



Sante et Espoir (Health & Hope) News



Summer 2012

PROGRESS IN GUINEA

by Dr. Kenneth E. Keirstead, Chairman of Le Groupe Lyceum

The first newsletter from April 2012 titled **Sante et Espoir** (Health and Hope) met with unprecedented positive response from our readership of international supporters. Our staff in Guinea felt rejuvenated and empowered to know so many friends and associates were supporting them. We had achieved our ambitious objective to complete the roof on our 4,200 square feet hospital building before the rainy season started, and painted the historic Anglican Church inside and out to be used as a community center.

Our mantra for the last six months has been **sustainability** of programs and projects to imbue health and hope in the impoverished catchment area of Dominghia and its environs. About 15,000 people are touched by the work of Le Groupe Lyceum in one way or another as Dominghia continues to become an icon of rural development in West Africa. Our focus has been on finding ways to complete the hospital, design water catchment systems, and explore solar panel systems for much-

needed electrical power. In spite of the tropical rainy season and it now being the Holy Month of Ramadan for the mostly Muslim population, work has advanced commensurate with limited funding.

Aggressive work is underway to complete waste water disposal systems and start the inside finishing of the hospital. Our objective is to raise enough money to complete the hospital in the next six months before facing another rainy season.

A decision to focus our resources was the closing of our small office in Conakry, moving our management facility to the **Noreen and Ryan Home** in Dominghia. This meant ensuring we could get adequate Internet coverage on site at Dominghia. The current system is still dial-up and slow speed, but technology has finally come to Dominghia! Imagine! When we started our work in Guinea almost ten years ago there was **no** communication – not even cell phones.

(continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue:

ISSUE FIFTEEN

Center of Espoir.....	2
Monctonians raise money for Dominghia.....	3
Progress in Guinea (cont.).....	3
Grand Manan returns.....	4
Newsflashes.....	5
Gallery.....	5

THE LYCEUM GROUP / LE GROUPE LYCEUM

www.grouplyceum.com

(506)455-4110



BUILDING A CENTER OF ESPOIR

by Dr. Kenneth E. Keirstead, Chairman of Le Groupe Lyceum

Starting with a blank page; starting with a piece of neglected land on the Rio Pongo River delta; starting with a small derelict unused church; starting with the ruins of a foundation; and selecting carefully a staff of seven local Guineans to be empowered with a mission was the genesis. Today there is a thriving center for community development at Dominghia. Fruit trees and gardens are flourishing, the little historic Anglican Church is drawing interest in the community and with tourists. The *Noreen and Ryan Home* is completed to house staff and overnight visitors, and the new small hospital is being completed. Every night the “lights are on” at Dominghia. Our three medical staff are now using part of the *Noreen and Ryan Home* as a temporary clinic and dispensary, and will move to the adjacent hospital as soon as they can.

Miraculously, your very kind donations have funded all of this to date. The deserted piece of land has become a vibrant community asset. Now we are in need of enough money to complete the hospital and training center to offer better medical intervention and the training of volunteer village health care workers as the first line of defence for good health – particularly women and children. We have estimated the completion cost to be \$25,000. The hospital has ten rooms to complete and furnish. Could either corporate sponsors or groups “adopt” one room and donate

\$2,500 per room with donor plaques for acknowledgment? These rooms include wards, reception, office, examining rooms, birthing room, dispensary and laboratory.

Please join us in **Sante et Espoir** for the people of Dominghia and Guinea.



TWO MONCTONIAN GIRLS RAISING MONEY FOR DOMINGHIA

By Nicole Macnab – a three month alumnus of Dominghia – September to December 2010

About a month ago, my friend Paryse Arsenault shared her plans for a summer music festival, and said she hoped I would be able to attend. She also mentioned that she was thinking of turning her festival into a fundraiser. When those magical words were spoken, I shared my experiences with her. I told her all about Le Groupe Lyceum, the Noreen and Ryan Home, the newly constructed Hospital 'Sante et Espoir', and most importantly, the people. Paryse quickly agreed that this was the cause she was looking for.

The event itself will feature 13 musical acts, and a variety of folk music, which will take place over a 3 day period. Tickets, t-shirts and refreshments have been acquired through various donations and contributions from local individuals and businesses, and will be used to raise money for the cause. The money raised from the event will go to the newly erected Hospital 'Sante et Espoir'. The Hospital needs solar panels, medical equipment and supplies, and the Noreen and Ryan Home always has patients who can't afford medicine. This is our first fundraiser, and we know that any funds raised will be an enormous help. The village of Dominghia and its people are very close to my heart, and I am always happy to share the vision of Le Groupe Lyceum with anyone and everyone! Insha'Allah our fundraiser will be a success!



