

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Senegal



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Projects Abroad

Letter from the editor

The sun is shining now more than ever, a weather that makes us feel like grabbing swimsuits, sun glasses, and sun cream (for the volunteers) and spending the weekends by the pool or greater at the beach! That sounds like a great idea but never before a really well filled week!

The volunteers of Projects Abroad Senegal continues to spend weeks that are full of noble gesture towards the Senegalese community.

We will start this edition with the famous Saint-Louis Jazz Festival held in early June. From June the 4th to the 9th, the city was dancing to

the rhythm of music that nobody can get enough of. The Faidherbe place was well prepared to receive many artists from different parts of the world all united for their common passion, music!

Secondly, the micro-finance office received a special group of volunteers that only spent two weeks here but made big contributions to help and improve the talibes living conditions. Discover the journey of the employees from Imperial Tobacco -Italy, their big donation and beginning of great partnership with Projects-Abroad Senegal.

Last but not least, the history of two beneficiaries of the micro-finance office that took a new path to a better future out of the Daara's (place where the talibes live and learn the Koran). Read the story of Mamadou and Fode Mballo written in French by the Microfinance volunteers Renelle Blanchette and Dieynabou Bah!

Enjoy the read!



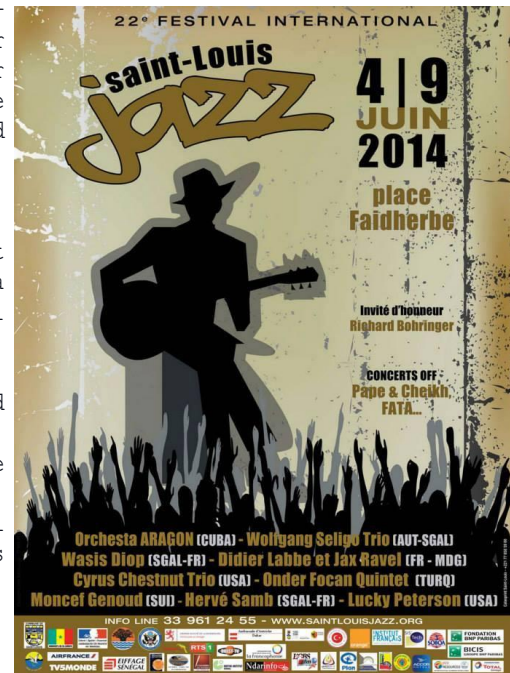
The 22nd Edition of the Saint-Louis Jazz Festival

The 22nd Edition of the super big and amazing Jazz Festival of Saint-Louis started on Wednesday, June the 4th and ended on the 9th! This year, the organizers planned to do it big, with lots of amazing artists to entertain the crowd as always asking for more fun.

From the first night to the last, the artists gave their best to make the Jazz Festival once again unforgettable. The first night at the Faidherbe place already announced the colour of the festival, the Orchestra Aragon's performance made everybody dance until they feet hurt! It was somehow a promise that the best was still to come, a promise kept until the very last day with the performances of Hervé Samb and Lucky Peterson.

The artists and groups invited this year to the Jazz festival included Wasis Diop (Senegal - France); Didier Labbe et Jax Ravel (France - Madagascar); Wolfgang Seligo & Karl Sayer (Austria); Cyrus Chestnut (United States); Onder Focan (Turquie); Moncef Genoud (Switzerland); Hervé Samb (Senegal- France) and Lucky Peterson (United States).

Not everything happened at the Faidherbe Place. Indeed, there were also lots of OFF's; shows at the French Institute, Hotel de La Poste, Hôtel La Résidence, Quai des arts, on the boat Bou El Mogdad. Great artists such as Pape and Cheikh, Souleymane Faye and One pack played there. The whole city, every corner of it, vibrated during a whole week in the name of music and art. During the festival, there were fairs at the Faidherbe Place and on the South of the Island; there were jewellerys made with traditional materials, fabrics and different kinds of pieces of art also sold.



