Cercle Social USA

Annual Report - Year 2013
Another fortunate year for Cercle Social

Letter from the President

Dear members, partners, friends and supporters of Cercle Social:

Once Again you have made 2013 a wonderful year for us. We made it!

Backed and supported by partners of great expertise and generosity, it is with strong determination that the board of directors and volunteers of Cercle Social entered the New Year 2014. We are very grateful to All people Be Happy Foundation in Texas and African Love International in Nebraska for being the two main partners and funders of 2013.

Our main goal is to make our schools in Benin more independent and improved their infrastructures through technology. Our ultimate commitment is unwavering to see that school authorities assume their full responsibility and moral obligation to improve the educational in Benin and further in Africa.

I will take at heart all the responsibilities and great challenges that we’ll encounter in 2014.

Thank you for believing in Education
Thank you for believing in Cercle Social

Blessings & Happy 2014

David Kebo Houngninou
President of Cercle Social

www.cerclesocial.org
- 2013 -

facebook.com/cerclesocial
twitter.com/cerclesocial
Our Mission

Cercle Social's mission is to improve access to secondary education for disadvantage youth in Benin by providing them with the necessary tools to secure further studies and employment.

Our Vision

We deeply envision to empower youth through education by building and enhancing each student’s self-esteem.

Where?

Cercle Social works in rural areas. Up to date, the Organization has been active in the village of Tori-Agouako located in the department of Atlantique in Benin, West Africa.

Our Target

- The organization keys focus:
  - Students from low income family with emphasis on girls
  - Orphans and disabled children
Cercle Social by the numbers

50+ students sponsored

Four projects to improve access to education

Nearly 176 members all over the world devote their skills, expertise, money, and time to the cause

A growing team of 35 volunteers supports the members of the board doing a great job

Ten partners and twenty-five sponsors support financially our projects and students
Executive Summary

School visits
In February, the students in Benin had the computer lab visit. Also, it benefited 778 students with computer classes throughout the year. In May, the students from Tori Agouako had a computer lab visit. During the computer lab visit, Cercle Social’s president David Kebo and the organization’s team worked with students in order to ensure academic progress.

May has been our busiest month this year
Cercle Social evaluated the zone of Ze in order to determine the high schools’ need of assistance. After our assessment, 3 high schools have been selected: High School of Ze, High School of SedjeDenou, and High School of Gbeto. In addition, our President visited Benin to work with the local team and to assist with the Benin office renovation. Last, new members joined Cercle Social’s mission and a beach party in Benin was organized to obtain funds for a good cause.

Awards ceremony to the best students of CEG Tori Agouako
As 1 of our objectives is to promote a quality education, Cercle Social helps the School of Tori Agouako award a prize to the best students each academic year. This year, 16 students were awarded prizes to celebrate their excellent academic success.

Cercle Social participation
In July, Cercle Social participated in the HCBE symposium in Baltimore. Also, during August the organization celebrated 2 major events: the Independence Day of Benin in Dallas, Texas and in North Carolina.

Computer Project 2013-2014
The NGO Cercle Social, the EPA Office, and the School for General Studies at Tori worked together to provide the students with 20 computers with hardware maintenance, 4 basic computer training programs, 6 instructors, and the necessary financial support for electricity.

Fundraisings
In June, our organization hosted a Live Music Fundraiser in the city of Austin Texas with the support of One-2-One Bar to raise funds for our projects. In August, Cercle Social participated in the African Love International Inc.’s third Annual Fundraising in support of their education related activities and to share our works with the greater Omaha Nebraska community — that for the second time accommodate the Organization’s biggest event of every year: The Cercle Social’s Annual Gala.

New school year 2013
The students at the community of Ze started their new year on October and the students of the Tori-Agouako began classes on November.
2013 in Pictures

FEBRUARY – COMPUTER LAB VISIT

MARCH – SPONSORS’ GIFTS TO STUDENTS

MAY – ALL PEOPLE BE HAPPY PARTY

MAY – EXPANSION TO ZE, PRESIDENT IN BENIN, RENOVATION OF BENIN OFFICE, SCHOOL VISITS, NEW MEMBERS RECRUITMENT, BEACH PARTY IN BENIN

JUNE – LIVE MUSIC IN AUSTIN TX FUNDRAISING

JULY – CERCLE SOCIAL AT HCBE SYMPOSIUM IN BALTIMORE

AUGUST – AFRICAN LOVE INTERNATIONAL INC.’S THIRD ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AND FAMILY DOLLAR DONATION

OCTOBER – NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT ZE

NOVEMBER – NEW SCHOOL YR AT TORI
The Scholarship Program

The scholarship program is the most important part of our work at Cercle Social. It provides Benin students with the opportunity to receive scholarships. The students’ educational costs are paid and their school supplies are granted. Also, the children receive school monitoring and home visits to enhance academic growth.

Each year the students will continue using their academic benefits only through their commitment to obtain good grades and conduct.

The Sponsorship Program

The sponsorship program works with sponsors that wish to assist the students’ educational expenses. In addition, it promotes strong relationships between the sponsors and the students.

