



Newsletter - February 2021

Birth of the Graines de Paix Foundation

Our Swiss-based projects

Dear friends and supporters,

After fifteen years of operation and a surprisingly buoyant year in 2020, we are proud to announce the creation of the Graines de Paix Foundation, a registered charity, on 29th October 2020. The Foundation will provide additional support for the large-scale projects our teams are currently working on in Switzerland, Ivory Coast and Benin, as well as projects we are planning in other countries.

I'm delighted to be able to introduce you to the five members of the Graines de Paix Foundation board:

Stéphanie de Mestral and **Maya Page** bring their financial and legal expertise and, alongside me, make up the office of the Foundation. They are also committed to supporting our mission by setting up charitable events. We are awaiting brighter days (in every sense of the word) before we announce any dates for these events.

Suzanne Simon-Senn is our Secretary and continues to be part of the committee supporting our events.

Prof. Philip Jaffé brings his expertise in the field of the Rights of the Child. We are working with him on a more comprehensive version of our Child Protection Procedure in the field.

PROJECTS IN SWITZERLAND

This newsletter introduces our important activities in Switzerland. Below you can read about the three projects we have been working on for more than a year and that will be coming to fruition in 2021. These projects are supported by the authorities and are replicable in all interested cantons and cities. Two of the projects specifically concern teenagers, one targeted at 12-15 year olds at school and their parents, and the other at over-12 year olds, who often resort to violence to protect themselves because they lack the skills to assert themselves through dialogue. This is a great and meaningful project combining forum theatre and aikido principles that we will carry out in the local communities.

I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and invite you to continue reading below to find out more about our work.

Delia Mamon, President

THE FACES OF THE NEW FOUNDATION



Delia Mamon
President

President and founder of Graines de Paix since its inception almost 16 years ago, Delia leads the organisation with vision, bringing together educational and societal objectives.

Background and interests: <https://tinyurl.com/y9g5odop>



Suzanne Simon
Member and secretary

Suzanne was initially involved in the organisation of our Support Committee and reaffirms her commitment to Graines de Paix by becoming Secretary of our foundation.

Background and interests: <https://tinyurl.com/ybbuq3fk>



Stéphanie De Mestral, Member

Senior Vice-President at de Pury Pictet Turrettini & Cie (PPT), pioneers in responsible investment and ECG (environmental, social, and corporate governance) measurement. She is keen to support our work for children, a subject close to her heart.

Background and interests: <https://tinyurl.com/y9aap98d>



Maya Page
Member

Maya heads up the legal and compliance department of the Notz Stucki Group and provides us with active legal and administrative support.

Background and interests: <https://tinyurl.com/y7krk9cl>



Prof. Philip D. Jaffé
Expert Member in Children's Rights

Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (OHCHR), and trained in clinical and forensic psychology, Professor Philip D. Jaffé co-founded the Centre for Child Rights Studies (CIDE) at the University of Geneva, where he currently teaches.

Background and interests: <https://tinyurl.com/ycuubyr5>

OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2021

FOCUS ON SWITZERLAND



"I think that without dreams, we cannot be happy. And for us to believe in our dreams, teachers should not belittle us or ignore us, but instead push us to the top no matter who we are."

Middle school student
Needs study with 12-15 year-old students, Graines de Paix, 2018

1 - THE VRM FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE 'LIVING TOGETHER IN HARMONY' PROGRAMME

For the well-being of teenagers at school

It's difficult for teenagers to study when school-life is a source of suffering and are in the midst of all the usual ups and downs of adolescence. Statistics highlight the extent of the problem - 11% of pupils admit to frequent disruptive behaviour in class, rising to 22% in the first year of secondary school.

Even more important than creating a positive school climate is the need to create bonds of trust between pupils, teachers, parents and all personnel who contribute to school life. Conflicting demands mean this can be a real challenge for headteachers. At the request of the authorities in Vaud Canton, the Graines de Paix programme will be designed over the next few months. Testing will then take place at two pilot schools, one in Villeneuve Haut-Lac* and the other in Ollon at the start of the new school year. Emotional, relational and collaborative skills will be the focus for both students and adults; these are the skills that will enable everyone, including parents, to be more in tune with each other's needs. Headteachers will also be able to train in a new form of leadership, known as pedagogical leadership. Learning is best done in real life situations and this set of experiential activities, specially created by our pedagogues, gives participants the chance to get to know and value each other better.

By participating in the programme, these teens, our society's adults of the future will have the chance to do better at school, explore and fulfil their full potential and discover how to live in and collaborate with the adult world.

A number of French schools are already hoping to implement the programme after our initial work with them. The plan is then to increase the number of schools in Switzerland and France that will implement this major Whole school project.

We invite our Swiss and French friends to support us here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaufor64>

* Source : Rapport sur l'établissement de Villeneuve Haut-Lac, Etat de Vaud, p.3, Dépt. Formation, Jeunesse, Culture (SESAF/PSPS), 2019



2 - AXA XL SWITZERLAND AND THE FEDERAL SOCIAL INSURANCE OFFICE (OFAS) SUPPORT THE ADOGOZEN PROJECT

Helping teenagers at community centers

A teenager is sitting on a bench. A second teenager comes up to him and states, «This place is mine». The other's reaction? «Well, I guess I'd bash him». So begins the first pilot workshop at the Chailly community centre in Lausanne.

