



## NEWSLETTER 3

Dear Ladies of Agora Club!

This newsletter shows once more our activity in charity projects. Tremendous the success for our ISP "Eyes for the World" – have a careful look on page 2! But please don't forget to support the LCI ISP our second project.

AC Italy reminds us of the consequences of the destructive earthquakes and describes a brilliant solution which we can foster by buying a new created pin or money transfer. For this reason don't forget to have a look on our website.

Yours in continued friendship

Brigitte Colberg, ACI Secretary 2015-2017

### INDEX

Words of our president Ursula	Page 2
LittleBigHelp – ISP LCI	Page 3
AC France – Comité Nationale	Page 5
AC The Netherlands – AC Eindhoven – EFTW	Page 5
Act Germany – Christmas parcel convoy	Page 6
AC Italy – Help for earthquake victims	Page 7
AC Zambia - EFTW	Page 9
Our new Individual Member	Page 11

**Dear Ladies,**

as we received so much articles from your different service projects, Brigitte and me decided to dedicate this newsletter to you ladies, to your big hearts and your wonderful projects! You are fantastic! You are amazing, warmhearted, loving ladies!

I am more than grateful to be part of this active, vibrant, dynamic organization and I feel honored to call you my friends. You open your hearts and you dedicate much time and energy to help those who need you the most. Two years ago we have voted our very first own International Service Project for two years after the big success of a pilot project initiated by Veerle AC Belgium and Sandy, South-Africa. The Belgian Ladies had gathered their first 5.000 Euro to provide children in Louis Trichardt in South-Africa with self-adjustable glasses. Up to now we have gathered € 19.705 Euro and we have realized EFTW-Project in four countries, South-Africa, Morocco, Botswana and Zambia. Madagascar will be realized in March.



It was my greatest heart's desire to participate at least in one of the EFTW-Projects of Agora Club International. It is such an overwhelming experience to see the big smiles of all these children, to feel their relief when suddenly they can see clearly. The gratefulness of their parents for our precious gifts is so touching and heartwarming. The participation at the EFTW-Project is an experience I would never have missed for nothing in the world! Thank you to Agora Zambia for having shared this experience with me and for having shared some special secrets of your life ☺☺ I am exercising, you know what I mean. Madagascar is the last country which applied for the EFTW-Project.

**I am happy and proud to announce you, that there are enough funds left for **three** more projects!!!!**

Ladies, we encourage you to apply for the project to bring joy and happiness to many children in **your** country! Contact the convenors, the International Board, the participating countries and have a look on our website where you can find the application form.



**I want to draw your attention to the LCI-ISP LittleBigHelp which we decided to continue to support.**

**Your help will be also much appreciated! Enjoy the following article.**



**LittleBigHelp**  
www.littlebighelp.com

## Girls' Home Report: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2016

October, November and December 2016 have been 3 very exciting months for the 17 girls in Girls' Home, filled with numerous activities and celebrations especially surrounding Christmas and New Years.

### Life is no longer just survival



Just one month ago 6-year-old Ratna (not her real name) used to wake up every morning in the slum of Dumdum. She would spend most days begging with her mother so that she and her 3 sisters would have something to eat. Her father also earns money by pulling a rickshaw but they hardly ever see any

of his earnings as he spends it drinking. Ensuring a brighter future for Ratna, where every day wouldn't just be about survival, would be impossible if she remained in the slum. Her mother therefore decided that Ratna should move into LittleBigHelp Girls' Home where she is now going to school everyday, getting plenty of food and developing mentally and socially through the many fun activities she is part of at the Home. With a bright future ahead of her Ratna is dreaming of becoming a teacher.

### Christmas in LittleBigHelp

Christmas is always a big and special day in LittleBigHelp where Girls' Home and Boys' Home get together along with all the team members and Founder of LittleBigHelp

Lisbeth Johansen, and have a big LittleBigHelp family celebration, with amazing food, cake, gifts, and fun activities.

This year's Christmas presents were new indoor games, which everyone was really excited about, and the girls presented a beautiful dance that they had been practicing all December.



### Talents are developing in Girls' Home

We are proud to share that Moumita from Girls' Home had the highest average in her entire class at the end-of-year examinations in December. She is a very bright and talented girl who is also excelling in Karate and the Tabla (a South Asian percussion instrument). We are excited to see her all round development and grateful that we, through your support, are able to give all the girls an

\*Picture at the top: Girls' Home welcoming LittleBigHelp Founder, Lisbeth Johansen, back to India

opportunity to develop and pursue their dreams and talents.

