

Terre des hommes VALAIS



Terre des hommes



Children have a right to healthcare

WHO ARE WE ?

The « Terre des hommes » home

In Massongex can receive 40 to 50 children at one time, suffering from disease, malformations or other physical afflictions. These children come from Third World countries. The headquarters of « Terre des hommes » in Lausanne organizes their transportation to Switzerland where they get the medical treatment they need. They spend a few months with us, before and after their operations. The length of their stay depends on their medical problem. More than a children's home, it is a large family in spite of the daily arrivals and departures of the children, and the diversity of nationality and languages.

« La Maison »

A home for the « Terre des hommes » children while they are in Switzerland



WHO DO WE DO ?

200 to 250 new children in need of medical treatment unavailable in their own countries come every year to « La Maison ». Most of them are from North and West Africa , all in all from about fifty countries. They are between 1 and 15 years old. Sick and anxious upon arrival. Cured and confident at the time of departure. It is a temporary stay, just the time that is needed. The time for a heart to be put right again, or for a severe malformation to be corrected. The time to learn how to smile again at the future.

HOW DO WE DO IT ?

Although the child has come to Switzerland primarily for treatment, the medical care at "La Maison" may only take a short time each day. To keep the child busy, his time is well planned : Breakfast, lunch, supper. In the morning the youngest go to kindergarten and the others have school activities with various levels to meet each child's needs. In the afternoon there is kindergarten again and creative workshops in textiles, paper, cardboard and pottery for the older ones. Frequent games and week-end outings are also organised.

WHERE ARE WE ?

Massongex is a quiet village by the Rhône river, 1600 inhabitants, in the canton of the Valais. The motorway Lausanne-Sion is close by, but its noise does not reach us. Two kilometers from the village, at the end of a small dead-end road, on the hillside : a clearing, a place called « Chambovey ». A small world. On 10'000 m² belonging to « Terre des hommes-Valais », half in a forest, 6 buildings represent today's « La Maison ». Bathed in sunlight, caressed by the breeze, revitalized by the rain or covered with snow, depending on the season. But always welcoming. six buildings set apart from the western world and its stress.

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WHAT HAVE WE DONE ?

It all started in 1960, in Lausanne, when Edmond Kaiser heard about the situation in Algeria and decided to do something about it. A few months later the first group of children arrived in Switzerland, snatched from war and hunger. « Terre des hommes » was born. Then in 1963, in Monthey, Paul Veillon heard that « Terre des hommes » was looking for temporary foster homes for 100 such children. He immediately called « Terre des hommes » in Lausanne to say he would take 30 of them. He found families for them the same evening. Paul Veillon continued to forge ahead and founded that same year « Terre des hommes-Valais », formed a board, composed the statutes and developed activities that led to the creation of « La Maison », in Massongex, in 1970.

WHAT DOES IT COST ?

Terre des hommes-Valais finds the means to pay for the running costs of « La Maison ». The expenses reached close to 3.0 million Sfrs . Forty employees must be paid : medical, educational and kitchen personnel, people for the night shifts, for cleaning and administrative duties. Medicine, food, furniture, insurance, transportation must also be paid for. But we keep these expenses to the strict minimum.



« La Maison »

A home away from home for 40 to 50 children in need of medical help.
A place where life gets good again

WHY NOT WITH YOU ?

For this long running programme, « La Maison » of « Terre des hommes » needs solidarity on a big scale. Countless donors are indispensable. Year after year, these children, whose future is uncertain, recover their health and vitality. The cause is just, because the children's distress is immense. They need your help. Give them a chance by supporting them.

*All donations will be welcomed at:
Terre des hommes-Valais*

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