

Philanthropy Report 2015-2016

The Philanthropy Committee met on March 21, 2016 to study the applications for donations. The recipients follow.

Rafiki Ya Maisha 400€

AAWE has supported this unusual initiative by member Claire Mathijssen-Roth for several years. This non-profit organization works to provide professional training to Kenya's elementary school children, who are barred from secondary education, and who lack useful academic and technical skills. There is a special focus on girls and young women who otherwise would have dim prospects.

Gynécologues Sans Frontières 1,000€

GSF provides a mobile, medical unit in a van, staffed by gynecologists and midwives, where women receive treatment on the spot. When necessary GSF provides transportation to local hospitals. This donation will be earmarked for the Nord and Pas de Calais projects because of AAWE's interest in the refugee camps there.



Gynécologues Sans Frontières in the north of France

Room to Read 100€

Room to Read believes that world change starts with

educated children. It has created literacy programs in ten different countries in Asia and Africa enabling primary school children to become independent readers. This is done by establishing libraries, publishing original children's books in local languages, constructing classrooms and training educators.

Friday Mission Lunch 1,000€

Since 2006, AAWE has supported this joint effort by American churches and a synagogue, to provide a weekly lunch for 60 needy Parisians. Many of you know that Leslie Charbonnel is the volunteer chef with her team of AAWE member volunteers.

Every Child is a Gem 500€

Given the interest shown by AAWE members for the current refugee crisis, *Every Child is a Gem* was an obvious choice. A group of mothers in Paris—including member Diana Levaton—have been driving to northern France and Germany with carloads of blankets, clothing and food.

Led by HER 100€

Led by HER's mission is to empower women who have suffered from violence. They have developed courses in two business schools in Paris and mentoring programs to help women bring their projects to life.

Stand Up for School Girls in Malawi 100€

Stand Up for School Girls addresses one issue that prevents Malawian girls from completing high school – lack of underwear and sanitary pads. In rural Malawi the graduation rate for girls is only 5%. This locks families into cycles of poverty.

SOS Help 200€ and 4 ads in AAWE News

SOS Help is an English-language telephone service that serves the international community in France. Their aim is to provide compassionate, anonymous, confidential listening to anyone who needs to talk about any issues they are facing. They receive over 4000 calls a year.

Apatchworks 300€

Apatchworks provides collaborative art experiences for children with long term hospital stays or who are challenged by social difficulties. Member Stacey

Wilson-McMahon will lead the children in creating mosaic murals in three children's cancer hospitals. The donation will finance supplies and workshops.

US Girl Scouts Overseas – Special Project 100€

Proposed by Amy Dutailly, the project was to finance the participation of Pinda Chatterjee, an American girl in Paris, in a program at the Space Academy.

La Maison Verte 100€

La Maison Verte is a Protestant parish and neighborhood community center in Paris. It offers a wide variety of classes, cultural events, sports, and cinema. The project we are funding offers homework help to children from families where French is not spoken.

Barbara Sprzeuzkouski



Pinda Chatterjee, who took part in a program at the Space Academy

Charitable Donations Committee 2014-2015

Each year, the CDC is charged with selecting “the charities which will benefit from the money raised directly from all of the Association’s charitable fundraising activities”.

This past spring, the CDC reviewed ten applications requesting financial support from AAWE. The budgeted amount was 4000€, based on fundraising activities including the Bazaar. The CDC is happy to announce the following donations:

American Aid Society: 300€

AAWE has for many years supported this organization, best known for providing emergency assistance to Americans in Paris. Pam Combastet has been active in AAS and has helped many a stranded American.

Friday Mission Lunch: 1000€

Since 2006 AAWE has funded this joint effort by American Churches and synagogues in Paris to provide a weekly lunch for 60 needy Paris residents. Many of you know that Leslie Charbonnel is the volunteer Chef four times a year, along with her team of AAWE volunteers.

Halte Aide aux Femmes Battues: 1500€

AAWE has provided financial support to this group since 2012. For thirty years, HAFB has helped battered women and their children in Paris, by listening to them as well as feeding and housing them.

Second International Forum on Domestic Violence: 200€ + baked goods

AAWE member Jill Bourdais organized the Forum last May as a free event bringing together professionals who work with the abused. Special guest Paula Lucas, already known to AAWE, founded the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Center.

Rafiki Ya Maisha (Friends for Life): 400€

This non-profit, founded by member Claire Mathijssen-Roth, provides professional training to Kenyan girls who are barred from secondary education and lack useful academic and technical skills. The building of vocational/training facilities continues. AAWE’s name is listed on the donors’ plaque on the main building.

