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# *Letter from the Editor*

Yo everyone! Hope that everyone is doing mega well :)

February has been absolutely busy, busy here in Senegal. Work hard but also play hard :-D

We went to visit our Care volunteers, Football volunteers and also Music and Culture volunteers to see the amazing work they are doing (few pictures below to illustrate all )

We had attended a mega concert held by Sound of the World, a new concept leaded by Jonathan (Mexico), Nash (South Africa) and Habib (Senegal) and which aims to gather artist from all around the world onto a website and offer them promotion. There has been more than 20 artists performing, and some volunteers joined singing, playing some cover song and dancing! In guest star we had Zumba's and his amazing company.

It was really fun :)

Special thanks go to:

- Kirsten for sharing their experience.
- Andree Anne Petit for her great job at the Care project

All the past, new volunteers and even future volunteers :)

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**

## *Care update*

### *Andree Anne's experience in Senegal*

Andree Anne is an ambulance technician from Canada who always wanted to come to Africa to help! "Travelling in Africa and helping the local people has always been a dream for me since I was about four or five-years-old." Her motivation was a documentary she saw about poverty in Africa and particularly in Senegal. She then told her mom that she would like to go to Africa one day.



Andree Anne's dream grew incredibly with time. She worked hard, saved a lot of money and decided to live her dream with Projects Abroad.

In Senegal, Andree Anne did a Care Project at a street children's centre called

ASF (Aider Sans Frontiere). The centre aims to assist the street children called Talibés. Talibés can be children sent by their parents to the Marabou (Quran teacher), so that they learn Quran or children abandoned by their parents. "Talibés will need us forever. We bring hope to them! The centre helps them a lot by giving them medications, lessons, snacks and drinks," says Andree Anne.

Andree worked full time at the centre. She had a very busy schedule from Monday to Friday, morning and afternoon. "We taught the Talibés how to brush their teeth. Also, we go to the Daaras on Tuesday and Thursday to treat children or to clean the environment. On Wednesdays we prepared the juices and snacks for them," says Andree- Anne.

Andree Anne is very satisfied with her experience, "This experience has changed me a lot! I now know the chance I have and from now on I will live my life as simply as possible. In my society, we are always in hurry, here in Senegal, the people like to take their time and have fun. I learnt that just a simple



smile can make somebody's day very happy."

"Andree Anne has impressed all of us with her work and her determination. She is a very open minded person. She has been very helpful at the centre. She contributed a lot to new volunteers' training, since she was one of the most experienced at the centre. She treated very deep cuts of Talibés. Everybody loved her at the centre," said her supervisor Ibrahima Dieng, Coordinator of the project.

Her advice to people that wish to have a similar experience is: "It's a great project that needs many hands. There is and there will always be something to do. The culture is very different, but don't worry, you can adapt easily!"

"I will miss everything so much in this destination," were her last words.

The Projects Abroad staff and all Senegal want to thank her for her donation to ASF Talibés centre. It will definitely help in the daily healing

of the Talibés. Also, special thanks to her mother for the school and medical supplies estimated to 1000\$ - Her brothers, sisters, friends, colleagues who gave about 1500\$ used for the postage - Richard Morneau who offered 40 t-shirts. We hope to see you again very soon in Senegal and hopefully with all your family! Take care and best wishes from Senegal.

## *Volunteer Story*

### *Kirsten is talking about her Music/Culture Project in Senegal*

A really fun, warm, musical and variety project, that I would recommend to everybody if you are just a little bit interested in music and culture. It doesn't matter if you can play an instrument or not, if you can sing or dance, everybody wants you to learn everything in this project and they



want you to be involved as much as possible. You can take singing and dance classes, or if you would like to be a little more instrumental you can learn how to play the Senegalese Djembe or Balafoon. Everybody from the Zumba Company is happy if you just sing and

play along. You can also take some history/culture classes, which I would definitely recommend because it's far from boring and you will understand the Senegalese culture and habits much better. We also perform a lot in cultural festivals, bars, clubs and everywhere they want us to perform. We do this often because Company Zumba has a good name and that's a great feeling to be a part of. You'll have rehearsals three times a week where everybody brings his or her instrument and practices for the next performance.



If it's about music and culture, everybody from the company wants to help you learn fast and to join the habits. You will get invited on a regular basis to have some traditional dinner and tea and to get to know everybody from their families. If you need some help on the market, stop a taxi or pay the normal prices instead of the tourist prices, don't hesitate to ask somebody because they will come with you to help.

People already told me but now I'm experiencing it myself, this project



is a really good one if you want to get in touch with the Senegalese people really fast. I definitely think that it's because of the variety and the good attitude of the beautiful people from Company Zumba. If you ask me, this is the best project to be

in.

## *Best Pictures of the Month taken from our projects :)*



*Music and Culture*

*Football*



*Care*

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Want to contribute in our newsletter?

Each month we will be featuring a photo from Senegal in the newsletter, elected by our Senegal Office Staff. If you are a former volunteer your photos are also welcome. Show off your best shots!!

Send your pictures to: [habibdiaw@projects-abroad.org](mailto:habibdiaw@projects-abroad.org), [finasenghor@projects-abroad.org](mailto:finasenghor@projects-abroad.org)

