



CARING RESPONSE MADAGASCAR FOUNDATION

Partners with the poor in one of the world's poorest countries

Spring 2023

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October 2021 – May 2023

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“EVERYBODY RISES:” A CRMF impact report

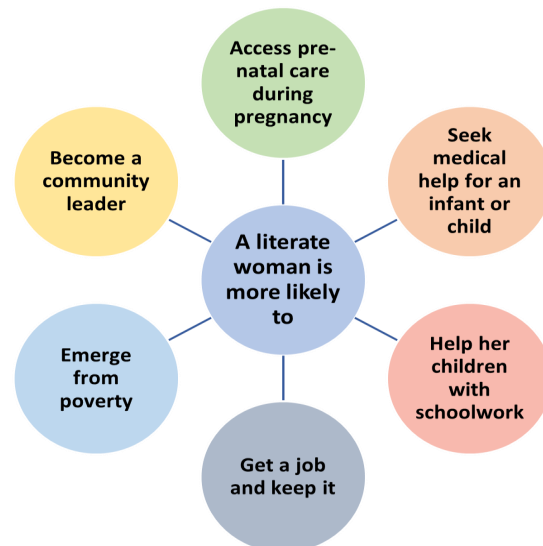
by Ginny Wiltse

“Everybody rises with CRMF projects.” This insightful comment made by a friend prompted me to reflect on the amazing impact of your generosity to the people of Toamasina. CRMF and our Madagascar-based non-profit partner St. Gabriel, have worked together since 2000, with education as a shared priority. We knit education into the fabric of project development. Why? Education fuels change, influences families, spreads through neighborhoods, and reaches into the future. Education empowers people to be more, do better, fulfill dreams. Yes, “everybody rises” with CRMF projects because education transforms. Our efforts in education are saving lives and generating hope for the poor of Toamasina.

ADULT LITERACY: “No literacy, no development.” Since 2001, Brother Edwin Joseph’s mantra has driven our work to reduce adult illiteracy in Toamasina. We began with a single class, but the demand grew immediately, so the program expanded, again and again. In particular, women who had migrated from rural villages into the city and had never had a chance to attend school longed to learn. Today CRMF sponsors 15 literacy centers and two literacy classes at the city prison. Last year, more than 800 adults completed the basic curriculum that includes reading, writing, applied mathematics, nutrition and family gardening. Since the program began, more than 25,000 people have



The majority of students in the adult literacy classes are women who never had a chance to go to school.



graduated from the program, 95% of them women. Organizations like UNICEF and the World Bank agree that a literate woman is more likely to access prenatal care, participate in the education of her children and seek timely medical care for them, to find regular employment, and to emerge from poverty than her illiterate counterpart. Those early literacy graduates have now have grandchildren and great-grandchildren who know what a difference education made to their families. Educate a woman and you will change the world around her for generations. This is one way that CRMF ensures that “everybody rises.”

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EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN: Public school education in Madagascar is severely underfunded. Out of every ten Malagasy children – boys and girls – who enter primary school, only four will complete it and only two will go on to middle school. A 2022 UNICEF report indicates that if a girl’s mother is illiterate, she is less likely to complete primary school and far more likely to remain in poverty. Since 81% of the country’s people live in dire poverty many families cannot afford to pay public school fees for their children. To keep young children in school CRMF participates in a school reinsertion program for elementary school dropouts. Our St. Gabriel partners target fifty at-risk youngsters each year. CRMF pays the school fees and provides the supplies and nutrition that the children need



Brother Edwin talks with children in the primary school reinsertion program at a holiday gathering.



Dr. Alberte Razafitsamy, director of Ankirihiry CSB II, participates in *Ensuring the Wellbeing of Girls* by serving as a medical consultant. She is a member of a team of doctors providing medical check-ups for the teenagers.

Ensuring the Wellbeing of Young Girls focuses on keeping girls in school by offering medical check-ups, hygiene training, and counseling. Two hundred girls participated in the pilot program last year. We are raising funds to offer the program to 350 more girls in the year ahead.

