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NEWSLETTER

INFORM - EDUCATE - SENSITIZE - ACT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

N° 002 OCTOBER 2024

Building a more
inclusive society together...





Dear readers,

I warmly invite you to read this second 2024 edition of the newsletter, which bears witness to the extraordinary impact of your love and support for children with disabilities.

Each page illustrates touching stories of children facing disability, as well as the dedicated work of the people who, thanks to you, are making a real difference. Take the time to browse through them, and you'll be moved by all that your generosity has made possible.

Thanks to your help, we were able to bring two key projects to fruition this year: the training of teachers at Monavebe's inclusive public school, held from August 5 to 7, 2024, and the handover of school supplies to students on October 3, 2024.

These initiatives have enabled teachers to acquire the tools they need to better supervise students with special educational needs, and children to receive the materials they need to continue their schooling in favorable conditions.

Despite the challenges, our mission is to provide educational, medical and social support to children with disabilities, so that they can flourish in their daily lives.

Thank you for your loyalty and immense generosity.

With all our gratitude,

Marie-Flora Coustou

Présidente Directrice Générale



On Thursday, October 3, 2024, the Foundation handed over school supplies to disabled pupils at the inclusive public school in Monavebe, in the Sangmélima district of Cameroon. This event underlines the Foundation's commitment to inclusion and education.

The ceremony, presided over by Sub-Prefect Daniel Arthur Obama, was attended by students, teachers, parents and foundation representatives. The school supplies, including bags, books, notebooks, pencils and pens, will play a vital role in helping students on their educational journey.

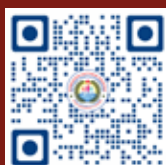


Mr. Simon Davy Abeba, representative of the Foundation said: "We are delighted to support Monavebe's inclusive public school in its commitment to inclusion. Every child, regardless of disability, deserves a quality education and equal opportunities to succeed."

The school's director, Mr Philémon Medou, also thanked the foundation for this generous donation: "This support will enable us to better meet the needs of our students and provide them with an environment conducive to learning."

This initiative represents a significant step toward inclusive education by providing 69 students with essential materials and affirming that every child deserves equitable access to education.

The Matthew Coustou Foundation continues to work to make a positive difference in the lives of children.



Your support can help children like Matthew overcome the challenges of trisomy 21 and live fulfilling lives. Thank you!





Projects supported by the Foundation

Teacher Capacity Building Seminar

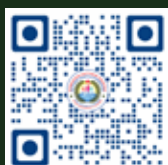
From August 5 to 7, 2024, the Monavebe Inclusive Public School organized a seminar to strengthen teachers' capacities in supporting students with special educational needs (SEN).

This event, funded by the Foundation, began with a ceremony presided over by the Deputy Prefect of Sangmélina, Mr. Daniel Arthur Obama. Several notable figures, including Mr. Philémon Medou, the school's director, Mr. Albert Ngo'o Yang, the Divisional Delegate for Basic Education, and Mr. Philémon Essouma, the District Inspector, expressed their gratitude for the Foundation's support, represented by Mr. Simon Davy Abeba and Mrs. Sylvie Ntsama.



The training focused on the rights of people with disabilities, as well as an introduction to Braille and sign language, with the goal of better integrating students with disabilities into the educational system. Participants received certificates at the end of the seminar, marking an important step towards inclusive education.

This pilot event reflects the Foundation's commitment to supporting inclusive educational initiatives and contributing to the government's efforts to provide quality education for all children, particularly those with disabilities.



Your generosity and support have made this project possible, and we're very grateful to you!





Projects supported by the Foundation

A Mother's Fight for Her Daughter: The Story of Divine

Divine. A name that evokes a life full of grace, yet for this little girl, it has become synonymous with suffering and struggle.

From birth, Divine faced challenges. Her arm was fractured during a difficult delivery. But this was only the beginning of her trials. At birth, Divine did not cry, a heavy silence that foreshadowed the health issues that would follow.

days passed, and the silence remained. Divine doesn't speak, doesn't walk, doesn't sit. Her devastated mother has seen her dreams of a happy life for her daughter shattered.

