

# SET Letters

From Director of Action Enfance et Développement, SET's Togo partner:

Dear Donors:

*I would like to express our gratitude for the good choice you have made - the support of education in Togo. You cannot imagine how many times it really makes a difference in the lives of children in Togo. Enrollment in beneficiary villages has literally increased. The number of girls in school will soon double.*

*The fantastic choice you have adopted will make these children fulfilled people of tomorrow. Whoever educates a boy educates a man and one who educates a girl educates a nation.*

*The development of a country depends on the education of its children, so your support for education goes beyond your expectations. You participate in the present and future development of Togo. All the people will always be grateful.*

*We encourage you to continue in this noble choice that will definitely change the lives of thousands of children. Our sincere thanks to the SET management team for the charisma that characterizes their action. We assure them that their actions always bear fruit for generations present and future.*

Laurent Dekalikan

Excerpts from letter from Assistant in Action Enfance et Développement

*Good day  
Supporters of SET:*

*SET is a major satisfaction not only for the benefitting villages, but also and certainly for us who implement the projects. SET helps us to reach our basic objectives which is to help children and distant villages to have access to schooling, health care and drinkable water.... Construction of schools helps many children to go to school and resolves the problems of limited space for the children who would like to attend. ...The principal of Ametonou Kondji school has told us that the construction of the new building will increase enrollment by nearly fifty percent, above all increasing access for girls.*

*Yes, it is very difficult and really impossible for villagers to construct solid schools because they don't have the means to buy the materials. It is the government that constructs schools in Togo, but they cannot respond to all the needs and also some villages are neglected due in part to their isolation and difficulty of access....I cannot describe the joy, the emotion and the smiles on the faces of children in finally seeing the improvement in the schools which contribute so much to their development.*

Dosseh Sowoubo



# SET & TOGETHER

Spring 2014

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## SET To Grow

Laurent Dekalikan, Support. Education. Togo.'s (SET) partner in Togo wrote to the directors of SET: "A proverb says that he who plants a tree has lived usefully. I tell you that you (SET contributors and supporters) plant lives that will grow and bring much to our nation."

To grow schools in Togo SET begins with grounded values. The last issue of SET Together described some of these values: addressing genuine need, emphasizing local empowerment, spending every donor dollar on schools in Togo, and keeping tight financial controls on all spending. The values of community empowerment and emphasis on superior quality add to the foundation for SET schools.

"Getting through primary school is seen as one of the first steps in breaking the cycle of poverty that has held back generations of Africans from escaping the situations in which they were born," wrote Josh O'Kane in *The Globe and Mail* article entitled "Africa's next challenge: Getting fully schooled". (9/16/2013)

In many villages in Togo a primary school is either non-existent or has been built with sticks and thatched with palm. Such structures offer no shelter from Togolese rains or winds. Once a community has been selected for a SET school, and the community commits to it, the land is surveyed and the building begins.

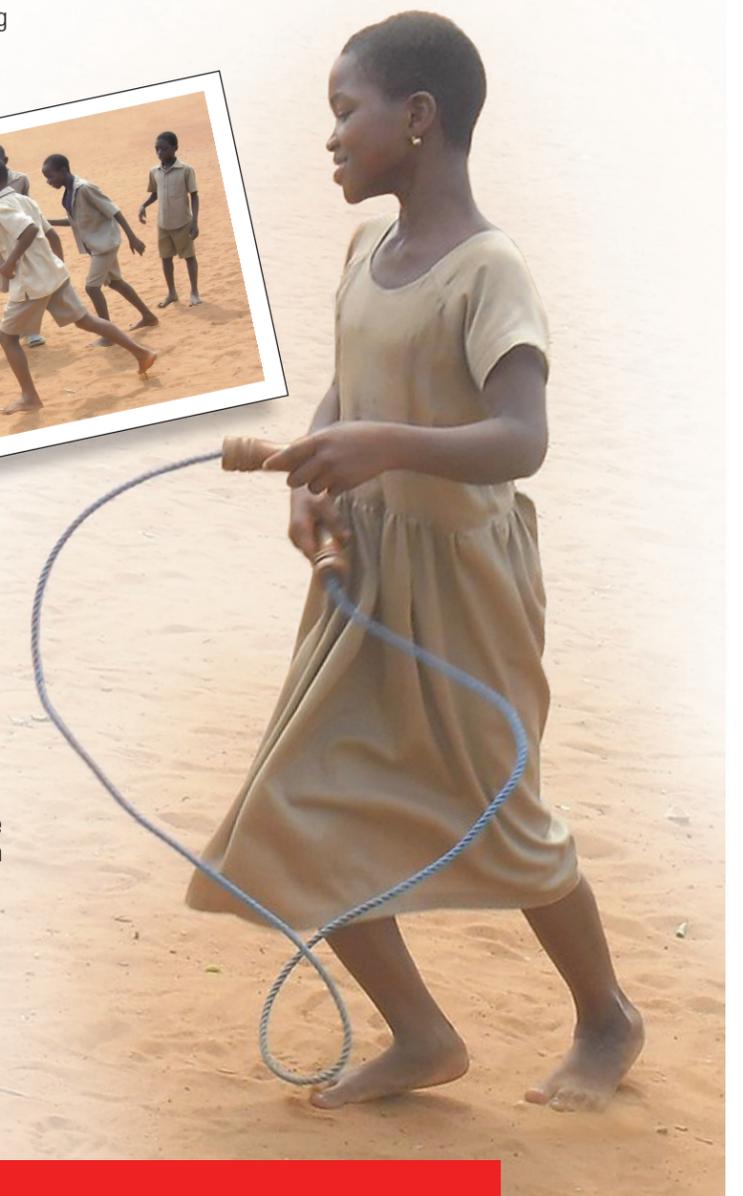
To acquire bricks, mixed cement is poured into moulds to harden. Local workers make hundreds of bricks to be laid into the durable walls of the school. Men from the community itself are hired to make bricks and to saw timber for the framing of the school. It is by their own sweat that their children go to school, a literal interpretation of SET's value of community empowerment.

