



Dear friends & family,

2016 has kicked-off already and we would like to give you a follow-up on what has been accomplished in 2015 and beginning of 2016. Our goal remains the same: give a boost to kids living in challenging conditions and for who education is a luxury.

Kids and projects we support are always identified by people we personally know and trust, like Irène Bostsarron in Vietnam, Perrine de la Foucardière in Cameroun, and myself, Fanny Brabeck-Letmathe, for all projects in Peru. We believe and see that our help makes a significant difference in the future of each kid as well as in the life of his/her family.

While reading, keep in mind that these actions have only been possible thanks to your help and support! And we will need your continuous help and support to do more!



### Nkongsamba – Cameroun. January 2016

Leon's team is spreading around the world! We are now represented by Perrine de la Foucardière in Cameroun. Perrine is a friend of Fanny and Nicolas. She met Josette Fossuo, head of the CEREN, doing a fantastic job with abandoned and/or disadvantaged children in Nkongsamba, about 150 km from Douala. More than 80 children and young adults are taken care of by CEREN, which provides housing, food as well as local school attendance, tuition needs and educational follow-up.

**Our action:** providing for one year academic fees in various local schools for 60 kids aged 4 to 18.

**What we specially loved:** see grown-up kids, who were taken care of by CEREN when they were babies, attending university and returning often to CEREN to help the new generations.



### Ho Chi Minh – Vietnam. September 2015

Friends For Street Children (FFSC) was created 30 years ago and always comes up with sustainable and new ways to promote education and professional training among disadvantaged and displaced families. Located in the poorest areas of the city of Ho Chi Minh, a team of volunteers, social workers and professional teachers welcome kids and their families to help them develop their potential and build up a sustainable future.

**Our action:** committed to sponsor 5 students throughout their academic life until University. And beyond? Hopefully yes! We already delivered for one full academic year.

**What we specially loved:** FFSC sees the whole picture. Taking care of disadvantaged kids, guiding them into basic education first and then into career orientation, while training their mothers to a professional activity and offering, when needed, psychological support by volunteer psychologists.





### El Augustino, Lima – Peru. March 2015

Discipline, self-esteem, team spirit, respect. These are the fundamentals of Sinfonía por el Perú. A music school created by world famous tenor Juan Diego Flores. A crazy vision of setting up symphonic orchestras with children from the poorest areas. These kids have a very chaotic life, experimenting violence at home, at school, in the streets. No one in their family ever heard a single key of classical music. And yet they wouldn't miss a class. They arrive punctually, holding on to their instrument (provided by the organization), attending 4 classes per week, rehearsing at home. A drastic change in their life with a positive impact on the whole family.

**Our action:** providing for percussion instruments for the new orchestra in El Augustino, Lima.

**What we specially loved:** as we visited, we were moved by the contrast of the surrounding chaos in the streets and the studious and serene atmosphere in the class rooms.

### Ho Chi Minh – Vietnam. October 2015

“Dust of life” (bui doi), that's how street children are called in Ho Chi Minh. Many children end up wandering in the streets in a country where education is free. Why is that? Kids born in Ho Chi Minh who have an ID can access schools. All others, can't. This excludes from school all children born in unofficial hospitals or who arrive in the city of Ho Chi Minh with their unemployed parents in search for work, as well as many children in a state of abandonment. Friends for Street Children (FFSC) has several centers in the city, where these kids come to learn, to socialize, and to start a different life.

**Our action:** providing for an extra teacher in FFSC educational center of Binh Trieu where 380 children aged from 4 to 14 come to school every day. In addition, we fund the transport cost for all the teachers of this educational center.

**What we specially loved:** children were very concentrated during class, and listened very carefully their teacher even though each class room is really busy with over 50 kids. Quite a contrast with the joyful, noisy atmosphere during break!



### Enseña Peru – Lima. February 2015

Take the best students from the most prestigious universities of the country and send them to teach in the schools of the most challenging neighborhoods for a period of two years. That's the concept of Enseña Peru. Graduated students take the decision to put on hold their career plans and spend two years teaching to disadvantaged children. These teachers have a totally different approach from a regular teacher; they are willing to reach beyond the four walls of the classroom, help their students rise above the challenges they face. Their leadership, high standards, and firm belief in their students' abilities inspire these students to believe in themselves and strive for (formerly unimaginable) and challenging goals.

**Our action:** fund the salary of Daniela, a graduate from University of Piura, who teaches for two years in a school in Ventanilla, Lima.

**What we specially loved:** as we visited in October 2015 we could feel the complicity between Daniela and the 26 kids in her class room. Very touching.

### Nicolas Brabeck-Letmathe, Dakar's rider # 114! Rosario, Argentina. January 2016

You might have followed our favorite rider on [www.facebook.com/associationleon](http://www.facebook.com/associationleon); he took part in Dakar Rally on a KTM bike showing Association Leon's colors and arrived 68/153 in the finish line. A fantastic way to remember that this association is about challenges, commitment and friends & family support!



Bravo Nicolas.

---

[Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.](#)

You may have recognized some of Association Leon's members in our pictures as we were lucky to be able to personally visit some of our contacts. Maria and Vincent Rapin-Saiz visited the educational center of Binh Trieu guided by Irène Bostsarron as they were travelling to Vietnam with their family. Laurie Constantin visited Daniela in Ventanilla, two hours from Lima, as she was doing a professional internship in the Peruvian capital, and I had the privilege to take part in a rehearsal of Sinfonía por el Perú in El Augustino, which, at the time, was a 1.5 hour drive from my house in Lima. These visits have been financed by each member personally and not one penny of the donations received by Association Leon was spent for that purpose. We also want to remind you that all administrative costs are fully supported by the association's members, which guarantees that 100% of donations is used to support education.

Good to know: as of 2015, Association Leon's donations are tax deductible for individuals and companies in Switzerland.

In the past years, many of you chose to mention Association Leon for your birthday celebrations, giving it a special meaning; thank you very much for that, it always brings awareness to our work as well as a nice and welcome source of funds! If you are celebrating something special in 2016, and you want to give it a twist, it's easy to suggest donations instead of receiving presents. Let us know about it.

Don't forget to visit us, like us, comment us and share us on [www.facebook.com/associationleon](http://www.facebook.com/associationleon) as well as visiting our website [www.associationleon.com](http://www.associationleon.com) where our latest projects are described.

Thank you very much for your support and interest in our work. It wouldn't be possible without you.

Fanny Brabeck-Letmathe

For Association Leon and its members: Adriani & Lionel Constantin-Danos, Maria & Vincent Rapin-Saiz, Nicolas Brabeck-Letmathe.