The AdoGoZen project helps teenagers find violence-free solutions to potentially difficult situations through forum theatre exercises like the bench scenario above. In the second workshop, the number of teens rose to thirteen compared to six in the first. Word had spread amongst their pals. One even shared that the first workshop had empowered him to defuse a real-life confrontational situation. He was able to identify, anticipate and appease it.

The project will help teens coming to such centres to replace their knee-jerk violent responses with dialogues that help them develop appeased social interactions. Skills learned here reinforce what will be learned in school through the 'Living Together in Harmony' programme outlined above.

The program will provide community centres and organisations with a training guide and tutorials for hands-on activities combining improvisational theatre and aikido. We look forward to continuing this work, which was abruptly ended by Covid in 2020-21.

Choose the project of your choice: <https://tinyurl.com/yaufor64>

THREE EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

1 - VERBIER-ST. BERNARD ROTARY'S WINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



SOLIDARITY WINES



IN SUPPORT OF GRAINES DE PAIX



Did you know that the orlaya is a white flower that pushes between vines when the ground finds life without pesticides? If you image a woman in charge, this is very much the case: The Orlaya Cave in the Valais village of Fully is run by the young and dynamic wine grower, Mathilde Roux, oenologist and holder of a degree from EPFL, one of Switzerland's top two science universities. After just 6 years, she has already won award after award for the quality of her wines.

Approached by the Verbier-St. Bernard Rotary Club, Mathilde immediately agreed to support their solidarity campaign for Graines de Paix. For the Rotary, supporting Graines de Paix is directly in line with their goal for supporting peace. They thus hope to get all Rotary Clubs in Switzerland to place orders.

Available options that will help you discover a variety of different wines:

Option 1: 3 bottles of Fendant and 3 bottles of Humagne Blanche - 114 CHF

Option 2: 3 bottles of Gamay of Fully and 3 bottles of Gamay old vines - 114 CHF

Option 3: 2 bottles of Fendant, 2 of Gamay old vines and 2 of Humagne Rouge - 125 CHF

Option 4: 1 bottle of Syrah, 1 bottle of Petite Arvine and 1 bottle of Humagne Rouge - 80 CHF

The concept

For each bottle you buy via the Solidarity Wines order form, the winegrower donates **3 CHF** per bottle to our organisation, and you donate **2 CHF**. Therefore each purchase of option 1, 2 and 3 will result in a donation of **30 CHF** to Graines de Paix, and **15 CHF** for option 4.

In addition, delivery is free of charge within Switzerland for all purchases of 12 bottles.

Many thanks to Mathilde Roux and the members of the Verbier-St. Bernard Rotary Club for this initiative.

You can place your wine orders at <https://tinyurl.com/ybu7sfru>

2 - 'LEON'S INCREDIBLE EMOTIONS', IS READY FOR PUBLICATION

Graines
dePaix



Leon's incredible
emotions

4,000 CHF
to go on a
12,000 CHF campaign

Pursuing a chameleon, what could be more intriguing? Especially when the adventure is an exciting treasure hunt based on Leon's emotions. As exotic landscapes unfold, the young reader must seek out where Leon has gone. And as the adventure develops, children develop their emotional intelligence. The book also allows young students who have experienced the "Leon and his Emotions" school exhibit to relive and reinforce their emotional learning.

Experiencing positive emotions

With over 8,000 CHF raised towards our target of 12,000 CHF, we were able to complete the writing of 'Leon, the Unbelievable Chameleon'. Our thanks to all of you! What remains to be done is the printing and publication. Emotions-wise, we're eager to complete this last step soon and hope you have as much joy in reading this book with your children as we have had creating it.

Make a donation or order copies at <https://tinyurl.com/yaufor64>

3 - PAX! COOL ENOUGH TO SAY NO TO VIOLENCE

CURRENTLY IN EXCLUSIVITY

Comic book for 8 to 12 years old



A group of cartoonists, including Tirabosco, Wazem, Kalonji and Albertine Zullo, have devised stories that end in blows or humiliation. It's up to the young readers to figure out how to turn the crisis around. At the end of this interactive book, the pages are full of ideas on how to make the jump from violence to peace.

This collection of ten comic strips has been delighting pupils in French-speaking Switzerland since 2007. The Kids4Peace Foundation has selected Graines de Paix as beneficiary of its entire stock, calling on us to spread its usage and to republish.

A group of young professional members of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) worked together with the State of Geneva's School authorities, teachers and parents to produce this publication. Our warm thanks to the founders of Kids4Peace.

8-12 years, 62 pages

Price: 15 CHF / 14 EUR

Available in 5 languages: FR - EN - ESP - IT - DE, all in stock

Order your copies at <https://tinyurl.com/yaufor64>

Please note our new bank details:

Fondation Graines de Paix, 11 rue Cornavin, 1201 Geneva.

IBAN CHF - CH4800- 279279377724-01A

IBAN EUR - CH5900- 279279377724-60N

BIC : UBSWCHZH80A

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