### Developing through play



Loud laughter, cheering and shy smiles filled the Girls' Home when they one afternoon decided to have a balloon fashion show. The girls took turns doing a catwalk with their chosen style and colour of balloon, some wearing it on their head as a hat, others as a scarf or necklace or even earrings. Only their imagination set the limits to what the balloons could represent. Dress up play can be an important part of a child's development as it fosters the imaginative processes.

### Strengthening the bonds between brothers and sisters



Two days after celebrating Diwali, the girls enjoyed celebrating Bhai Phonta (Brothers Day) at the Boys' Home. A festival that strengthens the beautiful bond of love and affection between a brother and sister. All the girls therefore went to the Boys' Home where the girls marked the foreheads of their brothers with sandalwood paste or 'Tilak' and prayed for their safety, well being and success. The children exchanged sweets, gifts and blessings and enjoyed a delicious lunch afterwards.

### Helping make their home colourful

The girls in the Home are very creative and they love spending their time making cards, painting and drawing. Recently they gave the Girls' Home a make-over by decorating the walls of the Home with new beautiful paintings. They loved that they could use their skills to join in making their own home more colourful and child-friendly, and they proudly show the paintings to all visitors who come to the Home.



### Learning life skills through play

With play money and an empty bag, the children from our Girls' and Boys' Home were excited to go shopping for toys, clothes, shoes, books, jewelry and much more at a programme called 'Let's go shopping' arranged by Art Rickshaw, Kolkata. It was a great experience for the children who started bargaining and making great deals. Besides having fun, the aim of the programme was to teach the children about shopping and prioritizing their money. Thanks to Art Rickshaw for creating such a memorable experience for the children.



### Funny Sunday on the sports field

The temperatures in Kolkata are currently very pleasant for outdoor activities. During a recent Funny Sunday the girls had loads of fun on a big outdoor field, playing a variety of games such as badminton, cricket, skipping rope and blind race outside together with Founder Lisbeth Johansen and Fundraising & Event Manager Rikke Schrøder who are currently in Kolkata to be a part of the team in India on a day-to-day basis.



**Thank you for your support and the change you are helping create in the girls.**

**Love from the LittleBigHelp Team.**

## Agora France held its Comité National on 4th November in Nantes



The region presidents with Maryse, national VP



Gala Dinner, Donation from the Agora Nantes club to EFTW, thank you!

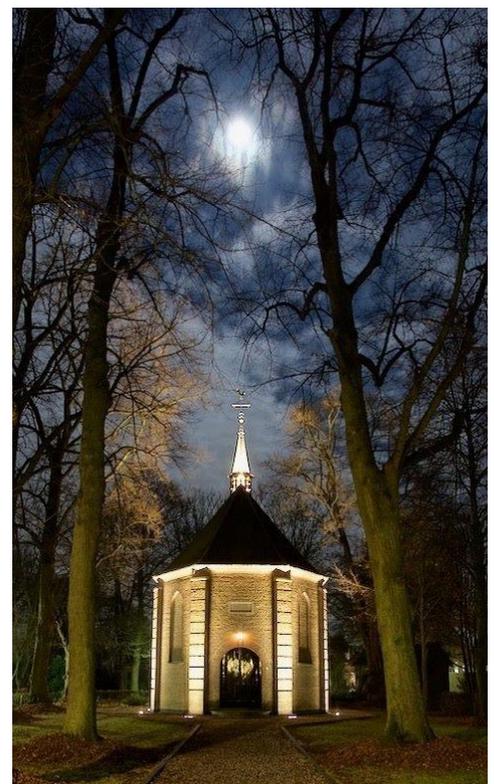
## AGORA CLUB Eindhoven for Eyes for the World

On 22 December 2016 AGORA Club Eindhoven organizes a Christmas Concert for

### “Eyes for the World”

in the famous little church of Van Gogh in Nuenen.

Vincent van Gogh lived in Nuenen in his youth for 5 years and painted this church where his Father was a vicar.





Many people were present and enjoyed the wonderful evening in a special environment and a very special atmosphere!

**Andrei Voica**, a very talented Romanian artist, played on the vibraphone well known Christmas songs and beautiful own compositions about nature of his homeland Romania.



But the purpose of this concert was raising money for our service project. And we were very proud to mention at the end of the evening that we raised 1200 euro for the international project "Eyes of the World".



Kind regards and yours in friendship!!!