Sport dans la Ville – “L dans la Ville”: 400€

New to AAWE, “L dans la Ville” is dedicated to girls, 6 to 20, from Sarcelles, Drancy, Saint Denis, and Flandre (75019). With a long-term goal of preparing the girls to find jobs and succeed in the workforce, “L dans la Ville” offers programs and opportunities that open and enrich their minds, enhance their self-worth, and enable them to “dream big”.

SOS Help: 200€ and four free ads in the AAWE Weekly Announcements

AAWE contributes annually to this English-speaking hotline for Paris-area residents. The organization receives over 4,000 calls each year. Our contribution will help with updating equipment and training volunteers.

Jane Marion, Chair

**Charitable Donations Committee
2014-2015**

Charitable Donations 2014



"Amina" painted by AAWE member Betsy Damez as part of a project with Ni Putes Ni Soumises

In June of last year, the current Charitable Donations committee met for the first time and quickly formed a cohesive group. We determined that we wished to support organizations in the Paris area that focus on women, children and the elderly. This dedication crystallizes what we believe AAWE is all about: giving back to the wider community and creating lasting ties through our support of charities in need. We aimed to fulfill this commitment by contributing to a number of local non-profit organizations and giving them exposure on our public website.

After carefully reviewing the applications, the committee made a selection based on specific projects' value to the community. With regret and hesitation, we refused two applications that did not support projects in the Paris area. We distributed the 4000 euros allocated for these awards, on the basis of an assessment of immediate and concrete needs, as well as their requested financial aid.

Although we recognize we are not the Gates Foundation or anything comparable, we as members of AAWE feel

proud to be able to extend a hand to these worthy causes. Our committee also hopes that the club as a whole will share this goal of building ties with community-based organizations that address the needs of women, children and the elderly.

2014 recipients are...

1. L'ASSOCIATION HALTE AIDE AUX FEMMES BATTUES (1,500€). Located in Paris and founded in 1983 to assist women and their children who have been subjected to domestic violence. The association has a shelter that provides a safe place to stay and offers legal and administrative guidance and support. A walk-in center also is available for women and their children to provide information and give them an opportunity to examine their situation before making a decision about whether to leave their husbands.

2. FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH PROGRAM (800€), Paris-based through the American Cathedral, provides a weekly hot lunch in a calm and dignified setting to those in need. The meal is made and served with care by

volunteers, some of whom are members of AAWE. Our funds help provide necessary cooking supplies.

3. MOUVEMENT NI PUTES NI SOUMISES (700€).

A local organization that provides support to women who are affected by all forms of violence either at home, neighborhood or workplace. They provide legal and administrative assistance and conduct interventions when necessary. The association also has community outreach programs to educate young adults about domestic violence.

4. DEPAUL FRANCE (600€).

Helps people who are homeless and disadvantaged in Paris. It provides practical services and emotional support when possible. In May, it is launching a mobile shower outreach service in direct response to what the homeless have been emphasizing about their need to keep clean and try to maintain some sort of dignity. Our financial support will go to this initiative.

5. SOS HELP (200€).

Based in Paris and relying mostly on volunteers, it provides a confidential listening help line to the

English-speaking community in France. Our funds go towards paying for some of the basic overhead costs of the association, such as utilities, and also help pay for the professional psychologist services offered.

6. AMERICAN AID SOCIETY (200€).

This Paris-based association advances funds to provide temporary assistance to Americans in difficulty.

AAWE can play a vital role in these associations in more ways than just with our donations each year. We invite you to get involved with our community efforts by finding out about one of these projects and volunteering your time.

Milla Darcy

Charitable Donations Committee

AAWE's Charitable Donations 2013

As part of our commitment to the wider community, AAWE charitable donations aim to help bring a brighter future, primarily for women and children, by providing aid to non-profit organizations and projects that address education, health and social needs.

This year, for the first time, we asked organizations requesting donations from AAWE to submit a one-page application that includes their administrative information, an explanation of how our funds would be used for a specific project, and the budget for that project.

This helped us make difficult choices. We received nine applications and sent them to our committee members before the meeting so anyone unable to attend could provide comments and suggestions on how to distribute the funds.

The selection was made in support of well-defined projects that fit within the committee's mission statement. Given the current economic situation, we attributed most of the 4000€ from the proceeds of the 2012 Bazaar and Auction to projects in France: 37% to the Paris battered women center and 34% to three other organizations in Paris. The remaining 29% will be shared between three charities serving the developing world.

Sue Orsoni
Charitable Donations Committee

Meet the 2013 recipients

1. L'ASSOCIATION HALTE AIDE AUX FEMMES BATTUES

(HAFB) (1500€) is located in Paris and was created in 1983 to deal with domestic violence against women and their children. The association has two major activities: **A shelter** that provides a place to stay, as well as support and protection for women and their children. It also offers legal and administrative support.

