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## Letter from the Editor

April marks the celebration of the independence day, visit of Karen Slowe and her friend Sheila Luke to our destination, great donation from Mary Pierre Peladeau to the Talibes children, tournaments organised by Thomas Southall and Nina Ohlsen...

We have our first Care and Football video available online; you might want to have a look at that just to have an idea of how it works in those projects. More video are coming soon

We wish you a good read and thank you for staying connected!

We would like to invite you to find our Official Facebook Group by searching Projects-Abroad Senegal – The Official Group. Also, if you would like, add us as a friend so that we can be in touch before, during and after your trip to Senegal.



My Facebook name is Habib Projects Abroad. Or if you are a Twitter fan, you can also follow the latest news here, our name is Proj\_AbroadSN.

Best wishes from Senegal.

**Habib and Fina**

## Volunteer story : Gregory Smith's Everyday life !

I am still in Senegal. It does not go away; I have dirt under my toenails. Showering is a classic comedy act with jumps and bumps every time I turn the line on the faucet. Glossed by the water, I shine with a sheen—that was never something mean. Meant to bend out the door by 9:15, but I'm railing down the streets, sandals strapped to my feet, and it's 10:30. Hurling past the ladies and their babies selling peanuts on the street, beat bumping through my ear bones to my teeth shown like smiles will save them—the kids with their hands outstretched. Retching in the corner, birds with their babies and the bees in the



trees. It sounds like a symphony written in the sand by the girls with their braids. Bid for a drunkard laid out in the street, police on their beat broken bottles at their feet. Sometimes it's a must to ask why. Like who does a care, when does a "faire" become "fasse." When does a tree become asp? A snake to bite away the ills of a bygone nation, gone by the way of quay and the arts are played with a handsome trill for the woebegone. Woe be gone, then "Alhamdoulilah" Oh My God another firm believer. Showed up for work a little late, but a hand and a five which is high makes every clock seem slow. As if every tick was another flake of snow missed by eight months of walking down back ways and rusting from sea breeze leaning on lampposts, roasting fish with a Flag in my hand. Chewing on bones getting while I get stuck in the land. I don't leave here, in my head it's not true—one million times a billion I wish I could glue my feet to this spot to stop the progression of time but it started this morning and it ends tonight.

### Gregory Smith





# Dirty day : Renovating a Daara ( House of Street children )

We had our second dirty day in Senegal!



The first one was a beach cleaning and this time it was the turn of the Daaras!

The objective was to renovate the whole Daara so that Talibes will feel more comfortable in their house!

The Marabout at the Daara, Seck, an old man in his fifties, is from the uncommon Marabouts that really take care of the Talibes despite being not rich! You only

need to meet him and have a look around the place to see clearly that he is not from those that make profits with Talibés children!

All this made us think of him when we decided to renovate a Daara!

Volunteers and staff were at the Rendez-vous. We had a bunch of white sand to cover the courtyard after having well swept the floor, bricks to cover the well that is used to give water to pigeons, cement and straw to make a barrier between the pigeons and the Talibes and the painting to finish!

Some volunteers brought the sand inside the Daara, some remove the bad sand around the toilet, because it might encourage the presence of mosquitoes and thus a big risk of malaria, mostly for the very little Talibes.



In the end all the sand has been brought inside and covered the whole Daara. The well was

surrounded with bricks in order to avoid the sand or dirt to get in contact with the water, the toilet was well cleaned and renovated, the straw wall was done and the whole place has been painted.

The fact that volunteers had fun while doing a wonderful and very worthwhile thing; that means a lot I think!

Well done guys and thanks so much! :)

## *Independence Day celebration in Senegal!*

Proclaimed on 4 April 1960, Senegal's independence is celebrated each year in major cities. The day is a holiday for government and banks. Military parades, festivals and some school events are organised.



Every year on that date the president of the republic makes a speech. He speaks of the party, Thanks veterans, known and unknown heroes who sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedom, and finally talks about her future projects.

"My ambition is to give every child in this country the opportunity to learn, to live decently and to realize his dream," he said.



He promises to reduce the price per kilowatt / hour of electricity which varies





between 170 and 190 FCFA to 60 and 80 FCFA maximum and confirmed his offer of 5,500 youth jobs in the public service.

He also promised that much effort will be made in relation to the cost of staple foods! Inchaallah

## DONATIONS

*Karen Slowe and Sheila Luke donated a lot of stuff to our Talibés Center during their visit to Senegal!*

We had a visit from Karen Slowe the wife of the founder of Projects Abroad and her friend Sheila Luke this month! They made a tour of the Care Projects, as well as some Daaras to see the current situation in which the Talibés live and see what it takes to improve their living conditions. They also visited the Microfinance office and met Omar, a beneficiary of a micro financing loan for his Boutique Project.



They donated balloons, pens, soccer jerseys, clothes and several footballs to our Talibés centres. They also gave a lot of toothbrushes to Omar so that he can sell them in his boutique.





We took advantage of the fact that they arrived on a Friday to organise couple of visits for them around the country. On Saturday we took them to the Pink Lake and on Sunday to the Bird Park (djoudj)!

It was really a great pleasure to have them in Senegal.

Goodbye Karen and Sheila, hopefully see you soon!

One love from Senegal! :)

## *Mary Pierre Peladeau donated clothes to the Talibes children*



Marie-Pierre Peladeau was a volunteer in our Care Project at ASF Talibe centre. She is a professional nurse and is originally from Canada and more specifically in the city of Outremont (Quebec). Marie Pierre worked mornings and evenings at the centre and she not only helped with the treatment of wounds and cuts of Talibes at the centre but also at the Daaras (house of street

children).



Marie Pierre made a big donation of 300,000 CFA for to buy clothes for Talibés. "I was really touched by the fact that many Talibés do not have good clothes so I thought it necessary to do something," she said.

In total three big bags of clothes were bought with the money. Each bag contained both t-shirts and pants. Over 200 Talibés

were dressed. The staffs, volunteers but also the Talibés thank her warmly for





her action. The coordinator of the centre made a special speech after the clothes distribution expressing his joy but also his satisfaction regarding Marie-Pierre's work.

Big thank you to her again.



## Microfinance update

**Working hard at the Microfinance office in Senegal! :)**

Lena Guignier and Laura Stocker are busy giving maths courses to the Talibés (street children). Afterward, Talibés will have a short test followed by an interview, in order to see which Talibés are eligible to be financed!



Video interview with Lena, Laura relative to their Microfinance Project very soon! Stay tuned :)







**Omar Balde becomes a great shopkeeper thanks to a loan from our Microfinance office.**

Omar Balde, a Talibé who benefited from a loan from our Microfinance office here in Saint Louis, Senegal. This allowed him to get a big shop! Before, he had a table to display his items! More about Omar, where he comes from, how he started his business and everything very soon!

*Have a look at our Photos album :*

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.senegal/photos/>

*Have a look at the videos from our first Care and Football video :*

**Sports Football Volunteer Project :**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oA2LZLEnwY>

**Care Volunteer Axelle Dubois :**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxNJhmKuCiQ>

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