From 2010-2013:
- Hundreds of students have enjoyed our program
- 25 sponsors worldwide have been helping 50 students
- 2012-2013 year the program assisted only Tori-Agouako, city of Tori
- 2013-2014 the program is expending to the city of Zè.

http://cerclesocial.org/scholarship
The Computer Lab Program

Computer Project
2013-2014
The computer project began in 2012-2013 at CEG Tori Agouako. The NGO Cercle Social and the School for General Studies at Tori agreed to work together for a period of one year. During the year:
The NGO Cercle Social:
- takes care of the computer room facility and its hardware.
- hires and covers teachers’ expenses to teach computer courses.
- and pays a monthly fee of 50,000 FCFA for possible electric charges of the computer room.
The CEG:
- includes computer science in their program and Cercle Social students.
- is responsible for safety, cleanliness, and progress monitoring.

After the contract of one year:
- the drop in voltage happened and the need for increased amperage.
- electric bill was up to 100,000 FCFA.
- and more 6th through 12th grades students became interested in the computer classes — what they perhaps called being the best time spent in school.

After the second year changes have been made:
- the CEG takes care of the hiring and expenses of 6 teachers.
- the NGO and the EPA Office will be managing partially the electric finances.
- the NGO will be partly responsible for the costs to raise amperage.
- and Cercle Social will maintain the computers.

Tuesday meeting November 19th, 2013

The goal of this session was to make sure all groups involved in the computer lab program were working on their agreements and to coordinate future projects.

Our computer training program covers:
- the basics of a computer
- an introduction to word processing with Open Office Word
- an introduction to calculation with Open Office Spreadsheet
- an introduction to Graphics with Open Office Drawing

A computer training room has been set up and equipped with 20 computers. We hired six computer instructors to teach the students and the school helps us monitor the program. We are optimistic about the future due to a high level of participation of the school in this program.

http://cerclesocial.org/computer-lab

http://cerclesocial.org/computer-lab
Frequently Asked Questions

Throughout the year of work at Cercle Social we have received valuable input from our supporters. Here, we are answering the most frequently asked questions.

Why education?

Everybody deserves a chance to learn to read and write. It is a preparation of one’s self for an improved future, but also the role of education has become even more vital. Education is an absolute necessity for the economic and social development of any nation. Education is the act of learning the essential tools to enable one to have a successful way of life. Education is important for a more secured future; for more survival opportunities in this world we live in. It is important to obtain food, shelter and clothing and also for enlightenment. Some have access to it, while most don’t, and it is these people who wish with all their hearts to have the resources to read and write. Education to them is a privilege, one they cannot afford but would gladly undertake if given the opportunity.

How does Cercle Social make a difference?

Cercle Social is an international organization with workers in the United States, Canada, France, and Benin. We are always expanding to other countries to strengthen the diversity of our workforce. The valuable input from people with diverse backgrounds and cultures is what makes Cercle Social such a reputable organization today. As much as we value education, we also want to promote the idea of and prove that young educated people can help and impact their peers in developing countries. We are currently working in regions where other non-profit organizations are lacking. Cercle Social is established in an underserved area where students need the most help to stay in school.

How did we raise most of the money?

In 2013, Cercle Social was able to obtain most of the money through the 30% in grants, 22% in fundraising, and 19% in donations. The rest of the income came from members’ contributions, memberships, and others with a total of 27%. Overall, we were able to help our students in Benin by the assistance of Cercle Social’s members, partners, sponsors, and volunteers throughout 2013.

How did we use the money?

We have seriously reduced our expenses by using:
- Volunteer help
- Free open source software
- Social networks for advertising
- Google apps for nonprofits.

Cercle Social used open source software like Drupal for building its powerful web platform. Thanks Drupal!

A special thanks also goes to Google that has provided us with powerful services such as Google apps for our collaboration tools. Google has also provided us with free licensing like Google Earth and Sketch Up.

Most importantly, we have strongly benefited from the help of volunteers all year long. Freelancers have provided skills with publishing, editing, advertising, and fundraising for our ongoing projects.

If you have more questions about Cercle Social’s work, please click on this link:

http://www.cerclesocial.org/faq
Scholarship Recipients

These students are benefiting from scholarships. Also, many more kids need sponsors’ help to continue their education.

http://cerclesocial.org/students
Our Partners

AFRICA MITES

AllPeopleBeHappy

The Yoke Project

Givology
give to learn, learn to give

BeninInfo

FAMILY DOLLAR

my family. my family dollar.

African Love

ONE-2-ONE

LEGAL. LOVE. MUSIC

Goodwill Globetrotting
Financial Statement 2013

**Revenues**

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**Expenses**

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We Anticipate the Organization 2014’s Main Goals as Follows:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the organization’s impact, enhance and build a powerful students’ monitoring system, and revise projects’ implementation strategies.

2. Analyze our potential with some sustainable activities in order to ensure long-term financial independence for the organization.

3. Establish a stronger public presence by increasing our fundraising campaigns/events and local community supports while strengthening our teams with new human capacities.

Great challenges are ahead of us and we are well aware.
For more information about Cercle Social work in Benin, visit us at www.cerclesocial.org. To volunteer, check out our organization’s page at www.cerclesocial.org/volunteer.