

September 2019 Newsletter

Maman MONIQUE's Visit

Maman (Elder) Monique, visionary president of FEBA in Kinshasa, is in the USA for a church tour which includes San Jose, CA; Cherry Hill & Princeton, NJ; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Knoxville, TN; & more. For schedule, write Elsie.McKee@ptsem.edu. In NJ:

- Trinity Presbyterian, 499 Route 70, East Cherry Hill, on Sept. 22, 10:45 a.m.
- YWCA, Bramwell House, 59 Paul Robeson Place, Princeton, on Sept. 24, 5:00 p.m.
- Witherspoon St. Presbyterian, 124 Witherspoon St., Princeton, at 10:00 a.m. on Sept. 29
- Nassau Presbyterian, 61 Nassau St., Princeton, at 12:00 noon on Sept. 29.



She brought new sewing creations; fair trade markets will accompany her presentations & more are planned for the coming holiday season. Gifts that give twice! Stay tuned.

Farming in Uvira

Violence is everywhere, but especially in eastern Congo women suffer the consequences for the rest of their lives. They usually feed themselves & their families by gathering wood in the forest or farming traditional fields where subsistence crops are grown. Now to do that is to put themselves in danger of rape. So when they recover physically from the horror of violence, many have no way to support themselves.

With our partner CENEDI in eastern Congo, we are helping these women begin a communal market garden to supply vegetables to the neighboring big city Uvira. Having one large field near their homes will allow the women to stay safe, working together in sight of the village; cultivating crops for sale gives them options. Their families are eager to help. The pilot project this summer has gone very well.

So now is the time to launch the Communal Market Garden... with your help!

Farm to Table is Coming!

Sewing is a great career, but not the only one. For many young women, "hospitality"/ restaurant skills are the goal; they have been knocking on the door for months. FEBA's sewing school is so highly rated that the government office of vocational-technical study has urged its leaders to start a restaurant program. With the farm in production, crops & livestock, now is the time!



See the wonderful sign for FEBA's Women's Center which was donated by a generous <u>Congolese</u> friend (Maman Monique's son)! The list of educational programs is very ambitious & not yet all in place, but the "restauration" school is next... with your help!

Fall Fundraiser: FARM to TABLE

Food is what it's all about!!!

Our Goal: \$10,000, to be divided evenly between

the Uvira women's farm

the Kinshasa cooking/ restaurant school.

More Details Coming, but please feel welcome to support the project soon. The rains begin & planting in Uvira starts this month...



Thank you for rabbits!!! First litter due next month.

Goma's Wonderful School

The Community Charity School (CCS) in Goma is entering its 4th year, thanks to immense courage on the part of the leaders & the wonderful generosity of HAW (Hands Across the Water). Ebola has killed hundreds in the Goma region, but CCS has not closed. They have adapted, substituting creativity for running water.







Left: See the new benches in this classroom! And more are being constructed.

Below: A 2nd toilet under construction, so girls have their own space & need not miss school when they have their menstrual cycles.



Uvira Women's Success

Several years ago HAW enabled the CENEDI partners to start two small micro-loan projects. One provided two sewing machines to three women in the village of Manene. They produced clothes for their neighbors but did not have a larger market. This summer that changed: CENEDI worked with the UN who run a nearby refugee camp to arrange for the women to make school uniforms for the children in the camp. The first half of the uniform order was delivered at the end of August, the second is due soon. HURRAH!

Challenges in Kinshasa

FEBA in Kinshasa rents a shop in the main market, to sell their products. In early August the ownership of the block of shops changed & the new owner came with police to force out the renters. Thanks to friends who dropped their work & came running, FEBA women were able to get their merchandise out of the shop, but left the display shelves; some renters did not even get all their goods before they were locked out. One young woman of FEBA set a table in front of the shop to sell school uniforms that regular clients were coming to buy. There was no recourse, but finally the new owner allowed renters to return... by paying \$1000!

At least, for the first time in nearly a year, there are actually people coming to buy...

CONTRIBUTE OR GET INVOLVED

Contribute: Donate securely via Stripe at www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/donate .

Please designate "Leadership Development" in the purpose line to contribute to equipping the next generation of leaders, or "Farm Needs," or "Sustaining Gift" to support ongoing work.

Checks payable to Woman, Cradle of Abundance can be mailed to the following address:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance attn: John McGlaughlin, Treasurer 25 Alexander St. Princeton, NJ 08525

Volunteer: Contact Cheryl Ciaranca, Community Outreach Coordinator, at cciaranca@gmail.com or 215.292.3290 to discuss ways to partner with Woman Cradle of Abundance.