

Grand-Bassam, October 2017

Dear Sponsors

As an exception this Newsletter is not being written by Lotti herself, but by me - Ines Pöschel. As Vice President of Lotti Latrous Trust, this summer I spent 3 weeks at Center of Hope at Grand Bassam, of course at my own cost. During my visit Lotti came up with the idea that I should write down my experiences of the visit for the next Newsletter. So this time the Newsletter is being written by me.

The new Center of Hope, Adjouffou - Grand Bassam: an oasis in the midst of Miseries

In summer of 2016 I visited the construction site at Grand Bassam and now - one year later the complete work is finished. Lotti's husband Aziz Latrous has completed this complex construction with great care, enormous energy and love and that not only before time but also at a lower cost than planned. Everything came out more beautifully than we could have imagined: in every empty corner flowers, fruits, spices and lawns are growing. The old trees in the garden, which were protected carefully during the construction, have survived well. It has really become a small paradise. A paradise - where roundabout 80 employees can carry out their day to day work under ideal conditions and can occasionally withdraw themselves at the small mosque or the chapel for a prayer. A paradise - where countless young and adults patients, who come for help every day to the outpatient department can be treated very efficiently and professionally. A paradise - where the sick kids, men and women can be hospitalised in air conditioned rooms. A paradise - where the kids of the orphanage "LOAZIZ of Hope" can romp around in the garden under the shaded trees.





In the name of the Trust and the entire Board of Trustees, I like to thank Aziz Latrous from deep of my heart for the incredible gift he has given to the needy people here. Without him this was not at all possible. Thanks also to Lotti and her assistant Marie-Odile; they also performed incredibly and made the impossible possible. Thanks also to all the employees, who arranged everything so that the big relocation went smoothly. A big “Thanks” go to all of you, without the support of the donors all these were not possible at all.

The employees - The Center of Hope of Lotti

In the time I was allowed to spend at Grand Bassam, I had a lot of conversations with the employees. Just like last year again I was impressed with their motivation and professionalism. The doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacist and their assistants, bookkeepers, laboratory assistants, nannies, phycologist, the caretakers, the pedagogue, midwife, X-ray assistants, cooks and many more - all work hand in hand and respectfully, whereby pursuing the overall common goal of assisting the people needing help and care in the best way possible and to treat them with respect and attentiveness.



Smooth settling and a warm welcome!

From the beginning it was of vital importance to Lotti that the Center at Grand Bassam does not face any opposition. I was immensely satisfied to experience how thankful the people are now for the new center. Quickly the news spread in the surrounding slums how well and quick the patients are treated

here. As the patients of Adjouffou are also coming here the rush of patients has increased. A small episode shows how positively the Center of Hope has been accepted: for example a patient has to go for a test in the nearby public hospital, but didn't have enough money to pay for it. It is a fact in the Ivory Coast that no one will be treated, not even in case of an emergency, before he pays the costs in advance. An operation will only be carried out when the patient has arranged for all the necessary medicines, the bandages, swap, the sterile gloves for the doctors etc. and have paid in advance. For this reason a lot of sick people will not be treated at all!! Knowing that the patient is known to the Center of Hope, the doctor makes a short call and offer to make the test, as he is sure that the missing amount will be paid later by the Center. What a trust! The Center is also allowed to use the ambulance of the public hospital to transport patient from Grand Bassam.

Visiting Professor Rokia Berete and Initiative Plus

Since many years Lotti Latrous Trust is supporting the so called "Initiative Plus". They provide a small breakfast to the HIV- patients, who come with empty stomach to the University Hospital Treicheville for regular blood analysis. This organisation supplies about 2500 such Breakfasts every month. A highlight for the patients is that through this initiative they have grown into a small family band. Also located in the University Hospital of Treicheville is the Eye Clinic of Professor Mrs. Rokia Berete, who beside other things has dedicated herself to fight against Retinoblastoma, a malignant type of cancer of eyes. Thanks to new equipment and a newly available Operation Theater soon she will be able to save the lives of countless number of kids. What a gift - to come to know this lady with endless energy and be allowed to support her in her engagement - also thanks to your donations. Day after day she is fighting with her motivated team under difficult conditions to help countless eye patients. For me it was almost unbearable to watch the sufferings of the critically sick patients waiting on the wooden benches outside the Eye Center.



Many personal Encounters and touching Moments

There were a lot of happy as well as very sad moments, which I experienced at Grand Bassam. Extremely saddening was to have to accept that there was no hope for young Bouba, who came back to the Center being completely emaciated and critically ill. So was the case of another young and lively kid, who suffered from a terrible tumor.

However, fortunately it made me happy to be able to congratulate one of the adolescent of the orphanage for his high-school diploma with distinctions. I was grateful that a highly disabled young boy could fulfill his greatest dream was to swim and he was allowed to swim. I shall never forget the Evening of Lights, which was organised as part of the special holiday programme. Under the candle lights the youngsters told stories to the kids listening with their shining eyes and together they sang songs.



At the end Lotti read self-written fairy tales of little Orphan-Stars. Also the memory of the radiance of completely paralysed Sylvie will stay in my memory - as she could communicate again with her daughter and nurse with the help of the ABC and winks at the right places. To experience the thankfulness of the parents, when they see that their children can be helped, is another gift for me, which I would like to pass over to you, as all these, what the family of Lotti Latrous is able to pursue here is only possible due to your donations.

I send love to you from bottom of my heart and also in name of Lotti.

Ines Pöschel