

Les Amis de la Saint-Camille

December 19, 2021

Bonjour to each and every one of you,

This "Bonjour" is especially addressed to our new members. We are currently 1,320 members following a recent review of our list of members and partners by our treasurer (Richard) and myself. Thank you for still being here to support the psychiatric patients treated at the Saint-Camille. It is mostly them who address to you this "Bonjour".

First news, Denis Renaud passed away on December 5. Denis was the founder of "Les Amis de la Saint-Camille" with his wife Suzanne Ladouceur. After Grégoire's first visit to Quebec in 2001, they organized a small informal support group for the work of this great "little African" – this support group became our formal NGO in 2011. A BIG THANK YOU Denis for your tireless commitment offered in conjunction with the love of your life. Peace to your soul and to your grieving relatives.

The Medical Clinic is being built at the Tokan-Cotonou Center in Benin. This project is at the initiative of the Dominican Family (a network of lay people and religious) who are financing most of it. They have contributed \$81,000. The Roncalli Foundation and our NGO (yes... your donations!) are also contributing. This clinic will be supplied with modern equipment in order to further improve physical health care for the Beninese patients of Saint-Camille as well as for the local population (digital radiology, ultrasound, colonoscopy, electroencephalogram, electrocardiogram, medical analysis laboratory). The services will be free for the people treated at our local partner's and at a reduced cost for the population, making them accessible to more people in need.

At the Adjarra Health Center (Benin), things are also moving forward. Steps are being taken to obtain formal recognition by the Beninese government of this center in order for it to be recognized as a zone hospital in the country's national health network. The expansion of the surgical block is underway with funding from the Louise Grenier Foundation in Quebec City. The construction of a building to accommodate medical staff is almost complete; a new maternity ward is on its way; etc... There again, free services for those treated at the Saint-Camille and at reduced cost for the local population. Our NGO (so you) is involved in these achievements and projects. Two French volunteers are on site. Sister Monique Bourget, a Quebec doctor present in Benin, brings (with the support of her family) a leadership that is very much appreciated by Grégoire. Thank you Monique and the Bourget family.

Our agri-food project continues at the Sokodé center in Togo. The cashew nut plantation (six hectares) has become a reality along with the vegetable garden. Patients at the end of their treatment work there while preparing to return to their respective villages. A beautiful achievement, the result of funding from Mission Inclusion.

Important addition to the healthcare team at Saint-Camille. Since last spring, Nicole, the daughter of Léontine and Grégoire, has completed her training as a psychiatrist and works full-time at the Saint-Camille. Her contribution is already being felt at the clinical level (complementary training for the caregivers, meeting groups for patients, etc.). Links have quickly been created between her and us. Collaborations are being discussed to support her

action in the qualification of services. Her presence stimulates us and ours stimulates her. A beautiful synergy is emerging! Isn't it wonderful!!!



Pictures of the vegetable garden at the Sokodé center in Togo



Digital radiology



Inside of the Medical Clinic

These pictures help describe two of our projects mentioned above.

The entire team joins me in wishing you all the best this holiday season. We are limited to small-scale family gatherings. Serenity and caution are required under the circumstances. We raise a glass to your health...

Jean-Paul on behalf of this beautiful team that is our Board of Directors.

All checks should be made out to "Les Amis de la St-Camille" and sent to "256 Larochelle, Repentigny, Canada J6A 1K9". Donations by Paypal and monthly automatic withdrawal are also possible (see our website at "Make a donation" or call 514-774-3421 for the form). Contact us for an Interac transfer. Legacies in a will are welcome. A tax receipt is issued for contributions of \$10.00 or more.

Our website: www.amis-st-camille.org