A walk-in center that allows women some down time from their personal situation, a place for their kids to play, and a place to go when they feel in danger. Women of any nationality or economic situation can get help without leaving their husbands.

2. **FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH PROGRAM** (500€) provides a hot meal once a week to those in need. For the past year it was located at the American Church, but will return to the American Cathedral in the fall. The funds will help to provide needed cooking materials and supplies.
3. **SOS HELP** (300€) is the Paris-based English Language Listening Line.
4. **AMERICAN AID SOCIETY** (550€) advances funds to provide temporary assistance to Americans in difficulty. It helps return lost and found items and assists elderly Americans who are under *tutelle* and in *curatelle*.
5. **AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS YOUTH PROGRAM** (300€) – This summer a group of young people will go to the Hope House orphanage in Libreville, Gabon to help build three classrooms. This orphanage provides food and shelter for 30 children.
6. **AFEA SNEHASADAN** (300€) provides homes and vocational training centers in India for abandoned children and prostitutes. Our contribution goes toward buying land for, and building, new centers.
7. **RAFIKI YA MAISHA** (550€) created by AAWE member Claire Mathijssen Roth, provides professional training to young people in Kenya who lack useful academic or technical skills.

Soup Kitchen: Recipe for Mission Lunch

- **TWO DYNAMIC CHEFS:** Liz Lenfantin and Leslie Charbonnel.
- **PROJECT:** Create a healthy 3-course lunch menu for 60+ homeless and/or hungry people, shop for ingredients, cook and serve meal on the fifth Friday of the month of March at the American Church on a 150€ budget, financed by Kehilat Gesher Synagogue.
- **MENU:** Grilled chicken with homemade ratatouille and polenta; fresh tossed green salad and camembert cheese; bread pudding with sautéed apples; coffee, tea.
- **COOKING TEAM:** Patsy Gorlier, Pam Combastet, Lise Ducrey.
- **SHOPPING DAY:** Leslie drives to Metro in Nanterre on Wednesday with Patsy and Lise, shopping list in hand, and 90 minutes later rolls caddy to car piled high with flats of fresh vegetables, a dozen big cans of tomato sauce, several family-size packs of chicken, stacks of loaves of bread, liters of milk, a dozen and a half eggs, eight rounds of camembert, and more! Drive to American Church, unload and store food.



Friday: Event Day!

- 9 am AAWE cooking team arrives and meets 25 ACP volunteers. Aprons on! Team cuts up all fresh vegetables – peppers, zucchini, eggplant, onions – for ratatouille. It seems to take forever...! Season and start roasting trays of chicken. Start cooking polenta.
- 10:30 Sauté vegetables, place in a pot that looks like a swimming pool for a baby. It cooks over two burners...! Assemble salads, prepare cheese and bread.
- 11:00 Quick coffee break. All those aromas are beginning to smell pretty good! Meet Rabbi Tom from Kehilat Gesher. ACP volunteers take salads, cheese and bread to dining area where they've already set eight tables for eight. Remove chickens from oven, wrap to keep warm. Prepare egg-milk mixture for bread pudding.

Cut up apples and sauté in butter. Construct pudding in two enormous trays, add cooked apples, cover in egg-milk mixture, bake. Start washing up kitchen utensils, pots.



- Noon Volunteer prayer led by Mission Lunch Organizer Kristie Worrel. Rabbi Tom gives benediction.
- 12:15 Lunch served to each attendee by volunteers, course by course. Plates empty quickly, participants seem happy.
- 1:15 Participants start to leave, often making compliments like this one: "Thank you for a good meal. Here food is always good." Smiles
- 1:20 AAWE team returns to kitchen to clean up, only to find that the ACP volunteers have everything under control; there's little left to do.
- 1:30 AAWE team take off aprons, gather coats and purses and thank ACP volunteers for all their help and advice.

We'll be back again on May 31, August 30 and November 29!

Lise Ducrey

Ratatouille

For 70 servings: (really makes 90) Cost: about 63€ at Metro.

530 ml (480 g) olive oil	8 kg bell peppers, cored, deseeded and sliced
36 cloves garlic, crushed	salt and pepper
5.3 kg large onions, sliced	800 g tomato paste
8 kg medium eggplants, sliced	bay leaves
8 kg medium green zucchini, sliced diagonally	<i>herbes de provence</i>
11 kg tomatoes, canned	bit of sugar

- Heat oil in a saucepan; add garlic and onions and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add eggplant, zucchini, and bell pepper. Stir in the tomatoes. Season to taste, bring to a boil, and simmer for 20-25 minutes.
- Add tomato paste and cook for 10 more minutes. Serve hot or cold.

