

Noro's story Update. Oct 2017

In October 2016 we went to visit the Homeless people that used to live in the terrible Star Compound near our hotel in Fianarantsoa. We had initiated a Livelyhoods Project with Feedback Madagascar to see what we could do to alleviate the plight of so many homeless women and children and street children who lived in plastic shelters right outside our hotel. Families living under rotting blankets or in bags.

Bruce our elder statesman would simply "Not let it Go" and so over a period of 3 years and much agonizing we finally managed to rehouse 20 families and their children with a new start at a small settlement 5 Km outside town.

We now in 2017 have 55 No street children in school for the first time and have a wonderful retired teacher doing amazing work with them and many of them this year will graduate back to normal community schools and integrate back into society.



First meeting with Noro in Oct 2016

Just as we were about to leave I noticed a girl at the end of the village sitting on the ground in a corner just looking at the wall while paging through an old comic book. We sat with her for a while and realised she was both physically and mentally disabled but what was more chilling was that she would not look up at me. I took a photo of her on my phone and showed it to her. Her parents are split up and only her grandmother minds her now and she has a lot of physical and mental issues and has had little or no stimulation or teaching to date. She could not speak but could hear. Her story is one of loneliness and rejection. In your name we decided to help.

Pere Emeric sorted out a wheelchair for her and Sam from Feedback got it kitted out.

A dear friend's 7 year old daughter gave up her comic books at Christmas which arrived in Jan 2017.



Her first adventure in her new chair.
New books for a new start. January 2017

In May 2017 we visited her again and she was in good spirits but with still very little stimulation or friendship and our attempts to get a new bridge built to allow her to go to school did not happen. We also visited the amazing school at St Joseph's on the outskirts of Fianarantsoa which has 200 intellectually challenged children at school every day and was full of hope and laughter and kindness. After a lot of discussion we agreed to fund a new set of classrooms and a large assembly hall and canteen on the basis that the nuns could get permission for a new house for Noro and her Grandmother right next to the school. It has been a long six months of complications with the Municipality and Railway Board and the nuns but in October 2017 we had a Blessing of the Foundations ceremony at the school and then at Noro's new house. We are expecting both to be complete by mid January 2018. In the meantime Noro and her Grannie have moved down to Tanjomoha where Pere has organized for her to receive physio and schooling. We met her during our trip and she was down at the crossroads with her grandmother holding court and meeting other kids and is living in a dorm with other girls and is doing way better. She has a little movement in her arm now and has said her first few words and will stay in Tanjomoha for no. We will keep you updated but she has taken us down a road helping poor and intellectually challenged kids in Madagascar. A Blessing!



New Foundations. Laying the foundation stone with Sam. Outside her dorm at Tanjomoha Down at the Crossroads

Stu Martin and Pat O'Brien . TASC Trustees. Oct 2017