



**Embassy of the United States of America**  
Port Louis, Mauritius

PRESS RELEASE

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**USD 37,000 granted to NGOs in Mauritius and Rodrigues**

**Port Louis, May 29, 2013:** USD \$ 37, 259 (approximately Rs 1,164,000) has been granted to 10 NGOs in Mauritius and one in Rodrigues under the Ambassador's Special Self Help program this year. The NGOs each received various amounts for their respective projects. The program is designed to assist small-scale development projects that are directed towards improving basic socioeconomic conditions at the grassroots level. A grant-signing ceremony took place this morning at the U.S. Embassy, in Port Louis, between Ambassador Shari Villarosa and the grant beneficiaries.

In her remarks at the ceremony, Ambassador Villarosa said: *"The U.S. believes in an actively engaged civil society. We encourage these efforts. Your separate efforts are going to make Mauritius a better country. With active, engaged and caring people like you, Mauritius will be a better place. I'm so proud to be working with you and hope to get to know you better. I look forward to visiting your different projects in the coming year. Each of your projects are very important and helpful."*

The Ambassador's Special Self Help program's main objective is the uplifting of communities. It aims to provide support to those projects whose members are working towards this objective. Embassy Port Louis has been providing continuous funding to NGOs in Mauritius and Rodrigues through the Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program. The U.S. Embassy looks forward to receiving more Self-Help Fund proposals. More information regarding the Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program can be found at [mauritius.usembassy.gov/self\\_help\\_program.html](http://mauritius.usembassy.gov/self_help_program.html)

Forty project proposals were received and eleven were chosen, compared to seven in 2012. The beneficiaries for 2013 are: SOS Femmes, Lupus Alert, Association Solidarité Maman, Muslim Youth Federation, Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge, Open Mind, SACIM, Association Vent d'un Rêve, Mauritius Girl Guides Association, Roman Catholic Education Authority and T1 Diams.

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## **Brief on the beneficiaries**

### **SOS Femmes**

SOS Femmes is planning on increasing their intake to 60 women, and their children. They therefore need additional beds and cots. Old appliances also need to be replaced. The money received will be used to purchase beds, playpen, mattress protectors, metal cots, and electrical appliances, as well as for the landscaping of a children's playground.

### **Lupus Alert**

With the money received, Lupus Alert will fund the upgrade of the Lupus specialized medical library to a virtual and e-library. The aim is to provide access to current and reliable healthcare information. Funding will be used for the subscription fee to printed and e-journals on lupus and rheumatology, and the purchase of a selection of books from Amazon.

### **Association Solidarité Maman**

The project of Association Solidarité Maman involves running of a day care/nursery for infants whose mothers are either single, or whose spouses are in jail, are unemployed or alcoholic. These mothers need to be able to find a job to sustain their family and in order to so, the project caters for their kids freeing them during the day to seek employment. The project will equip and re-furnish the day care center.

### **Muslim Youth Federation**

The Muslim Youth Federation does capacity building and women empowerment projects aiming at providing cooking and baking classes to under-privileged women in the region with an aim of promoting small entrepreneurship. The money received will fund renovation of the kitchen, provision of a projector and screen and table and chairs for the proper conduct of classes.

### **Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge**

The Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge provides a rehab program for drug-addicts and alcoholics. The main objective of this project is to sustain rehabilitation through the rearing of rabbits. It will also provide a means of living for the unemployed patients of CATR. The fund received will purchase items needed to build rabbit hutches and buy rabbits for rearing.

### **Open Mind**

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U.S. Embassy | 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rogers House, John Kennedy St, Port Louis | Mauritius  
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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/usembassy.portlouis>

Open Mind caters for psychologically distressed persons. The aim of the project is to provide therapy through horticulture. The money received will fund provision of items for the horticulture project.

**SACIM**

SACIM will provide aid to children suffering from medical conditions which cannot be treated in Mauritius and who do not have the means to do so. The money received will fund the purchase of an office equipment needed for the proper running and administration of required services.

**Association Vent d'un Rêve**

Association Vent d'un Rêve provides free music classes to kids living in Cite Mangalkhan. The money received will fund the purchase of music instruments to enable more kids to join the program and benefit from it.

**Mauritius Girl Guides Association**

Mauritius Girl Guides Association will use the money received to purchase 12 rabbit hutches and 40 rabbits to set-up a rabbit multiplier unit which will enable girl guides and their family start a rural family-based income generating project.

**Roman Catholic Education Authority**

The project of the Roman Catholic Education Authority is to promote the socio-emotional competencies of school children through the K-5 bundle, a socio-emotional program. They will enable children to acquire skills to deal with adverse life events and become socio-emotionally competent.

**T1 Diams**

T1 Diams caters for people suffering from type1 diabetes in Mauritius and run programs specifically for children. The money received will fund the purchase of proper medical and monitoring equipment for follow-up of patients for better diabetic management.

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