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e-Newsletter December 2012

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A Lego® tree [for reforestation](#) at GlobalGiving

Aloha {FIRST_NAME|Friends}:

It has been a while since we sent our last Zahana newsletter. We hope you enjoy the news from Madagascar.



The story about the Donné.

His parents chose wisely, when they named their second son Donné, a French term, loosely translated as "given one" or "gift". Our Donné has been attending [secondary school](#) in the district seat of Bevato for over a year now.

He was among the first seven students to ever pass the [CEPE \(see website\)](#) in his village. Thanks to a generous in-country donor, Donné and his brother received a scholarship to live in Bevato. There they live together in a rented house, and prepare their own food in the morning, so they have something to eat for breakfast, and take along as lunch to school. One of Zahana's founder's sister looks in on the boys every once in a while, but they're very much left to take care of themselves.

Not only have they mastered living on their own successfully, but Donné rose to the best of his class! We have attached his certificate of attendance that he proudly presented to Zahana.

Donné has great plans for the future. He is already 15 years old, and his dream is to become a doctor, so he can help his community. He has been inspired by seeing Dr. Ihanta, Zahana's founder, work in his community most of his life. Flattered by his compliment, she told him, that if he wants to better himself and not become a rice farmer as his ancestors before him: "he should study hard" (as she did a generation before him).

And the advice he took to heart. Indeed.

NOM: RAZILIMANANTSOA
PRENOMS: Jacques Dominik G. F. P. R.
DATE DE NAISSANCE: 1996 CLASSE: 6^e N°: 54
MATRICULE:

MATIERES	MJ	Comp	$\frac{MJ + C}{2}$	Coef	Notes def.	Appéc.	Signatures
Malagasy	19	18	18,5	3	55,5	T. Gave	Ag
Français	108	14	12,5	2	24,5	A. Min	HP
Anglais	13	08	13	2	22	A. Bru	B
Histo-Geo	14,5	19	15,25	2	30,30	Bien	
Education civique	15	16	15,5	1	15,5	Bien	
Mathématiques	19,5	19,5	19,5	3	58,5	T. bien	Paul
Physique-Chimie	15	15,5	15,25	2	30,5	B. en	
S.V.T	16	07,5	11,75	3	35,25	B. bien	
EPS	-	14,5	14,5	1	14,5	Bien	
TOTAL :			19	291,05			

Moyenne 1^{er} Trimestre : 15,22/20
Moyenne 2^e Trimestre : 15,19/20
Moyenne 3^e Trimestre : 15,37/20
MOYENNE GENERALE : 15,24/20
Rang : 11^e sur 48 élèves

DECISION DU CONSEIL

- > ADMIS(E) EN CLASSE DE : 5^e
- > REDOUBLE EN CLASSE DE :
- > REMIS(E) A SA FAMILLE



Sending trees from the hospital in the capital to the village

Some weeks ago, workmen were renovating a building at the hospital grounds in the capital. In the process over 100 young trees had to be dug out, to make room for the new building. One of the people working in the hospital, who knew of our [reforestation efforts](#) in the countryside, encouraged the workmen to dig out the young trees and save them. Instead of chopping down the seedlings, the hospital employees took it home, replanted the little trees in pots, watered and tended to them until Zahana could organize a transport to the village. A few weeks later over 100 healthy, young tree saplings were on their way in pots, to be planted in the Malagasy countryside. Since the trees are growing extremely well in the capital, it was his hope that some trees may take root in the village as well and provide shade and ground cover in our mix of different trees in our reforestation efforts.

For those curious among you, the trees



have been identified as Iron wood trees (*Casuarina equisetifolia*). These trees have extremely hard wood and although it is difficult to ignite, it will burn hot (even when green) and the resultant



ashes retain their heat for a long time. It has been called the “best firewood in the world”. If the trees will thrive in the arid climate of the high plateau of Madagascar, only time will tell.

Micoprojects

[GlobalGiving](#) has just launched a new, exciting program called “[Microprojects](#)”.

A Microproject is a clearly defined project, with a funding goal dedicated to accomplish this one task. Microprojects will be active on GlobalGiving for a maximum of 90 days, or until funded.

A Micoproject is part of our larger 'parent' projects with [GlobalGiving](#), but gives us the flexibility to dedicate funds to a specific goal (with unique URL). GlobalGiving's research shows that clearly defined funding goals are attractive, and we are happy to be invited to be part of this experiment. Just check them out (on our [website](#)) and see how they work. Here is one example:

Micoproject Secondary School: Two students from Fiadanana again successfully passed the [CEPE](#) exam in August 2012 and are eligible to attend secondary school.

It will cost a dollar a day per student to cover school fees, accommodation, food, and school supplies to attend [secondary school](#) away from home for a school year. (Yes, NPR listeners this amount might sound familiar...). The only secondary school is over 2 hours walk from their village in Bevato the district seat, so children are currently unable to attend, unless... [read more about it](#) at GlobalGiving.

Solar Cooker Update

The [solar cookers](#) have been very well accepted in the schools. The students like them a lot and have been experimenting and cooking as many things as possible. It was exactly this opportunity to experiment and to eat the fruit of the research that made us want to use the solar cookers in the curriculum.


In the latest text message from the village, we received a little synopsis of the cooking efforts by the students. The students have been encouraged to keep notes:

Solar cooker: time to cook for
Rice: 2h30
Zebu: 2h30 (zebu is beef eaten in Madagascar)
Fish: 2h
Cassava: 2h30
Dried bean: 3h
Boiling water for coffee: 1h
Madeleine (small cake): 1h
Cassava cake: 2h

Note: they let the internal temperature go up to 100 degree C (216°F) before the pot gets put in the solar cooker.

Introducing solar cookers in the schools was a [long-term project](#). The solar cookers have generated a lot of interest, because a solar cooker does not require firewood to make food for the children and, which seems to be even more important, there is no smoke in the cooking process, as with traditional firewood stoves.





Zahana will tie together the solar cooker project and the tree-planting project intertwined in a tangible way. In December 2012, it will be a year we launched the official tree-planting project. Working with the community leaders, we will identify the person, who has planted the most trees that took root successfully. Planting trees alone, is no guarantee that they will grow, if it is not tended to and watered by the person planting it. We had told from the community from the beginning, that we will give awards in the first, second and third year, to the person who has planted the most trees that are still growing. This year the price will be a solar cooker.



We hope you had a great Thanksgiving for those living in North America.

Best regards,

Ihanta, Jeannette and Markus

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