



Editorial : A new mission for Heart's Home
 By Father Thierry de Roucy

Since Heart's Home started, our method based on friendship - selfless, merciful, total friendship - enabled us to enter the world of the poorest, so as to let Jesus Christ in.

A Canadian friend told me recently "if you want to make a difference in the United Nations, you have to start by loving and respecting the people who work over there; you need to have a passion for their destiny, to understand those who come to New York or Geneva as representatives of their countries, far from their families, with little money and means. You need to listen to their concerns, to help them..."

These remarks sounded so right to me, as well as universal. Friendship opens the door through which Christ can enter. It is urgent for us to be doormen, as it is urgent for Christ to enter the world of the stock exchange, of arts, of biology and psychology, where the lack of meaning leads so many people to despair.

Heart's Home at the United Nations

The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today's world, we depend on each other."

- Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

The Board of Heart's Home is proud to announce that Heart's Home was granted the special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, last July 2005.

Heart's Home, just like the approximately 2,000 NGOs now holding consultative status, will be invited to provide input to the U.N by attending meetings, submitting written statements and make oral presentations to governments

The work of Heart's Home at the United Nations will be based on our work and experience at the grassroots level, promoting human dignity through charitable service in 35 poor areas scattered in 20 countries of the world.

We believe this new status is a great opportunity for Heart's Home as well as a very demanding service and responsibility. We plan to respond to this challenge using our only true "expertise", our method based on simple presence and selfless love for the people we work with; being simple ambassadors of Christ.



What is the consultative status ?

NGOs are granted consultative status by the United Nations in order to provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some NGOs, which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a part of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC, are organized around specific issues, such as human rights (Heart's Home's core competence), the environment, or health.

Our Needs

Our outreach programs in the Bronx are expanding rapidly and a means of transportation is urgently needed at this time for us to continue to serve the neediest population in our neighborhood.

We are therefore looking for a mini van. Perhaps you have a neighbor or a friend willing to part with their vehicle. Perhaps you know of a car dealer who can donate a mini van. Perhaps you want to help us purchase one (we need \$20,000)

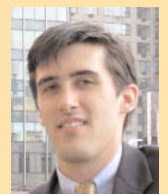
We appreciate your help in this matter. Please contact us as soon as possible and note that the fair market value of in-kind donations is tax deductible. So is any cash donation.

Thank you for your support

Staff

Alexandre

Early November, we welcomed Alexander, a new missionary from France. Alexander took a sabbatical year from his consulting firm to join our team, serving the neediest population of the Bronx. He will spend 14 months with us.



Franck

Franck finished his 10-month training at Heart's Home, assisting the administration team. We thank Franck for his dedication to the expansion of Heart's Home in the US, as well as for his affable personality and ease of contact with our friends.



Focus on Hearts Home in Senegal

Facts

- ⇒ The Heart's Home Santa Monica opened in 1993 in a poor neighborhood of Dakar, Senegal.
- ⇒ The team of 5 Heart's Home missionaries serve more than 500 people including 200 children on a regular basis.
- ⇒ The missionaries especially assist people living on the garbage dump of Malika, which spreads on more than 1500 acres; as well as handicapped children.
- ⇒ During the day, a new child in need of assistance enters the Heart's Home every 5 minutes.



Testimonial: When the missionaries become teachers

After lunch, we were drinking Ataya (traditional Senegalese tea, drunk in rounds of short glasses - lighter and sweeter per round, 3 rounds per person) when Assane came and sat down beside me, showed me his school notebook and asked me simply, "Jangal-ma?" (Teach me?). Just my luck, he asked for help with French and Math. I am the only person at Heart's Home Santa



Monica whose first language is not French, and hands-down, I am the one who most hates Math (by the way, they put me in charge of the accounts for our home...). Despite my handicaps in both subject areas, I started helping Assane that very afternoon, sitting on the ground at his home. Its bent walls, its clutter, where the kitchen is the closet is the backyard is the dining room is the sand floor... you have an idea of the conditions in which the children of our neighborhood do their homework... and at night by candle-light...

Miral

Testimonial: Honoré

Honoré: he is approximately ten years old. A child handicapped as a result (presumably) of an early bout with malaria, Honoré cannot walk by himself and can only stand for a few seconds. He thus basically gets around by crawling. In addition, he is mentally challenged.



Two years ago, when he moved in just across the street from Heart's Home, he did not speak and rarely went out, spending his time sitting in front of his house; the other children called him "golo Bi" (the monkey). Today, though we have not given Honoré back the use of his legs, he is our most faithful young friend. He has opened up and even sometimes he is mischievous.

At 9 o'clock in the morning and 3:30 in the afternoon, he is very often the first to arrive for the rosary, knocking on the door with an irregular rhythm which we have come to know so well. His joy at the end of the rosary is striking, especially when he has said a full decade or if he is allowed to remain with one of us for a few minutes to worship. He never fails to thank us and always finishes with the sign of the cross before kissing the Baby Jesus in the chapel while saying: "Jesus is happy". And yet, the suffering of Honoré is great. His suffering is enormous because his handicap excludes him.

His father is deceased and Martine, his mother, hardly pays any attention to him. And then, when he sees the other children playing games in which he cannot take part, when he falls for the umpteenth time, after having tried to stand up while holding on to the gates, he sometimes falls into a deep depression or cries agonizingly, with a cry marked by a suffering that is real and much deeper than any physical pain. But Honoré's perseverance is such an example. And even if the suffering related to his circumstance remains, he picks himself up after each fall and sets out again joyfully. He knows he is loved by us, and he knows he is loved by God.

Séverine

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Thank you for your support.