



*Project code 001*

## VILLAGE SCHOOL – SPONSOR A CHILD IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”*

(Nelson Mandela)

### The education system in the Central African Republic

The education system is composed of:

- State structures (working precariously)
- private structures (mostly run by religious organisations)
- village structures (always managed by religious people with the contribution of the “sponsor a child project”)

The percentage of schooling (6-11 years) is 67% (males 83% females 52.8%)

In the last decade, following the disastrous economic and socio-political situation, the state hasn't been able to pay the salaries of state employees. This led public school teachers not carrying out their profession, with the consequence reduction in schooling.

The only schools that have always remained open, among the many difficulties, are private and village schools

### THE PROJECT

The almost total absence of schools, on the vast territory covered by the mission of Niem and Bouar, has driven the missionaries to devote themselves to the work of literacy and education of young people.

The population of the villages that wish to have a school is asked to create a 'Committee' of parents who undertake to accomplish a first traditional building with logs and straw.

If the village works actively on the good functioning of the school, taking care also of the regular attendance of children and the constant presence of teachers, the mission helps the creation of a more solid structure made of concrete and bricks.

The first village school was created in the village of Bogbatoyo, Mission of Niem, in 1991.

In just over 20 years, 30 schools in the villages have been created, at a distance of 10-15 km from each other.

In the Villages Savannah of Bouar territory, some schools were already in place but in a state of total decay and abandonment. The mission had as objective the renovation and the smooth functioning of the school.

To support the "Village Schools" project, the "Sponsor a child" campaign has begun, which has ensured over the years the right to primary education to thousands of boys and girls otherwise condemned to illiteracy.



### What is the "distance school adoption campaign"?

"The Sponsor a child" campaign is a form of solidarity that can offer more incisive and effective support than occasional help. It allows a child to continue living in his own country and community and to attend school.

It's a simple and practical gesture which, aiming to educate more responsible citizens, gives hope and future to an entire country afflicted by endemic poverty.

### Who can join the project and engage himself in a sponsorship of a child in village schools?

**Sponsor a Child can be signed by both a single person and a group.**

In fact, there are also numerous sponsor groups from schools, classes, associations, groups of colleagues, sports clubs, friends...

It is necessary to specify that "Sponsor a Child" is never in favour of a single child but of the whole group.

Donations ensure school enrolment, teachers' salaries, teaching materials, and occasionally some welcome "manioc/ cassava" treats!

In addition, the missions supported by the AMICI association organize training classes for local teachers and support the most gifted children in continuing their studies up to university.

### Relationship between sponsor and sponsored child

The Amici Betharram Onlus requests that there be no direct contact with the sponsored child. In fact it's very difficult to ensure personal correspondence with the children, especially due to the language (children speak only Sango).

The Association cannot guarantee specific updates on each sponsored child; there aren't many Betharram Fathers working at the mission and they only reach the villages 2 or 3 times a year

The Amici Betharram Onlus Association will send a picture of the sponsored child, some information and the name of the village.

The Association asks that our sponsors and benefactors treat this supportive relationship with mutual trust and a generous spirit. It's certainly natural to become attached to own "sponsored child", but it's important to remember that there are people taking care of him/her, respecting the culture and way of life.

For its part, the Association strives to ensure sponsors the utmost transparency regarding its decisions and actions.

The Sponsor a Child campaign is a moral commitment, with no legal obligations.

The project usually lasts 6 years, the duration of elementary school .

If you decide to stop your sponsorship, please inform the Association promptly so the child can be reassigned to a new sponsor family.



### In summary

To join the project:

- write to: [info@amicibetharram.org](mailto:info@amicibetharram.org)
- **The Donations support for a school year of a child is € 70.00**
- The duration of elementary school is **6 years**
- **The contribution can be paid annually or with a single payment**
- The enterprise provides support for the entire six-year course
- You will receive a photograph of the child sponsored by you, with name, surname and village

### PROJECT NUMBERS

- Number of schools: 31
- Number of children: 5500
- Number of teachers: 96
- School closest to the mission: 7 km
- School furthest from the mission: 135 km
- Masonry schools: 18
- Straw schools: 13