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Letter from the Editor

August was HOOOOOT, but the heat was not enough to stop our volunteers.

Our second group of 2 Week Specials have completed their work and we welcomed our third and last group of 2 Weekers for 2013. "They all did a really great job. We were glad to work with all of them," said Moussa, the builder and El Hadji the painter.

In our Microfinance office we attended a really great example of solidarity showed by Talibes that benefited from a loan.

"Memories of a Tubaab" is a beautiful story that Tzuria shared with us about her experience in Senegal. Former Care volunteer Yucca Leonard couldn't help sharing his very rich and memorable experience in Senegal.

Saint Louis is preparing the "2 Rakka Pilgrimage", Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba's followers have started to come to Saint Louis to attend the prayers at Place Faidherbe. More about this event in our next edition of the newsletter!

The celebration of the Korite was awesome! Now the city is getting busy again with concerts and celebrations little by little! The volunteers' favourite place to go after work is still the "Flamingo", Sakis Tanor; a great musician from Saint Louis often plays there during the week and even on weekend!



Always great to give you news from Senegal and to receive your feedback.

Have a good read



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



Memories of a tubaab by Tzuria Falkenberg (US)



Night was falling as wheels of the plane hit the ground, and two years of anticipation suddenly ended. I had returned to Senegal. I'd spent the past two years daydreaming of Senegal of smiling faces and stifling heat, of fresh mangoes and lunches with the family around an enormous platter of "Ceebu jen". I was thrilled to be back.

I'd spent two weeks in Senegal in July 2011, working on my French every morning, and renovating Daaras with other high school special volunteers in the afternoons. I was lucky to have the

invaluable help of the Projects Abroad Sénégal staff, and to live with the best host family ever. I left reluctantly and arrived home to Seattle with Senegalese-accented French and many wonderful memories. Before I departed I promised my host family that I would come back. And so two years later, there I was again, greeting my still-marvellous famille Senegalaise in front of a beautiful new house. Somehow, incredibly, the second time was even better than the first. My French had improved, as had my understanding of Senegalese culture and the Talibé koranic students. After five mornings of Woloff class with Abdoulaye, I could grasp the subject of some of my family's



conversations and communicate simply with the Talibé. During my four- week stay. I had time to work and study, visit some Senegalese landmarks, and spend time with my host family. I passed many hours discussing the United States and Senegal,

playing games with my host brothers and sisters, teaching basic English and helping to cook dinner. I was in the same place, doing many of the same things I had two years before, but I learned so much more, and had an even more satisfying experience.

I don't want to give the impression that my time in Senegal was perfect. Like all nations, Senegal has major problems (education, sanitation, economy and corruption) that lack solutions, and the consequences of these problems can be frustrating. The heat gets tiresome, as do the flies and the calls of "Tubaab" every time one walks down on the street. One must be careful to avoid various diseases and many volunteers (though not I) have had very



unpleasant experiences with food poisoning. Life in Senegal is less comfortable than life at home.

But no one comes to volunteer in a developing country for an especially comfortable experience. As for me, I love Senegal for its

hospitality and good food. (Don't get me started on the mangos) I love the



way people take time to greet each other, to ask how a person and all their loved ones are doing. I love the city of Saint Louis, with its old French building, pirogues and palm trees. I love the openness with which my host family shared their culture and their willingness to learn about mine. I loved my work (though things got quieter during Ramadan) and the Senegalese style of teasing.

I've learned so much from being here, about being accepting of traditions you disagree with, about being happy with what (and who) you have and about making use of what you know without worrying about what you don't.

In short, I heartily recommend Senegal to all those contemplating a trip to Africa and I recommend a return trip to all those who have already been. As for me, I'm already thinking about my third trip here, in two or three years.

Tzuria Falkenberg or Salimata Diop- Ndiaye

Leona Saint Louis, Senegal.

Former Care volunteer Yucca Leonard (Canada) shared with us his very rich experience in Senegal!

Mon nom est Yucca Léonard, je travaille à temps plein comme professionnel en immigration au ministère de l'Immigration et des communautés culturelles. En janvier 2013, je suis allé faire du bénévolat à Saint-Louis au Sénégal. J'ai travaillé notamment dans les Daaras (école coranique), pour donner des soins



de base (soins des plaies à la tête, pansements, nettoyage, médicaments de base) aux jeunes enfants de la rue nommés *Talibés*.



En Afrique de l'Ouest, un Talibé est un élève de l'Islam. Dès son plus jeune âge (vers 5-6 ans), sa famille peut décider de le donner en adoption à un marabout ou un maître coranique. Ainsi, cet enfant étudiera le Coran et terminera son apprentissage à l'adolescence. L'éducation traditionnelle des Talibés est dispensée par un maître coranique ou un marabout dans une



Daara (à Saint- Louis, il s'agit principalement de maisons désaffectées). Le marabout ou le maître coranique, avec l'aide de ses disciples, se charge de l'enseignement religieux qui s'accompagne d'une vie disciplinaire initiatique (il est par exemple exigé que le Talibé gagne sa nourriture en quémendant dans la rue). Il est important de spécifier que depuis plusieurs années, ce genre d'enseignement subit des dérives scandaleuses réduisant à néant les droits et l'avenir de ces enfants.