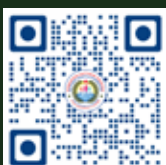
doctors diagnosed her with cerebral palsy, a cruel reality that turned their world upside down. Unable to cope with the unbearable pain, the father abandoned the family, leaving the mother alone to face a daily life of tears and uncertainty.



Today, this courageous mother fights alone, driven by immense love but desperately lacking resources. Without financial resources, she cannot offer her daughter the medical care she needs to improve her condition. Every day, she looks at Divine and wonders if she will ever be able to hear her voice, to see her grow up and blossom like all the other children.

She carries with her the hope of a better future, but she needs your help. She is launching a desperate appeal, a cry from the heart, to finance medical examinations and treatment for Divine.

With your support, she dreams that one day her daughter will experience the joy of a normal life, the life every child deserves.



Every donation, big or small, counts and can make a meaningful difference. It is never too late to contribute to this noble cause and help these children.





An Inspiring Story

Stephen Hawking: Strength Beyond Limits



Stephen Hawking, renowned theoretical physicist, is often hailed for his revolutionary contributions to science. However, his story is also marked by his battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neurodegenerative disease that has profoundly influenced his personal and professional life. This diagnosis, which could have broken her spirit, revealed an inner strength and resilience that inspire us deeply.

At the age of 21, Stephen Hawking received a devastating diagnosis: ALS, an incurable disease. Doctors gave him just two years to live, a terrifying prospect for someone who had only just begun to explore the mysteries of the universe. Rather than let this sentence get him down, Hawking defied medical predictions by living to his 76th birthday. His resilience and determination have been an inspiration to many.

As the disease progressively paralyzed his body, Hawking used sophisticated assistive technologies to overcome his limitations. Thanks to a voice synthesizer, developed in part by programmer Dennis Klatt, he was able to continue sharing his ideas with the world. This voice synthesizer, which became his iconic voice, was not just a technological tool but a symbol of his determination and unwavering desire to make his thoughts and discoveries heard, including his theories on black holes and Hawking radiation.

Hawking has become a symbol for those struggling with personal challenges, showing that even the most

severe obstacles cannot stifle the human spirit. His story is a beacon of hope for people living with disabilities, reminding them that dreams can come true even in the face of the most daunting difficulties. Stephen Hawking's legacy extends far beyond his scientific contributions. His journey demonstrates how physical limitations need not restrict intellectual ambitions.

By defying medical expectations and using the constraints imposed by his illness as a catalyst for his scientific achievements, he has left a lasting and inspiring legacy.



Your support can help children like Matthew overcome the challenges of trisomy 21 and live fulfilling lives. Thank you!





A New Look at Life

By Anpis Atangana, volunteer...



Anpis Atangana

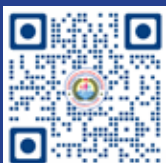
Since joining the Matthew Coustou Foundation, my way of communicating with others has changed considerably. Before, I had different ideas, certainly bearing ideologies for the construction and development of Africa but focused on encouraging citizens to question themselves and cultivate a spirit of effort.

However, I struggled to appreciate the importance of human gestures and the transmission of love to others. Today, through my work at the Foundation, I have learned to express my love for others, to share in their sorrows, and to understand and accept them in an authentic and appropriate way.

As a cultural journalist, my view on life has changed completely. Contact with the Foundation has allowed me to discover a genuine interest in others and in the world, an interest that has become a passion.

I find great motivation in promoting issues that are close to my heart, such as bringing smiles to children with disabilities and giving hope to overwhelmed parents. Through the Foundation, they regain the inner peace and support they need.

I am proud to have joined the Matthew Coustou Foundation and to participate in a mission that transcends individual dimensions.

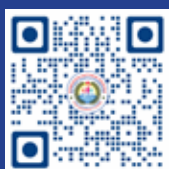


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The Inclusive School of Monavebe needs your support to offer quality education to children with disabilities



Your donation transforms lives!



Send your donation to: Matthew Coustou Foundation From continent to Continent

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All donations will be used for Board-approved programs and projects. when any need or project goal has been met, extra funds will be used in areas of greatest need. We respect your privacy and do not rent, sell our mailing lists.

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