TECHNOLOGY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING: A whopping 60% of the population of Madagascar is under 25 years of age. The country’s labor market is fragile, and without marketable skills young adults cannot hope to achieve financial independence. Technology and vocational training prepare them to find work that leads to economic self-sufficiency after their classroom days. In 2006, CRMF shipped a container of rehabbed computers to Toamasina and began sponsoring the city’s first computer technology program for poor youth. Young people flocked to the classes and, even today, there is always a waiting list. The computers have been replaced many times as more than 12,000 stu-



Sewing classes provide teenage girls who are too old to return to middle-school with a skill that can produce income and keep them out of poverty.

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Left, this self-help group member, tending her garden, will be able to sell her produce at the market. The self-help group program empowers women to lift themselves out of poverty by working together, saving money, and creating small businesses. Right, local men are trained as masons to construct composting latrines and charcoal-free stoves in Analamalotra as part of the *Model Healthy Village* project.

dents have completed computer literacy training and have been certified in the use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more. In 2022, 220 young people graduated from the technology program. Our new project for young girls provides vocational training for teenage dropouts who are too old to return to middle school. Classes in sewing and cooking provide these girls with the means to earn a living and a way to prevent them from falling into poverty. The women's *Self-Help Group* program currently serves some 400 women who have earned literacy certificates and are now learning to develop small businesses that provide reliable income. They dig fishponds, tend gardens, sell crafts, and create a stable future for themselves and their families. In the *Model Healthy Village* program, dozens of young men have been trained as masons with the skills to construct and repair latrines, water filters and charcoal-free stoves. Powered by your donations, thousands of Toamasina's young adults are forging a reliable financial future for themselves and contributing to the economic well-being of their communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENTS: Education leads to behavior change and nowhere is this more important for saving lives than in the rural villages outside Toamasina, sites for the *Model Healthy Village* programs. Diarrheal disease is Madagascar's leading cause of death and particularly afflicts children under five. That is not surprising considering that only about half the population of Madagascar has access to clean drinking water and only 12% of the people have safe sanitation. The *Model Healthy Village* program was launched in 2014 with the idea that if communities adopted basic hygiene techniques like hand washing with



The dedication of a Model Healthy Village is a cause for community celebration. These Analamalotra residents rejoiced in August 2022 with their funding partners from Rotary and CRMF.

**Tour de Gem Fundraiser
Clean Water Lemurs Biking
Team**

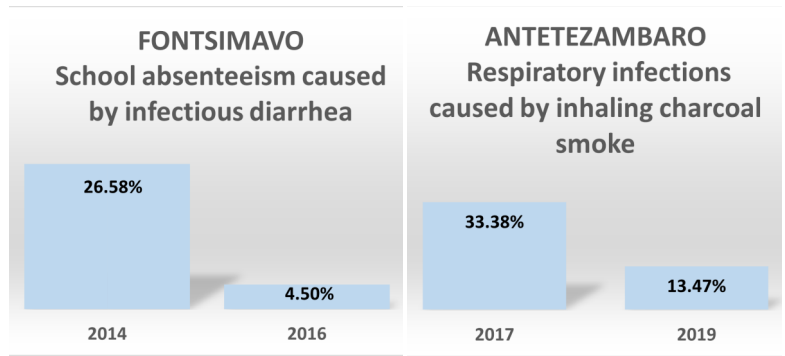
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Nancy Riesz

soap, and if families had access to clean water and learned to use safe sanitation, the rate of diarrhea would decline and along with it such measures as school absenteeism. Everyone benefits from a healthy environment.