Donation of equipment by employees of Imperial Tobacco - Italy

When they discovered Projects Abroad and its Microfinance Project with the talibes in Senegal, five employees of Imperial Tobacco - Italy decided to travel to Senegal and help the underprivileged. The Microfinance Project gives talibes (street teenagers in Saint-Louis, Senegal) a way out of poverty with small scale entrepreneurship. After receiving mathematics and business lessons, a talibe can receive a loan to set up a small business.



Ignazio Scuderi, Carini Monica, Baldini Stefano, Alessandro Bosco, Roberto Di Giulio will then travel to Senegal for a two-week stay. Even though there were only five to experience the destination, all the other employees of Imperial Tobacco Italy wanted to participate and support the project. They made a collection of useful material which included notebooks, paper, pens, colors, markers, bags, t-shirts, stationery and miscellaneous. All this equipment was successfully delivered to the Microfinance office at Project Abroad Senegal and will be used to support the lessons and the training of new beneficiaries. Such a donation aimed at facilitating their walk towards their future projects.

A special thanks to those who took care of the collection of the material.

The employees of Imperial Tobacco/Italy said: "Although it is not much, we hope that our support is helpful; and thank you for the wonderful opportunity with this microfinance project in Senegal."

After their two week stay, they desire to help and support the training of the beneficiaries grew. They thus decided to also offer the five laptops, five mobile phones and three SIM cards they were using during their stay in Senegal.



The Projects Abroad branch in Senegal, together with the Talibes, express their gratitude to those employees of Imperial Tobacco who, not only did a great job at their project, but also did a great step in order to make the talibes' dreams easier to realise.

Mamadou et Fode Mballo...dit 'les Mballo' ! Une nouvelle aventure en dehors du Daara !

Mamadou & Fodé sont des meilleurs amis originaires de Guinée-Bissau (Candjufa) qui se connaissent depuis leur plus jeune âge...Ils sont cousins et ont grandi sous le même toit...

En 2006, Mamadou arrive à Saint-Louis du Sénégal-ville connue pour fournir un apprentissage de qualité du Coran. Il y reste pour apprendre le Coran dans un Daara. Fodé, lui est resté à Candjufa à l'école jusqu'en. Il rejoindra Mamadou dans son Daara à Saint-Louis en 2012 et depuis ils ne se quittent plus !

Ils sont très différents l'un de l'autre mais complémentaires...l'un est clair, l'autre plus foncé, l'un est timide, l'autre moins. Ils sont comme des frères donc inséparables!

Aujourd'hui, les amis Mballo ont décidé de se lancer dans une aventure avec le bureau de MicroFinance de Projects-Abroad Sénégal. Ils veulent devenir financièrement indépendants, gérer leur propre business, ne dépendre de personne et surtout ils veulent pouvoir s'offrir tout ce dont ils rêvent...

De quoi rêvent-ils ? Ils rêvent d'étudier et d'avoir un métier. Ils rêvent d'aider leur famille restée au pays, ils rêvent d'acheter sans compter.

Depuis le 7 mai 2014, ils sont commerçants. Ils ont racheté le fonds de commerce d'Oumar Balde, ancien bénéficiaire du bureau de Microfinance, et se servent de son ancienne cantine qu'ils louent.

L'équipe de Microfinance Sénégal Oumar (assistant au bureau de MicroFinance), Renelle Blanchette (volontaire Canadienne) et Dieynabou Bah (volontaire australienne) ont accompagné les Mballo dans leur installation :

- inventaire de la cantine ;
- rédaction et signature du contrat de vente ;
- installation dans le magasin ;
- suivi journalier de l'activité depuis le lancement.

Les Mballo sont très à l'écoute des conseils donnés par le bureau de Microfinance, concernant le suivi de caisse journalier par exemple et surtout l'épargne. L'épargne est critique pour les bénéficiaires, elle leur permettra d'assurer les remboursements, d'avoir un « coussin en cas de pépin », de se faire plaisir de temps en temps !

La relation entre les Mballo et le bureau de Microfinance est basée sur le respect, la confiance, le dialogue et la volonté d'accomplir quelque chose ensemble.

Voilà maintenant près d'un mois que l'activité a commencé, tout se passe bien pour le moment et nous leur souhaitons BONNE CHANCE et surtout BON COURAGE !!!

Renelle Blanchette et Dieynabou BAH

Microfinance volunteers