Agora Club Eindhoven, Corry Zimmer

## Christmas parcel convoy 2016 and Tangent Club Germany is present

December 3, 2016 – we meet at cold but sunny weather at the starting point of the convoy.

**106.000 parcels - awesome** and overall I see sparkling faces in red convoy jackets full of pleasant anticipation. The „side by side“ concept is being experienced homogeneously: RT, OT, LC, TC and many friends of the Christmas parcel convoy make this project unique .



After many kilometers with the bus or the truck through Austria and Hungary we reach the border of Rumania. Our destination the „convoy group Brasov“ is St. Gheorghe close to Brasov (formerly Kronstadt). Two trucks, four ladies and eight gentlemen arrive there in the evening and are excited to see what will happen during the coming days. We here meet all fellow passengers of the group for the first time during dinner and exchange our initial

impressions as well as the experiences of the past.

The fellow passengers are:

**Matthias** and **Georg** in the first truck, who unfortunately have to return the next day, but often participated in the trip in the past. The second truck is being driven by **Axel** (professional driver), who has joined the convoy 5 years ago as a result of a colleague's recommendation, his daughter **Kathrin**, who finally succeeded in joining her father on this trip. The second driver is **Kalle** (optician in Mölln), who has been bursting for this project since it started and who joined every tour with the exception of one year.

**Sabine**, from LC 46, the most important person in our group. She is the team leader for the team „Brasov“, she, too, is being involved in the convoy since a long time. Additionally, there are the repeaters **Jan** from OT and



**Helmut**, Rotarian, who joined the convoy through Tommy. **Frauke** from LC 36 joined two years ago and her father **Richard**, who could snatch a place shortly since somebody else fell out. And there are the two „newcomers“, **Marcus** from RT, who aimed at joining the convoy during his active RT membership and last but not least myself, Sabine from Tangent Club Germany..... definitely a troop „side by side“ – RT, LC, OT, TC and friends....

Common breakfast and then we start to our first destination:

the distribution hall. Pack the truck and proceed to our drop-in centers - schools, preschools, handicapped institutions, hospitals, protectories in St.George, Rotbav, Chilibieni, Olteni, Targu Secuiesc and the Tabaluga foundation in Radeln. Two trucks were unpacked and the parcels distributed.



**Let me repeat myself: this experience is extraordinary ...**



- - The sparkling eyes of the children
- - The numerous assistants „side by side“, age and profession not relevant, if member of a club or not, everybody wishes to help children and to make them happy at least for this one moment
- - The discussions ...
- - I definitely feel we did the proper thing. We are part of a wonderful and magnificent network, who take their time to bring some kind of happiness and love into today's world. After one week I know better than ever which convenient life we live and enjoy. This trip definitely was not my last one.

Sabine Zange - ACT Germany - President 2016/2017

## **Agora Club Italy**

Agora Club Italy would like to thank you for the support you gave us to start our service up, already from ACI Conference in Milan:

The amount of our Gal Lottery at the ACI AGM has been the first contribution that Agora Club could assign to help people damaged by August 24th 2016 earthquake in Marche Region.



Now, many weeks have passed through from that day of 2016, many other earthquakes shacked that land and it seems as if it will be endless. Moreover, a very big storm dropped so much snow in a while – as you probably know from the news – which more and more buildings collapsed under snow and earthquake.

People are discouraged and most of them have left their houses on the hills and up on the mountains, their farms, their animals, their villages. Land is desert and abandoned. So, in order to help people to come back and live in their birthplaces as soon as possible, to begin to work again in their home-villages and towns, to help them doing their activities as soon as possible, we decided to collect money to build a new building for that village on the hills, close to Ascoli Piceno, that's called Arquata del Tronto.

And this is what you already know. Now, we'd like to add something that you don't know yet:

The idea we told you about in Milan has become the design that you can see in the attached file on our ACI Website.

Just to introduce it to you, we shortly point out technical requirements. This new building has been thought suitable to host some different social activities: Meetings and conferences play games for young people, events for the community, old people day-housing.

In few words, its use will be flexible and social. Energy, heating and refreshing will be self-provided by solar panels, it will be sound-proof and thermo-insulated up to 16-hour phase shift ,fire-resistant, rain water recycling system equipped, seismic-safe and easy to assemble (with dry technique) and to be disassembled everywhere, recyclable and eco-friendly.

Its name will be multi-purpose Centre of Arquata. Its nickname will be "our heart for Arquata del Tronto" or

- as we say - "Un cuore per Arquata". Its cost will be € 120.000 and we would like to make it become real also with your help, with the help of all of us, with the help of the 4 clubs.

