

THOSE WITH LITTLE HELP THOSE WITH NOTHING

It is inspiring to work with our wonderful partners in Congo! They have so little materially, but they have the biggest hearts. Here are several stories about their generosity - & creativity in sharing. First, a word about the humanitarian crisis in Congo to which they are responding.

As explained in our May newsletter, the endemic war in eastern Congo has reached new heights in the past year. Goma is the major city to which refugees have fled because the M23 militia surrounding it have promised no attacks in its boundaries.

But besides the many hundreds who have found a place in the city with families who have opened their doors to strangers, there are many thousands in camps round about. Food is scarce in the city; in the camps there is virtually nothing. Starvation & death are close at hand for people whose best hope is getting a little water from an NGO, never mind something to eat or a blanket for a newborn baby.

CCS Students Learn & Share



Mme Anuarite Shaboni, wife of the Community Charity School (CCS) principal, is a licensed professional seamstress. She has started Club Rafiki Cheryl to teach CCS students (some refugees themselves) to sew. They will learn a trade & provide clothing for refugees.

HAW has sent money to buy an additional sewing machine (besides Mme Anuarite's own) & fabric. Students gather after school & weekends. They have made several trips to deliver the clothes & see the refugee situation, helping those more destitute even as they barely survive (thanks to the HAW food delivery last month).

Students will also learn to make their school uniforms to replace the ragged hand-me-down's they now wear.

HAW hopes to buy several more sewing machines.



FEBA Supports Refugees

While themselves struggling to recover from extreme flooding & illnesses (see May news), members of FEBA have reached out to the refugees around Goma. Maman Monique, who has friends all across the country through the National Federation of Protestant Women, is in contact with those in the Goma region. Last year she sent food & clothes to Maman Jeanne in Goma for the orphans (see January news). This time she asked us to help the refugees (with money that might otherwise have gone to feed FEBA's own hungry).



The Federation women in Goma bought food & made sacks of cassava, rice, beans, salt, & a bit of dried fish for each family, starting distribution with women with babies. See below left those waiting their turn in the church; bombs & other dangers make it too difficult to try to distribute in the camps.



FEBA also sent big bundles of clothing: some donated, some bought, some sewn for this specific purpose, to help the refugees, most of whom only have what they were wearing when they fled their homes..

Reaching New Audiences

As you may have noticed, our social media presence has just taken a giant step forward! Follow us on www.facebook.com/WomanCradleofAbundance



Imagining new worlds, Realizing dreams, Empowering Communities of Women.

See what our talented volunteers Riannon Zorn & Maren Sonstegard-Spray have done to give us a great new start. (Dinosaur Elsie is most grateful people who know the business are leading us now.)



Plus we have now added Instagram & TikTok, thanks to our newest board member, our talented & very savvy Emily Ramkishun. Do check these out.

www.instagram.com/Womancradleofabundance

www.tiktok.com/@womancradleofabundance

PLUS: To our great delight & equal surprise, we now have generous friends in the UK & Australia! MW in Melbourne found us on TikTok...

INTRODUCING EMILY RAMKISHUN



My name is Emily Devi Ramkishun. I was born in Georgetown, Guyana, & now live in Hamilton, NJ. I have just finished my junior year at TCNJ, where I am majoring in in criminology & have 2 minors in graphic design & journalism. Since I was 16, I have been interested in the field of social work, especially assisting with child protection. I want to develop knowledge about the CPS industry; there are many

preconceived connotations made by society to degrade this field. What is lacking, that I can contribute to?

My hobbies include cooking (mainly Caribbean dishes), drawing, reading, & riding my bicycle. Fun Fact: I have a motorcycle license & would love to get a boat license as well!

We are so glad to welcome Emily!!!

A Welcome Surprise

Congo's new prime minister is a woman! Judith Suminwa was appointed on April 1, 2024. She began service at the end of May when Congo's National Assembly



officially approved the government. All attention is focused on conflicts in eastern Congo, so most other business, e.g., support for schools, is moving slowly.

Tragedy & Suffering

Kayiba, a 17-year old student in FEBA's sewing school, has disappeared. She is an orphan, brought up by her grandmother who has barely been able to scrape together food & shelter while working at the most precarious jobs. Often they don't have anything to eat, & FEBA has been providing food & transport for Kayiba & help for rent.

Several weeks ago, Kayiba left home to take the bus for the long trip to the Women's Center for her classes, & has not been seen since. Her frail grandmother & FEBA have been seeking her in all the ways they know, but no word. The next step may be to check the city morgues for her body...

The Courage of Widows

Maman Kalubi, an elderly widow & long-time FEBA member, supports herself & "banks" her pennies in the micro-savings program. Now alone & in need, she rejoiced to have FEBA leaders Mme Nadine & Judith visit her, bringing some of her savings & an additional small gift from FEBA.



Annie Mbombo is a new widow now in severe difficulties. Thanks to FEBA loans which she faithfully repaid, she worked to educate her 6 children with her small business. Recently her husband suddenly died; she had to get his body to the morgue, but had only \$10. The kind taxi-driver told her to pay the morgue instead of him. After struggling to bury her husband, Annie Mbombo became seriously ill herself. Now that she is well, FEBA is giving her a new microloan from the gala Fund-A-Need, & helping her 3rd son pay the state exam fees to complete his secondary school.

Celebrate women of courage!!!

Thank you for helping them!!!