Image:
Paryse Arsenault and Nicole Macnab are all smiles as they fundraise for Sante et Espoir

PROGRESS IN GUINEA... *(continued from page 1)*

About two years ago we were able to make phone calls for the first time. Now we have a small gas generator, and can use Internet. This has changed life for our staff and the community at Dominghia. Having Fatoumata Dabo and Ibrahima Gackou located on site more frequently is allowing our work to proceed more. There is much more to do, but the operative word is **Hope**.

GRAND MANAN RETURNS TO GUINEA

By Robbie Griffin

For ten years the island community of Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy has supported and nourished the work of Le Groupe Lyceum in Guinea, West Africa. This was accomplished with the Rotary Club of Grand Manan Island and spread out to individual supporters and groups. A key participant was Mrs. Edie Mullen who travelled numerous times to Guinea as an ardent Rotarian. Edie fell in love with the people of Guinea and left a memorial of vivid photojournalism and informative newsletters on both sides of the Atlantic.

The baton to visit Guinea has been passed to another prominent Island Rotarian, Mr. Robbie Griffin, who will travel to Dominghia this month.

Robert (Robbie) Griffin is a seventh generation Grand Mananer. He is married to Linda, a nurse, and they have two daughters, Robyn and Sara, who are both teachers. After graduating from Grand Manan High School, Robbie went on to Dalhousie University for his BA in English. Since then, he has taken his Education degree from St. Thomas University, a Master of Education degree from Memorial University, and he is presently taking his Doctorate in Education from Athabasca University. Robbie's thesis will be researching a viable model of course delivery using mobile technology. He hopes to do his research in the Boffa District of Guinea.

Robbie teaches high school English and culinary at Grand Manan Community School, just completing his 22nd year. For twenty-five years, Robbie owned and operated the Griff-Inn Restaurant on Grand Manan. As well, he has served on numerous volunteer boards on the Island, including the Rotary Club of Grand Manan, The Grand Manan Boys' and Girls' Club, the Vestry of St. Paul's Anglican Church, The Grand Manan Art Gallery, and the Grand Manan Tourism Association.

Robbie has been interested in Africa for a number of years, and he hopes to volunteer there over the next few years.

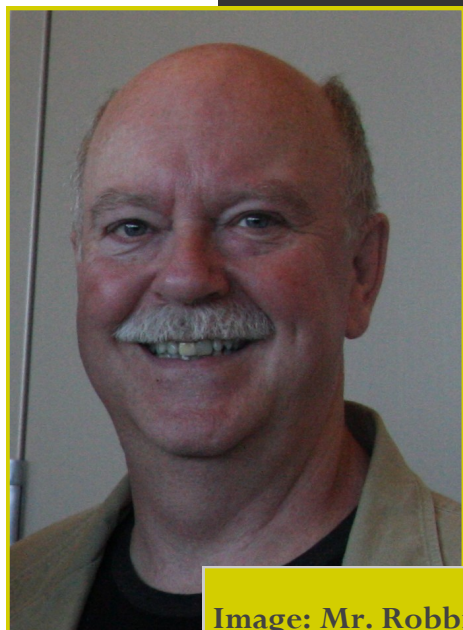


Image: Mr. Robbie Griffin

NEWSFLASHES

- The Institute for Global Health Technologies at Rice University in Houston, Texas has donated a hand-powered centrifuge to **Sante et Espoir**. Many thanks to Program Associate Daniel B. Walker.
- The Department of Biology at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton has donated a microscope, electronic balance, and laboratory glassware to **Sante et Espoir**. Sincere thanks to its Chairman, Dr. Stephen Heard.
- Mr. John Tidswell of StereoSystems in Fredericton has donated his technical time to check and calibrate donated laboratory equipment, as well as a pH meter, to **Sante et Espoir**. Thanks to John for this!
- Mrs. Fatoumata Dabo Camara, President of LGL in Guinea will attend a workshop in Zimbabwe from September 17-20th titled **Workshop Impacting Policy of Youth and Adult Learning and Education in Africa**. She is going on behalf of NGO PAMOJA-GUINEA to the workshop organized by DVV International (Germany).
- On August 23rd, a clinical workshop will be held at **Sante et Espoir** sponsored by Sanofi. Twenty clinical practitioners will be invited from surrounding private and government hospitals. Two two-hour sessions will feature the diagnosis and treatment of malaria and diabetes.

CONTACT

Dr. Kenneth Keirstead at
The Lyceum Group

Phone (506)455-4110 or
Email kkeirstead@lyceumresearch.com

*Sante et Espoir is
designed by
Alicia Little,
Design Partner*



Image: Dr. Ken Keirstead unites with a young boy on the path to 'health and hope'.