Mon travail dans les Daaras se faisait habituellement le matin. Nous partions généralement 3 ou 4 volontaires à pieds pour se rendre dans les Daaras. A notre arrivée, nous placions un tapis sur le sol et allions voir le marabout pour lui demander sa permission pour soigner les enfants. Ensuite, les Talibés se mettaient en ligne pour se faire soigner. Par ailleurs, à tous les vendredis, nous nous rendions dans les Daaras pour les nettoyer (passer le balai, enlever les détritrus, etc.).

De plus, les après-midi, j'enseignais le français de base, l'anglais de base et les mathématiques de base à de jeunes adolescentes et adolescents dans le *centre ASF* de Project Abroad. La plupart de ces adolescents n'étaient jamais allés à l'école. J'ai donc essayé de leur apprendre la base pour aller faire des courses au marché, faire des additions de base, des soustractions, etc.

Durant mon séjour, j'étais hébergé dans une famille à SOR dans Saint-Louis. J'avais une grande chambre avec 2 lits dans une petite maison d'environ 10 personnes. Ce fut probablement le moment le plus intéressant du voyage, puisqu'on y apprend beaucoup de la culture locale, des traditions, de l'esprit humain du Sénégal. Par exemple, tous nos repas étaient mangés à terre avec la famille, sur un tapis.

Est-ce que l'on s'ennuie lors de notre séjour? Non, puisque plusieurs employés de Project Abroad sont à notre disposition.



Cheikh et Habib, natifs du Sénégal, notamment sont là pour organiser pleins d'événements sociaux et prendre soin des volontaires.

Mon aventure avec Project Abroad avait comme objectif personnel de découvrir un premier pays d'Afrique, dans le but d'y retourner un jour avec une organisation humanitaire, telle que la Croix-Rouge.

Ce fut une expérience très enrichissante, et je vous suggère bien sûr de choisir le Sénégal comme pays de destination, un endroit qui est chaleureux, avec plein de vitalité, où vous vous sentirez en toute sécurité.

2 vidéos prises au Sénégal :

Animer un jeu de soccer avec les jeunes Talibés :

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

Enseignement du français aux adolescents :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxoYrL3ODMw>

Yucca Léonard de Montréal (CANADA)



Two Weeks Special July and August



JULY 2 WEEKS SPECIAL - [Photos album](#) AUGUST 2 WEEK SPECIAL - [Photos album](#)

Our July and August 2 Week Special volunteers have successfully completed their two weeks of hard work at our street children centres, at the summer kindergarten and at the renovation site.

During their two weeks, after work, they attended a lot of activities in the evenings, such as African dance lessons, glass painting, a carriage ride, evening pool... Also, they went to a trip to Lompoul desert and did some shopping too.

Thanks so much to all of you: Rob Miller (UK), Maitri Patel (UK), Katrina Powell (UK), Carolina Licalzi (US), Lauren Lin (US), Casey Benzaken (US), Alisha Sarkar (UK), Isobel Glover-Evans (UK),

Xi Chen (Canada), Andrew Choi (Canada), Alexandra Braun (Belgium), Alexie Van Canneyt (Belgium), Diego Alari (Italy), Stephanie Harkes (UK), William Cook (UK), Louise Procureur (Belgium), Lilas Mignard Debise



(France), Joseph Blindt (UK) , Ololade Omisore (UK), Eseosa Omorogbe (Nigeria), Lina Perez (Spain) and Eloise Lanckriet (Belgium).

You did "Mega" well :), we are very impressed and satisfied with the great work you did here.

Thanks to you, people who had no opportunity to have and use a proper washroom, can now have a shower when they want to and therefore live a more normal life.

Good luck in your studies, you will be missed!

One love!

Microfinance update



These pictures illustrate the connection established by Projects Abroad Senegal Microfinance staff and volunteers between two beneficiaries. Zacharia Diallo, in the first Picture, holds a "Tangana" (Little fast food) at Pikine-Angle Tall suburbs and has revealed his motives to learn how to cook big "Fatayas" (meat pie pastry) and sell them in his Tangana. Chamakane Diallo, the one with sunglasses, is a fruit seller and has once worked in a fast-food restaurant. He knows how to cook Fatayas. So the Microfinance staff called Chamakane and asked him to help Zacharia by showing him how to cook Fatayas.

Project Coordinato

Ousmane Ndiaye



Learn a bit of Woloff

Since I know you really love to learn woloff :)

WOLOFF	ENGLISH
Salamou Aleykoun	Hello or Good morning
Mou aleykoun salam	Good morning!
Nanga déf	How are you?
Manguifi :	I am fine!
No todo?	What's your name?
Magui todo Joey! :	My name is Joey!
Fo deukeu?	Where do you live?
Magui deukeu Saint Louis	I live in Saint Louis
Fo jeum	Where are you going?
Magui jeum liguéy	I am going to work.
Légui Légui	See you soon!



Have a look at our Photos album :

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

Have a look at the videos taken in our projects on our YouTube Channel!

Sports Football Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtWkkV5HLs4>

Care Project :

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

Music and Culture Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUzWh2eSXmk>

Microfinance Project :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaP4GakDTkk>

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Read our monthly newsletter



<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/senegal/newsletters-from-senegal/>

Want to contribute in our newsletter?

Each month we will be featuring a photo from Senegal in the newsletter.

If you are a former volunteer your photos are also welcome. Show off your best shots!!

Send your pictures to: habibdiaw@projects-abroad.org, finasenghor@projects-abroad.org