In partnership with Rotary, we have brought the advantages of the *Model Healthy Village* to almost ten thousand people. Tiny hamlets and large villages have abandoned open defecation. Families have sanitary composting latrines along with hand-washing stations with soap. Every family enjoys clean filtered water for drinking and food preparation. As expected, the rate of infectious diarrhea has declined dramatically. Data collected at the local health center in Fontsimavo is a good example. The school absentee rate among students who suffered from infectious diarrhea dropped from 26.58% at the beginning of the project to 4.75% by the project's end. In recent years we have also provided charcoal-free stoves to villagers in target areas. These stoves have the dual advantage of preventing respiratory disease caused by inhaling charcoal smoke and preventing the destruction of rainforest trees. In Antetetzambaro, the rate of respiratory disease fell from 33.38% to 13.47% once the villagers began to use the charcoal-free stoves. The lifesaving work of a model healthy village pays dividends every day.



Charcoal-free cooking means fewer respiratory infections and less damage to the environment.

MEDICAL EDUCATION: CRMF's medical outreach programs offer continuing education to local healthcare providers in two different ways. Since 2011, CRMF has partnered with the Ankirihiry CSB II maternity clinic in the *Saving the Lives of Mothers and Babies* program which teaches midwives best practices in obstetric care. The program focuses on diagnosing and responding to crises such as postpartum hemorrhage and newborn asphyxia, two major causes of death. CRMF volunteer obstetricians Drs. Carol Egner and Dave Dhanraj lead annual training sessions in Madagascar and communicate monthly with the midwives to discuss problems and answer their questions. In 2022, the midwives handled 113 cases of postpartum hemorrhage and performed 127 newborn resuscitations with no maternal or newborn deaths. As the midwives have grown in skill and confidence, the reputation of the Ankirihiry maternity clinic as a safe place to deliver your child has grown as well. When we measured data in 2012, we were measuring the number of women who had at least **one** prenatal visit. In 2022, more than 68% of local women had at least **four** prenatal consultations prior to delivery. The number of women arriving to deliver without any prenatal care has declined by more than half. The midwives are increasingly facile using the



By continuing their work with Drs. Egner and Dhanraj the midwives at Ankirihiry CSB II have grown in skill and confidence.

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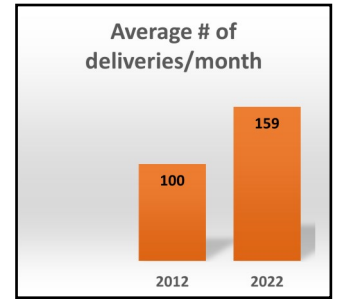
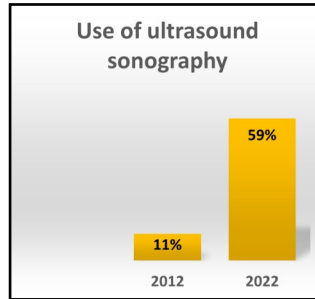
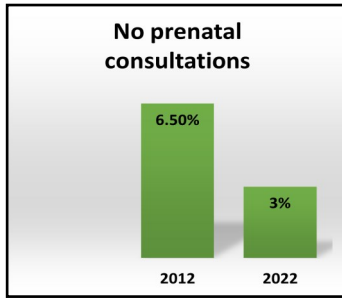
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In honor of Marc Alexander, MD
 David Wiltse, MD



Since *Saving the Lives of Mothers and Babies* began, the reputation of Ankirihiry CSB II has grown as a safe place for a woman to prepare for childbirth and to deliver her baby. The number of women who receive no prenatal care has dropped by more than half, from 6.5% to 3%. As the midwives have become more skilled, their use of sonography to detect problems prior to delivery has risen to more than five times what it was the first year we collected data. The growth in the number of deliveries per month shows how many more women now choose to have their babies at Ankirihiry CSB II maternity clinic rather than at home or anywhere else.

ultrasound machine donated by CRMF to assess potential problems and the use of ultrasound sonography prior to delivery has soared. During the first year of the program there were an average of 100 deliveries per month. Last year, the average number of deliveries per month was 159. The lives of thousands of moms and their infants have been touched by this program. *Saving the Lives of Mothers and Babies* is living up to its name.