You can support it buying the pins we made:

A red-white-green heart that means "together 4 charity" with Club 41 Int'l, Agora Club, LC and RT of Italy. The pin costs € 5,00.

More, if you'd like to support us with money transfer, our bank account is:

BANCA PROSSIMA account n. 1000/136037, AGORA CLUB ITALIA, Corso PORTA ROMANA, 72 - MILANO

IBAN IT 23 A 03359 016001 00000136037. BIC BCITITMX

Thank you very much for your solidarity and involvement.

YiF, Federica, Diana, Letizia, Marina and Serena





# AGORA CLUB ZAMBIA

## EYES FOR THE WORLD PROJECT VISIT JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 5, 2017

In 2015/16 Agora Club Zambia, adopted Agora club international ISP as its national project. Having no idea on screening eyes for defects, we approached Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital for help. The Hospital has proved to be our all-weather friend and provided free eye screening for us! We discovered that quite a number of children needed glasses and wondered how we were going to pay for them!! We started planning all sorts of fundraising ventures to try and raise the much needed funds. You can only imagine our relief and delight when the ACI Board told us that the EFTW could come to Zambia and help our needy children.

In December 2016, we joined Agora Club UK and other countries in the Live streaming of their Fashion Show and having a 60s/70s fashion show of our own!

January 29th 2017, finally arrived and ACI President Ursula and PP and EFTW convenor Sandy arrived in Zambia. Dr Koen had arrived the day before.



In the evening we had a welcome party and the official launch of EFTW in Zambia. The occasion was graced by the Honourable Minister for Community Development Emerine Kabanshi MP. Our cooperating partners Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital, the Seventh Day Adventist church eye hospital, members of ACZ, 41er

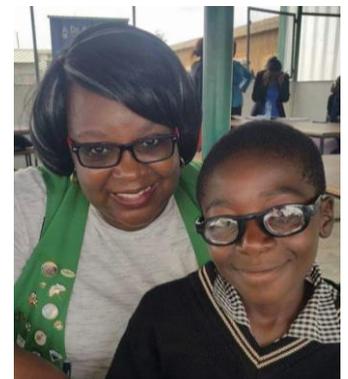
Club, Ladies Circle, Round Tables and the Tourism Board of Zambia were on hand to render the much needed support.



The screenings began with Chibolya Basic school. You had to be there to experience the joy on the faces of the children that received glasses! About 370 were screened and 97 pairs were given out!! The teachers and some curious parents also benefitted from the screening!



In the evening, we took the ladies out to experience a typical "traditional" Zambian evening ! We hope you've put some of the things you learned to good use =)



Day 2 we visited Kamanga Basic School, Buka club and Bauze Drop in center. We screened about 210 and distributed 69 pairs of glasses at the school

and 24 pairs at the Drop in Centre after screening about 74 people.

Day 3, we took the EFTW to visit our major cooperating partners, Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital and the Seventh Day Adventist church eye hospital to see the facilities available in these two institutions.



After the Hospital visits, we had a "rainy picnic" but managed to see some zebras, impala, ostriches, ducks and peacocks.



Day 4 Ursula, Sandy and Dr Koen left for Livingstone to see the "Mighty" Victoria Falls- the smoke that thunders and other tourist attractions!





Agora Club Zambia cannot thank ACI and EFTW enough for the memorable week. The smiles on the faces of those children left a lasting impression and it was certainly a life changing experience for all of us!!

## Our new Individual Member



Why I joined Agora as an Individual Member? (September 2016)

I know Agora since its birth as I attended the Charter of Agora Club N°1 Lille, France in 1987 and I had the pleasure to meet the Founding Chairman Annick Thiery. So, YES I know Agora's aims and objectives.

I have been an active Circler and did a tour of duty on the Belgian National Board of Ladies' Circle as well on the International Board. So no wonder that I still am interested in what past members and fresh recruits are doing. It surprises me how often I still think about past member clubs.

Thanks to my friends, Daniëlle Gardin and Veerle De Jonge – who are very involved in Agora and whose enthusiasm is contagious – I heard more about your activities and about your great International Charity Project “Eyes for the World” and how to apply for Individual membership.

I live in Knokke on the East coast of Belgium, very near to The Netherlands. Since Knokke has everything, save for an Agora Club, I very much enjoy reading Agora's newsletters and social media feeds. So please keep them coming!

I wish Ursula, her board and all of you a great Agora Year!

Yours in friendship,

Frieda Van den Hende – Dedeurwaerder