

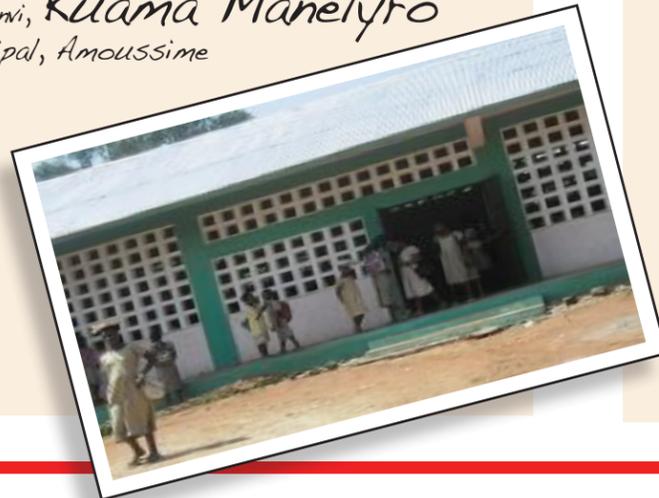
SET Letters

From **Director and Principal**
of the Amoussime School:

We, the Director, teachers and parents of elementary school pupils at Amoussime thank you very sincerely for the commitment you made to us. All of our students are destitute. Words fail to express the sentiments you have inspired in us. That God protects you and keeps you, that you continue the fine work you have undertaken to start here in Amoussime. Built in 1966 our school has only two buildings for more than one thousand students. We take this opportunity to ask that you construct a building of three classrooms equipped with desks. We know of the good work you have done for the School of Agbelouve in Zito.

We wish you a safe return. We are hoping to see you again very soon,

*Bessani, Kuama Manelyro
Principal, Amoussime*



a 12-year-old
student at
Asso School:

*My name is Afi.
I am in sixth grade and I am 12 years old. I am the second in a family of seven children, three of whom are girls. Our school is located about one kilometer from our house. Since before starting at this school I never had the chance to study under a metal roof or inside cement walls.*

I have sad memories of hours passed in the fields on Wednesday afternoons to cut the straw that served as the roofing for our classrooms. I have sad memories of being sent home when the rain leaked through our roof. The rain wet our notebooks. I also have sad memories of a Thursday in September, 2011 when we were sent home with the onset of rain. I was wearing my new khaki school uniform and carrying my new notebooks on the path to our home when suddenly the rain surprised me. My notebooks were soaked, my new uniform covered with mud; the water ran everywhere and I went inside crying.

Now, never again since we have a completely new building. I want to thank donors. My life has changed since I can go to school no matter what the weather.

Afi, student at Asso School

SET & TOGETHER

SPRING 2013 Volume 1, Number 1 SET Newsletter

SETtling In Together

Welcome to **Support Education Togo (SET)** first newsletter. Our philosophy supplies our choice of the newsletter name, **SET Together**. In everything we do we partner. From our donors to school communities, interconnectedness directs all of us.

In the initial planning stage we meet with our partner in Togo, West Africa, Action Enfance et Développement (AED), a registered Togolese charity. Headed by Laurent Dekalikan, a former teacher, AED dedicates itself to improving the quality of childhood for children in one of the world's poorest countries. With wide construction experience, Laurent project-manages each of the local communities as they do the work on their new school or school addition or renovation.



Building the new school at Agbelouve



The original elementary classroom at Amoussime

After Laurent has identified potential sites for a **SET** school, meetings held with community leaders, parents, principals and teachers determine educational needs. In less than two years of work we have built two new school buildings, refurbished three decaying classrooms and nearly completed a third school building. Working together every project is unique, but sharing the same goals: **That every cent of donor money is spent on building the school;** That every construction project be of long-lasting quality; That donors and recipients appreciate our **SET Together** belief in empowerment of community partners.



The king and queen of the area attend the opening of the Agbelouve school

Watching the community work to dig the foundation of the school, carry cement and water to make the bricks, lay the bricks so that windows allow breezes and block rain, paint the walls, install the blackboards, provides a beautiful picture of cooperation: Fathers and mothers literally making education possible for their children.