Across town at the Centre Vonjy, the new medical mentorship program is focused on educating young physicians in skills they do not get in their medical school classrooms. Infectious disease specialist Dr. Hux Miller and pulmonary-critical care specialist Dr. Dave Wiltse serve as teachers and attending physicians for young Malagasy doctors. Their lectures include best practices in taking a patient’s history and developing a diagnosis along with the latest information in diseases these young doctors will often see such as asthma, hypertension, and tuberculosis. Educating young Malagasy physicians for medical careers in which all their patients receive conscientious and compassionate care is the goal of the mentorship program.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF EDUCATION: Your gifts support those who implement our education projects for the poor. CRMF underwrites the salaries for the literacy teachers, the technology teacher, the project managers, the community health educators, and the supervisors who train masons to construct latrines and charcoal-free stoves. The local economy of Toamasina also benefits. When our St. Gabriel literacy teachers buy school supplies, they buy from local vendors. Local workers transport sanitary wares from the city to a model healthy village. I believe that when CRMF invests in education the future of Toamasina improves in ways none of us can imagine. You, our donors, are lifting the people up. “Everybody rises with CRMF projects.” Thank you.



These dedicated women are among the seventeen teachers who educate adult learners. All have had special training in adult literacy. They receive continuing education and refresher courses every year.

In honor of Mary Duennes
Janet Schelb

In honor of Edwin Joseph, F.S.G.
John Devasia

In honor of Ryan Ernst
Aileen Ernst

In honor of Carol Egner, MD
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Catherine Arnoult

In memory of Jack Cornett
Andrea and Dick Cornett

In memory of Dennis Dase
Claire Dase

In memory of Thelma Fernandez
Gina Onorini

**In memory of Eugene, Virginia and
Greg Ruehlmann**
Claire Dase

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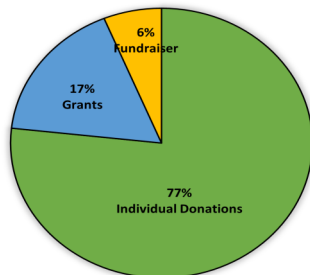
If we inadvertently missed your
name, we are so sorry. Please let
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CRMF is a Gold Level organization
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CRMF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR 2022

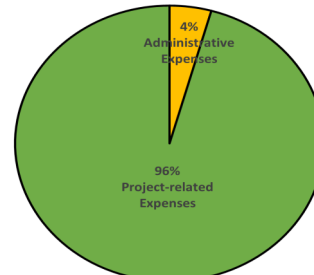
CRMF is an all-volunteer organization. That makes it possible for us to devote almost all of our income to project support. Here's what our income and expenses looked like in 2022. Thank you for helping us transform lives in Madagascar!

2022 CRMF INCOME



Individual donations	77%
Grants	17%
Tour de Gem Fundraiser	6%
Total	100%

CRMF 2022 EXPENSES



Project-related expenses	96%
Administrative expenses	4%
Total	100%

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THE 2023 TOUR DE GEM!

Dayton Cycling Classic fundraiser will be held on Sunday, October 1

Details at <https://www.ms-stride.org/tourdegem>

In 2022 our Clean Water Lemurs team raised more than \$9,000!

CRMF welcomes your online donations through

Network for Good: nfggive.org/home

or Just Giving: justgiving.com/caringresponsemadagascarfoundation

Or donate by check: CRMF

1193 Balmoral Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45233

Visit our website: caringresponse.org.

Questions? Contact us at crmf@fuse.net

CARING RESPONSE MADAGASCAR FOUNDATION

MISSION

Caring Response Madagascar Foundation is a public charity. Its mission is to respond to the needs of the poor of Madagascar, particularly in Toamasina/Tamatave.

PURPOSES

Caring Response Madagascar Foundation supports programs that enable the poor to change their own lives. Our core projects emphasize education and literacy. Through these core programs, CRMF strives to impact not only the educational environment, but also the crucial areas of sanitation and hygiene, healthcare, and economic self-development. To those ends, CRMF's purposes are to support programs that provide educational opportunities for the unschooled or inadequately schooled poor; to support programs that lead to healthier communities; and to support programs that lead to economic self-sufficiency for the poor.

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