There must be specialized labour in the areas of bricklaying and carpentry, but when it comes to polishing the hard mud to make the school's glistening floors, no one follows the SET value of attention to detail better than the community women working on this task.

Recently a consulting engineer volunteered to review the school blueprints as well as the materials used in construction. He commented that money could be saved by, for example, using wood instead of steel doors. However, steel doors make the building completely secure, something the SET directors were not willing to sacrifice. Similarly with price quotations for student desks.

Better desks were chosen versus the least expensive because of the SET value that quality is of key importance.

The planning and scheduling for the SET schools has paid off with all six schools opening on time and on budget. A SET value of respect and diligence is reaffirmed by local partners.



Join with us at SET  
MAIL : 1423 Tecumseh Park Drive Mississauga, Ont. L5H 3P1  
WEB: [www.supporteducationtogo.org](http://www.supporteducationtogo.org)  
TELEPHONE: 1-905-891-5031

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# Join with us at SET

Your contribution can be made to **SET**. Mail your cheque to Robert Barclay 1423 Tecumseh Park Drive Mississauga, Ont. L5H 3P1

**OR** Donate online at [www.supportededucationtogo.org](http://www.supportededucationtogo.org)  
Where you can also see how your donations are making an impact

**OR** Telephone: 1-905-891-5031

## SET "Fun" Raiser Raises Funds

Outdoing its own record, last year the **SET** Dinner Gala on October 19, 2013 at Lambton Golf and Country Club doubled its profits for the Silent Auction and the Raffle. Almost a year in the organizing the number of fabulous donations included \$500 bottles of wine thanks to Jeff Rubenstein and Todd Halpern's generosity and a diamond-studded lady's watch given by Irit and Mike Shay from Royal de Versailles.



On left Matt Kowall, right David Barclay

Parker and Seville (also known as David Barclay and Matt Kowall respectively) brought their zany vaudeville humour to dinner.

Drummers of West Africa, The Alpha Rhythm Roots, worked up such a beat that many guests could no longer stay put in their seats.

The **SET** Gala raised \$38,000, almost enough money to fund one complete school. Because the event sold out early last year, ensure your participation on Nov. 1, 2014 by ordering tickets from [SET.togo@yahoo.com](mailto:SET.togo@yahoo.com).

Drummer Alpha Rhythm Roots



SET Gala Dinner. Directors Simon Carette and Don Barclay, raffle-ticket helpers.

## A SET Santa

Several weeks before Christmas, 2013 a \$3000 donation to **SET** arrived without fanfare. Looking into it, the team discovered that a company in southwestern Ontario put a new spin on Christmas giving. Instead of sending Christmas cards to all their customers and associates they took the money they would have spent on mailing and cards, added it up and gave it to **SET**. Why **SET**? The president's admin assistant had heard of the need in Togo for schools from her parents who attended the **SET** gala in October, 2013. The company prefers to stay anonymous.

## Pace SETters Rob Porchak

Rob Porchak donates hours in designing and laying out **SET Together**. For Rob, giving his time brings the reward of learning about something he would otherwise not know. "I always want to do things that are a challenge. At the end of the day it's about matching my skills to a need. It doesn't come down to dollars – it's just something I like to do."

At an early age Rob knew that he wanted to be an artist. Unfortunately one of the best art programs offered was in Woodstock, Ontario just out of his local school zone. With much help from others Rob was able to transfer out of his local secondary school area and was bused a long distance each day. Even now, after the 30 years he has spent in the creative world, Rob attributes the main influence in his artistic life to the art teachers at College Avenue Secondary School, Woodstock.

He continued his art education at Conestoga College in Kitchener then started work in the Waterloo area in the early 70s, gaining first hand experience in the field of advertising as an Art Director. Later on he became a Creative Director for a large London, Ontario agency.

Today Rob sees his job as contributing to the strategy of marketing plans and conceptualizing them. "Simply put we are translators. I still believe a picture is worth a thousand words," he says with a twinkle in his eye. On a more serious note Rob adds, "My contribution is to help get the right message across, to encourage people to engage, ultimately to make sure the situation around schooling in Togo gets changed. In my own way I help people to have a voice."

## SETtings Ametonou Kondji, Ataregbe

To the four existing **SET** schools: Agbelouve, September, 2011; Agbalepedo, January, 2012; Asso, October, 2012; Amoussime, March, 2013, two more have been added.

In December, 2013 the school in Ametonou Kondji, Togo was completed. Previously 376 children attended school in three structures made of sticks and palm. Along with their sturdy, weather-proof classrooms, the children have access to hand-washing stations, latrines and drinking water, thanks to the **Canadian Ryan's Well Foundation**.

Thanks to the funds raised at the **SET** Gala, the sixth school located in Ataregbe was finished in March, 2014. Along with the three classrooms, a principal's office and a storage facility have been built. **SET** contracted for the delivery of 93 new desks on completion of the school. Accommodating 373 children, 169 girls and 204 boys, the school has five teachers, including the principal.



Children playing in courtyard of school.



Children bringing water to building site to add to cement.



**SET Together** is published twice a year  
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Comments and questions about the newsletter can be sent to [haasbarclay@hotmail.com](mailto:haasbarclay@hotmail.com).