

CELEBRATING SUCCESS!



One lovely young graduate poses for family & friends to take pictures. She displays her prized certificate from the state (presented by the man at the left). A member of the FEBA staff holds her special graduation gift, the brand new manual sewing machine donated by FEBA partners.



Maman Jeannette, the head teacher, celebrates to see yet another fine class launched.

FEBA's sewing school is famous in Kinshasa. This year when 12

young women completed the rigorous course & received their state certificates, local TV journalists were on hand to film it! They interviewed Maman Monique to broadcast on Kinshasa's TV!

Charlotte's Story

Students at FEBA's Sewing School come from the margins of society, girls who often have been forced into prostitution simply to survive. Charlotte, one of the speakers at the 2021 graduation, told her story. She was an orphan, an unwed mother; she had not had any real hope. At FEBA's School she learned so much! She thanked Mrs. Chantale, one of the sewing teachers – a graduate a few years before. Charlotte said that when she made mistakes in her sewing, Mrs. Chantale helped set her straight, & she was grateful. That is the kind of careful personal attention which every student at FEBA's School receives. It is the reason that all of them sail through the rigorous state examinations! They have learned and earned their success.

Community Middle School Hands Across the Water



See this bright mural with its helping hands! Students at Community Middle School (CMS), held a very successful fundraiser for "their" school in Goma. CMS is the home of the original Hands Across the Water club which has enabled so many young girls & boys in Kivu province, DRC, to get an education. Community Charity School (CCS) is in its 6th year, thanks to the generosity of these students & their friends at Grover Middle School & West Windsor-Plainsboro North High School & South Brunswick High School. Ms. Kelly Lee, who teaches at CMS, is the gifted leader of this project.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021 IN CONGO

KINSHASA

Graduations/ Education

- Twelve young women from the sewing school;
- Twelve youth (7 girls, 5 boys) from secondary school;
- Six children from primary school;
- Uniforms & supplies for school children & youth.

Other Activities

- On-going support for micro-financing;
- Continued aid for food insecure members;
- Expanded small animal husbandry & more fields in production at the farm.

KIVU

Graduations/ Education

- Fourteen children from primary school;
- Scholarship for one girl entering secondary school;
- Continued Peace-Ambassadors in primary schools

Wish-List Fulfilled by US Partners

KINSHASA - A new tractor with plow & wagon

KIVU - A flour mill & generator - Uvira

- Land for a new school building - Goma

In the USA

Professionalizing Woman, Cradle of Abundance

This year the US non-profit has made significant steps toward more professional organization, thanks to the very generous leadership of our wonderful consultant, Ms. Diane Mataraza. We have a newly revised & updated Strategic Plan, a brand new Operating Grid, & plans for further developments in 2022. Thank you, Diane!

Enhancing Global Education in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District.

Thanks to Ms. Kelly Lee, these ten schools are getting involved to expand horizons in education for American students as well as Congolese. Great work, Kelly!

Cradling Abundance, One African Christian's Story of Empowering Women and Fighting Systemic Poverty,

Maman Monique's autobiography, was published in July by IVP. This very readable narrative is a remarkable & moving witness to perseverance in the face of incredible odds, & just what we need to encourage us for the new year. It makes a great holiday gift!

<https://www.ivpress.com/cradling-abundance>

Some Hopes and Fears for 2022

The situation on the ground in Congo is extremely challenging. The government of President Felix Tshisekedi has made real progress in addressing corruption. However, most of Congo's considerable mineral wealth is still trapped in the tentacles of his predecessor Joseph Kabila.

Between that & Covid-related problems & the effects of climate change which continue to wreak increasing havoc on everything, especially farming, the present is pretty bleak. There is little immediate prospect of improvement, & Congo will have national elections again in 2023, so President Tshisekedi does not have too much time before that reality dominates the scene.

But our partners in Congo do not give up!

We won't, either! Together you & we can do it!

Among our exciting hopes for next year is the possibility of a visit from Maman Monique: a book tour to enable all her friends, new & old, to talk with her & hear more stories. If pandemic allows, we are aiming at September. Be sure to get your name in early if you would like to be included on her tour. Contact elsie.mckee@ptsem.edu

Meanwhile, do read her story. Perhaps you might like to invite Elsie to Zoom in & share with you about writing it - & all the stories that had to be cut out?

Most importantly, please remember these amazing sisters & brothers. We need them just as they need us.

CONTRIBUTE OR GET INVOLVED

Contribute: Donate securely via PayPal at <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1233641>, on our website or on FEBA, Inc., on Facebook.

Please designate "Sewing School" or "Goma School" or "Micro-loan Program" or "Farm Needs," or "Sustaining Gift" to support ongoing work.

Checks payable to Woman, Cradle of Abundance can be mailed to the treasurer at:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance
attn: John McGlaughlin, Treasurer
115 Maine Ave.
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

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.