

# In this time of worldwide suffering, help American compassion

## GO VIRAL to save women's & children's lives!

We face a time when people around the world are afraid that the historically compassionate America has vanished, & that its people have turned a blind eye to the suffering of its world neighbors. In the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, extreme poverty is a way of life. Therefore the devastating effects of this pandemic are unimaginable to us.

**COVID:** Congo has managed COVID well, but there has been severe collateral damage. In the capital Kinshasa, because import of food & supplies was abruptly & completely cut off, far more have died from starvation-based disease than the virus itself. Women & children suffer the most.

A STORY OF COURAGE: Mrs. Mascabi's husband abandoned her & her five daughters because she did not bear him a son. She still managed to feed her children & pay rent with her little business selling plastic sandals. Then came COVID. As ordered, Mrs. Mascabi stayed home ... until she was evicted. Landlords were supposed to grant three months' grace, but the shut down lasted six months. Mrs. Mascabi & her daughters had nowhere to go. A church gave them shelter for a week; then they were on their own.

They camped on the riverbank, using plastic bags for cover, with nothing to eat & no clean water to drink. Then Mrs. Mascabi contacted Maman Monique, president of FEBA, who arranged for the family to stay with another member of FEBA for a week. When Mrs. Mascabi found a place to rent, FEBA provided \$50 (one-half a



month's rent), & invited her to join the micro-finance group which FEBA began as soon as the COVID restrictions were lifted in mid-August. There Mrs. Mascabi participated in a one-day workshop on micro-finance & received \$100 to start her business again. She has already begun to repay the loan, at the rate of \$12.25 every two weeks. **WHAT COURAGE! WHAT GLADNESS!** 

**COVID**: Virtually no cases of COVID spread to the provinces, but the government-ordered shut-down affected the whole country. Goma, in war-torn eastern Congo, is home to CCS: Community Charity School for orphaned & destitute children. Vandals broke in, stole what could be sold & destroyed all the books & educational materials. A month later boards were literally ripped from the exterior walls & student benches & tables were taken to be sold, likely to buy food for people desperate to survive.

A STORY OF COURAGE: Yet: dedicated teachers went around to homes (with masks & social distancing) to help students keep up some of their studies. When schools reopened in mid-August, all 14 of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders passed their state exams with flying colors!!! WHAT COURAGE! WHAT GLADNESS!

We need your help & support NOW more than ever to continue partnering with women who have so little, but struggle so hard to maintain their lives & families with dignity. Since 2013, FEBA has worked tirelessly to eradicate systemic poverty by empowering women & educating orphans & destitute children.

### Think of the impact your donation can make...

- \* \$70 a month's salary for a school teacher
- \* \$120 a manual sewing machine to launch a young woman's career
- \* \$200 school supplies for 50 children
- \* \$300 to build rabbit hutches & chicken coops for a farm which supports widows

Americans can help during this critical time by donating funds & sharing these stories of courage with others. Let's continue to be a beacon of compassion & hope!

#### THANK YOU!!!

Elsie McKee, President
Femme Berceau de l'Abondance (FEBA)
FEBA, the French acronym translated "Woman, Cradle of Abundance"

# PS Please SHARE HOPE with another woman like Mrs. Mascabi, with children in Goma!





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Please bookmark our website <a href="https://www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org">www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org</a> for organization details & success stories.

Donations are accepted online via Facebook, the website, or the PayPal Giving Fund <a href="https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1233641">https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1233641</a>

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