean Pierre Faou**, Principal of the French Lycée in Delhi, for his hospitality, for always being ready to help, and for his efficiency.
- **Mr François Vandeville**, Director of Institut Français, for the superb space provided to us.
- **To all the personnel of the Embassy, the Lycée, and the Institut** who were involved in making this event a success.
- **And to the stall owners who donated all or some of their profits:** 1469, Advika, Forever Zoe, Genesis Jewellery, Hemlata Beck, IAC Gallery, Mansoor Jewel's Lake Palace, Niana, Paul Salon, Risham Chawla Design Studio, Samdaria Jewellers, UFF.



We would also like to make a special mention for **Isabelle Lenseigne** who left Delhi for the Netherlands and who, for several years now, has been very active with Main Tendue. She was responsible for conducting western cooking lessons at Kamalini, she also looked for sponsors for our events and was, for the last two years, the 'Masterchef' of catering (Cafeteria and refreshment room). Many thanks to you, Isabelle, for your involvement, hard work and good humour. We wish you well for your new adventure!

Isabelle, on the left with Rushika, Jasmine and Barbara, in charge of Kamalini, at our General Assembly in May.



**Want to join or renew your membership?**  
**Want to invest your time in an NGO or on the MT Board?**

Contact us  
 at the Delhi Accueil Monthly Coffee  
 or write us:  
[contact.manintendue@gmail.com](mailto:contact.manintendue@gmail.com)

*Thank you to Swathi Narayan for translation from French to English of this Newsletter*