On this side of the Atlantic **SET** already has gathered great stories of how much people care. One young musician gave his busking proceeds to **SET** for Christmas. A cleaner at the Montessori Academy of London left change on the teacher's desk for the class's **SET** fundraising project. Eager students attend presentations keen to know about their peers in Togo. Repeated comments from donors thanking **SET** for the opportunity to join with Togolese communities to make a better world.

The proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" has been attributed to Africa. When **SET** considers its goal, we see Canadian, Marshall McLuhan's "global village" as its base, that between continents, together, we can make education happen for Togo's children.

Join with us at SET
MAIL : 1432 Tecumseh Park Drive Mississauga, Ont. L5H 3P1
WEB: www.supporteducationtogo.org
TELEPHONE: 1-905-891-5031

SET & TO GO
SUPPORT.EDUCATION.TOGO.

Join with us at SET

Your contribution can be made to SET
 Mail your cheque to Robert Barclay
 1432 Tecumseh Park Drive Mississauga, Ont. L5H 3P1

OR Donate online at:
www.supportededucationtogo.org
OR Telephone:
 1-905-891-5031

Be sure to mark the date October 19, 2013 for the next SET Togo fundraiser at the Lambton Golf and Country Club. We want to surpass the success (\$25,000 raised) of last year's party.



The SET Directors: from left to right- Simon Carette, Robert Barclay, Anne Langlois Carette, Don Barclay.

Pace SETters

December holidays, 2012, the "Dance Your Pants Off" Show sold out. The Snack Shack served a variety of homemade treats. All together cousins Aiden and Riley Barclay, Andrea and Lindsey Bareich raised money for SET from their two days' preparation for the half-hour presentation, Don Barclay matched their contribution to SET.



Children welcoming guests to their new school at Agbelouve

October, 2012, Community Meeting for the new school in Amoussime, Togo: Parents voted to contribute the equivalent of 20¢ per student per year to the operation of their children's school. Almost 100% of the citizens are unemployed in a country where family income is about \$490 a year.



The elementary class with their principal at Agbelouve

After reading an article in the daily newspaper, London orthopedic surgeon, Cathy Blokker contributed to SET She introduced SET to her children's school, Montessori Academy of London. In October, 2012 for Acts of Kindness Month, letters and brochures went home to 130 families. More than \$1000 was raised as kids reached out to kids together.

One guest lost his way to the Murder Mystery Fundraiser in October, 2012. Arriving a little late, he interrogated Bob Barclay about SET and "what it really is all about anyway?" Bob answered and the guest replied by writing a \$1000 cheque for the next school.



On a trip to Togo in 2011 to distribute bedkits (mattress, mosquito net, pillow, material for school uniform, notebooks, backpack) with Sleeping Children Around the World, four team members got together. They remarked on the Togolese determination to send their kids to school. But the state of some of the schools they had seen gave them the impetus to do something to help. Support. Education. Togo. or as Bob Barclay, Don Barclay, Simon Carette and Anne Langlois named the charity: SET To Go. And go they have. Partnering with Action Enfance et Développement(AED), a registered charity in Lomé, Togo, dedicated to Togolese children's needs, headed up by Laurent Dekalikan, the following projects have been completed:

September, 2011: Agbelouve.

Three open classrooms vulnerable to wind and rainy weather rebuilt so that all students could attend school on a regular basis. Better still, the community provided the labour themselves.

January, 2012: Agbalepedo.

Three deteriorated classrooms repaired and restored on time and on budget.

October, 2012: Asso.

The more than 40-year-old school with a thatched roof has been replaced with three new classrooms and a principal's office in a concrete building.

March, 2013: Amoussime.

The existing school houses 857 children in 6 classrooms – 142 children per class! No wonder that SET agreed to recommendations to build three additional classrooms as well as a principal's office/secure storage area.

With the completion of Amoussime more than 1,000 Togolese children will be in new, solid classrooms where regardless of wind, rain, and mud they will be able to learn. The last two projects have included brand new desks for the new classrooms paid for by SET Like all construction workers, the carpenters come from the local community.

