

## Annual Report 2021 (our activities)

Another year disturbed by this pandemic which partially paralyzes the planet including our usual previous activities. We didn't twiddle our thumbs too much, though...

1. Finalized renovation of our website. Maxim, our webmaster, was the master builder of this beautiful achievement. Several members of our Board of Directors brought their touch under the direction of Catherine who supervised everything in partnership with Maxim. Maxim had a surprise in store for us at the very end. He insisted on offering us free of charge by joining our work as a volunteer. It is his contribution to the cause that brings us together with Gregoire and his team. Many thanks Maxim. We have a site that is the dream of some of our partners.
2. Thirty-six hand-washing stations have been set up in the Saint-Camille centers in Togo and Benin (with funding from the Roncalli Foundation). This is seven more than the initial project. This is an achievement that is greatly appreciated by our African partner and goes beyond the search for control of Covid-19. Hygiene habits have been established among patients and staff. The model of these stations has even been multiplied elsewhere in public and private health centers in Benin and Togo.
3. No contribution to the purchase of medicines for the Saint Camille Association was made this year. It was agreed with Gregoire to collect funds for future construction and development projects in Dassa, Adjarra and the Tokan-Cotonou center. These are mentioned later in this report. European organizations have supported the cost of medicines as needed and Saint-Camille is assuming more of the costs for this item. We have remained involved in an intermediary role with the Indian company Kwaliti while training the secretariat at the Calavi center to gradually take over the responsibility.
4. The five nursing students are continuing their training at the Centre de Formation Sanitaire Camillienum in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. They began their third and final year in September and are expected to graduate in June 2022. The Ministère des Relations Internationales et de la Francophonie (Quebec government) and a coalition of Rotary clubs are the financial backers.
5. Concerning the health center of Adjarra, at the end of the year, we agreed at the request of Gregoire to be active in seeking funding for the construction of a warehouse and to complete the construction of the Maison des Volontaires. These two buildings will facilitate the arrival of medical missions for various interventions (general medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, gynecology,

etc.). A Brazilian mission of 24 people came there in September under the leadership of Sr. Monique (a Quebec doctor) and did more than 5,000 consultations, mostly in neighboring parishes. Happy to find a relevant training environment for students and impressed by the local response, the leaders put forward the idea of coming there regularly in 2023 after the construction of these two buildings.

6. Again in Adjarra, the operating room has been expanded (funded by the Louise Grenier Foundation), allowing two surgical stations to be operated on the site. Given the state of the center, Beninese inspectors from the Ministry of Health have recommended to the Minister that Adjarra be recognized as a zone hospital and therefore the regional referral center. The decision is expected.

7. At the Tokan Center, a medical clinic is under construction and should open in early 2022. It will include digital radiology, ultrasound, endoscopy, electroencephalogram, electrocardiogram, a medical laboratory and general medicine. These services will be free of charge for patients treated at St. Camille's and at a reduced cost for the regional population. This will make contemporary services accessible to the underprivileged population. The Dominican Family (especially in Quebec) is a major contributor to the financing of this project as well as the Roncalli Foundation.

8. In Dassa (Benin), a large center is now building to receive patients with dual problems of drug addiction and mental illness. Initially solicited, our NGO looked elsewhere when the Italian Episcopal Conference agreed to finance this project totally (more than 600,000 euros) with the contribution of a Spanish partner.

9. Thanks to Mission Inclusion, the center in Sokodé, Togo, will soon have a solar-powered electrical system, a cashew nut plantation and a large vegetable garden with an irrigation system. A realization with the following objectives: reintegration activities at the end of the treatment and a food production in proteins always in search of a greater self-sufficiency.

10. In Bouaké, Ivory Coast, a maternity hospital now receives mothers and future mothers for monitoring. A certain number of women who are admitted to the psychiatric care centers of Saint Camille arrive there in pregnancy or with babies following painful experiences in the street (too many rapes... "for luck when it concerns a crazy woman" according to traditional rumor). Again, it is free for these women and at a reduced cost for the local population.

11. It is important to note that all these achievements in which a major contribution comes from a solicitation from one of our Quebec partners are

accompanied by a contribution from our NGO and therefore from our donor members. Your contribution becomes a lever for such solicitations.

12. Nicole Ahongbonon, daughter of Léontine and Grégoire, is now a psychiatrist and practices at the Association Saint-Camille. At her request, we have been active in seeking out relevant training for her in the area of substance abuse among people with mental health problems. These efforts are ongoing and should be completed in 2022. A committee of the Board of Directors has worked on this in cooperation with Quebec resources and Nicole.

13. Once again this year, we have been active with Italian and American partners in presenting Gregoire and the Association Saint-Camille to candidates for international recognition. Gregory was selected for two awards:

- Geneva Prize for Human Rights in Psychiatry 2021
- Chester Pierce Award from the American Psychiatric Association

These awards are sometimes accompanied by a monetary award. These are mainly forums that allow Gregory to make our world aware of this ignoble reality that people with mental illnesses live, but especially of the "Saint Camille solution".

14. Four letters were sent to our 1,300 members. These are always opportunities to inform them of our activities and those of Gregoire and his team. They are invited to share them in their personal and professional network, always with the objective of making people aware of what each of us now knows about the horror of this situation for these mentally ill people. Not out of maliciousness but out of ignorance and inaccessibility to services and care.

15. A team is behind all these achievements. We have met with the Zoom platform five times in addition to multiple calls and communications; all volunteers committed to supporting this African partner. Thanks to Marie-José, Catherine, Martine, Sylvain, Richard, Jean-Marc, Eric and Danny who are in the same boat as me rowing in the same direction. Thanks also to our regular advisors at our meetings Suzanne and André.

16. A final THANK YOU is addressed to you, dear members of Les Amis de la Saint-Camille. We are all in the same boat. Without you, we are reduced to paddling in a stream and hitting the bottom with our oars. Yes..., thank you for allowing us to at least sail on a lake always in the direction of those people out there who suffer from not being cared for and too often without hope. Many, many more..., are hoping for us and for you. Welcome on board...!

Jean-Paul Cyr, prés.