



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Embassy Awards USD 40,000 to NGOs in Mauritius and Rodrigues

Port Louis, July 31, 2014: This morning at the U.S. Embassy in Port Louis, Ambassador Shari Villarosa awarded grants totaling USD 40,000 (approximately Rs 1,200,000) to seven NGOs in Mauritius and one in Rodrigues, with funding from the Ambassador's Special Self Help Program. This U.S. government program allocates resources on a yearly basis to Mauritian non-governmental organizations and community groups for projects that improve socioeconomic conditions and benefit the community at the grassroots level. Each project is initiated and administered at the local level, and includes significant community contributions in cash, labor, and materials.

In her remarks at the ceremony, Ambassador Villarosa said, *"The Ambassador's Special Self Help Fund is one of the strongest links between local communities and the U.S. Embassy. We use these funds to support projects that benefit the entire community. We are always proud to be part of a community's development. We are pleased to provide 'people to people' assistance, from the people of the United States to the people of Mauritius."*

This year, projects will focus on supporting women entrepreneurs, the physically and mentally disabled, and women and children coming from poor and vulnerable areas. The beneficiaries are: Lizie dan Lamain, Association des Parents pour la Réhabilitation des Infirmes Moteurs (APRIM), EDYCS Epilepsy Group, Association des Amis de Don Bosco, Mouvement Civique de la Baie du Tombeau, Physically Handicapped Welfare Association, Centre d'Education et de Développement pour les Enfants Mauriciens (CEDEM), and Rodrigues Entreprendre au Féminin.

The Embassy will be accepting new applications for the program throughout the year and encourages any registered organization to apply.

More information regarding the Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program can be found at: http://mauritius.usembassy.gov/self_help_program.html.

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List of Recipients

Lizie dan Lamain will purchase a Spotdot Emprint Embosser that prints Braille for visually impaired children. The Embosser will enable 30 students the opportunity to learn higher level mathematics for the first time in Mauritius.

Association des Parents pour la Réhabilitation des Infirmes Moteurs (APRIM) will create a special sensory and tactile room for 27 young adults living with cerebral palsy. The specialized equipment will improve the quality of life for those with severe physical and mental disabilities.

EDYCS Epilepsy Group will provide patients with chronic epilepsy with First Aid kits for home usage. The organization will host training sessions in Mauritius and Rodrigues for parents and family members on the proper usage of the kits in order to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations of patients.

Association des Amis de Don Bosco will purchase office equipment and pedagogical materials for a new children's shelter in Tombeau Bay. 25 abused and socially excluded children will benefit from the project.

Mouvement Civique de la Baie du Tombeau will purchase furniture and other equipment for a safe house and shelter for teenage mothers and their children in Tombeau Bay. As many as 40 teenage mothers in the area will benefit from the services and support of this civic movement.

Physically Handicapped Welfare Association is one of the oldest disabled groups in Mauritius. The association will purchase a new cooker for its kitchen and ensure continued provisions are made for the 40 disabled persons who attend the center.

Centre d'Education et de Développement pour les Enfants Mauriciens (CEDEM) will purchase pedagogical materials and adaptive equipment for physically disabled children. The materials will help 36 students develop their creativity, independence, imagination, cognitive abilities as well as their fine and gross motor skills.

Rodrigues Entreprendre au Féminin will produce marketing materials to promote the organization's activities and products in Rodrigues and abroad. Women entrepreneurs have been able to sell some of their products, including honey and pickles, in Paris and other international exhibitions.

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