

The seeds for what eventually turned out to be a wonderful partnership between two small brother and sister nonprofit organizations, UFAR and FEBA, were planted in August 2014, a year after FEBA's registration. These organizations were founded by two individuals fully committed to giving something back to the country of our birth and happy to work in collaboration. As I was about to take one of my annual trips to DRC, Elsie McKee, an original member of UFAR's Board of Trustees, asked me to check on a property in Kinshasa previously owned and used for worship by a religious organization, a property just purchased by FEBA and intended to be established as its headquarters (photos 1, 2 & 3).



What happened to this property in the following ten years has been nothing short of a miracle. The unimpressive single level building has been replaced by a praiseworthy, big and beautiful multilevel, multipurpose Women's Center (Photos 4 & 5).



The construction of the Center was well planned and executed to properly fulfill FEBA's Mission of empowering orphans, destitute and marginalized women and girls in DRC in their struggle and fight for safety, education and economic independence.

Appropriately, the building complex houses office space, meeting rooms, sewing classrooms and computer training room. Thanks to the caring and dedication of members of FEBA's Board of Directors both past and present, those in the US as well as in the DRC, and to all their wonderful generous donors and supporters, hundreds of women and girls in DRC have been rescued, given new leases in life, a sense of security and wellbeing. They in turn have been productive and successful in helping others. The collaboration of UFAR and FEBA has continued. How wonderful, truly meaningful and gratifying it has been to decorate, use and enjoy the beautiful products made by FEBA's trained women and girls during our annual UFAR Soirée celebrations.

“They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruits each season. “(Psalm 1:3). What an awesome Legacy, dear sister Elsie! Congratulations for all the other successful programs such as ‘Hands Across the Water’, ‘Agriculture and Farm Projects’ and ‘CENEDI’ for which I haven’t had the opportunity and the time to learn more about.