



**Association «La Maison de La Gare»  
St. Louis, Senegal**

**PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
A PERMANENT SITE IN  
SOR, ST. LOUIS**

May 2009

# ***La Maison de la Gare***

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# **History and Mission of *Maison de la Gare***

## ***Background to Maison de la Gare's Mission***

The word talibé means “disciple” or “student” in Arabic. Most of the street children in Senegal are talibés. Talibé children are sent by their parents or male relatives from their rural homes to larger cities in order to study the Koran, typically at the age of four or five. There are only male talibés.

Talibés live under the patronage of Islamic teachers called *Marabouts*. Each Marabout is responsible for between 10 to 70 children. In order to fund the Koranic teaching, housing and care provided, many of the talibé children beg on the streets. Malnutrition and poor health and hygiene often result.

The Marabouts' religious instruction and the national formal school curriculum are not integrated. This, in combination with insufficient funds, has caused many of the children to remain illiterate, without adequate housing and clothing, and with few prospects for the future.

Maison de la Gare's web site, currently under development, will be an increasingly useful resource concerning the organisation's history, structure and activities. It is found at <http://www.mdgsl.com>.

## ***Mission***

Maison de la Gare is a grassroots not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of talibé children in St. Louis, Senegal. The group aims to facilitate the re-integration of the talibé children into formal education and the community, improving their living conditions and giving them a chance to lead healthy and productive lives as active members of society.

## **Origins and Strategies**

Issa Kouyaté, President of Maison de la Gare, founded the organisation in 2007. A statement from Issa is appended as Exhibit 1. In this document, Issa describes the motivation that led him to create a centre for the talibé children, and the process that culminated with establishment of Maison de la Gare at the former St. Louis train station.

In pursuing its mission up to the present, Maison de la Gare has developed a number of core strategies:

### *Material Support*

The organisation has run a centre at the St. Louis train station providing space dedicated solely to the talibés; this centre has accommodated up to 300 youth. Focus is on meeting the children’s basic needs, supplying them with food, clothing, shoes and toothbrushes.

### *Psychological Support*

The children often suffer from feelings of neglect or from other psychological problems, as they are typically separated from their parents at a very young age. The full-time staff members of Maison de la Gare act as sources of stability and continuity in the talibés’ lives. The children are able to form close bonds with the staff, going to them for help when needed. Another element of support comes from art classes, through which the children may express themselves in a productive and creative way. The sports program, which includes relay races, Frisbee, and organized football matches, improves the children’s communication skills and team work, and can provide a positive outlet for aggression, frustration, or other negative feelings.



### *Medical Treatment*

Many of the children suffer from open cuts, eye infections and other illnesses. The health problems mainly stem from poor hygiene, malnutrition, and violence between the children. At Maison de la Gare every child is given basic medical attention by one of the staff members, including cleaning/dressing of wounds and administration of medication. Maison de la Gare currently collaborates with the Croix-Rouge sénégalaise in St. Louis and is establishing relationships with local hospitals to support this work. A long term goal is to one day employ a professional nurse. The organisation also works on developing prevention strategies and on increasing the children’s health education, for example through teachings on oral hygiene and sexually transmitted diseases.



## *Educational Training*

The official language in Senegal is French. The majority of talibés speak the local language, Wolof, and are taught Arabic by their Marabouts. Not being able to speak the official language makes it very difficult for the children to eventually stand on their own as autonomous members of society, and it blocks them from integrating into formal schooling. Maison de la Gare offers literacy classes in spoken and written French. The children are divided into groups of five to ten, depending on their level of previous education. Vocational training will also be offered in support of particular needs and opportunities as these are identified. The University of London has donated a number of computers through the United Kingdom Talibé Project for use in this program.



## *Renovation and Awareness*

Children staying in the Marabouts' shelters often live under difficult conditions. Many of the structures have leaky roofs, no showers or working toilets, and cramped conditions. Maison de la Gare's local staff members carry out physical renovations on the shelters, while supporting the Marabouts in better responding to the children's needs. Some of the Marabouts express concern about letting their children attend the daily French classes, fearing that their religious teachings will be undermined. In such cases, the staff members clarify their mission and work to gain the Marabouts' support. Working with the Marabouts in this way is helping to bridge the gaps and eliminate misconceptions about the initiatives and goals of Maison de la Gare. Several of these Marabouts are becoming more open about integrating further subjects into the children's Koranic education.

The newly-installed mayor of St. Louis, Cheikh Bamba Dièye, has taken a strong interest in Maison de la Gare's renovations program, and has indicated that the city is prepared to participate in the next phase of work which is now being planned.

## *Government Response*

Because the talibés are not registered as legal citizens, the Senegalese government has difficulty in respecting its responsibilities in dealing with issues of child exploitation and mistreatment. Further, talibés often have a harder time finding legitimate work as they lack the proper legal identification. Maison de la Gare is in negotiation with representatives of the government to work out a plan through which the legal status of talibés may be resolved and through which they may receive government assistance.

In the longer term, Maison de la Gare will be supporting efforts to encourage formation of an accessible system of education for all talibé boys in Senegal, a system that adheres to the present national education standards and is authorized by the Ministry of

Education. This will be done in collaboration with UNESCO and committed NGOs including the Senegalese organisation Tostan ([www.tostan.org](http://www.tostan.org)).

## **Organisational Structure of Maison de la Gare**

### ***Registration***

Maison de la Gare is registered as an association with the government of the region of St. Louis. The registration documents are attached as Exhibit 2. The goals of the Association are set out in these documents as being:

- to support the talibés and care for their health,
- to work in supportive collaboration among members,
- to promote the rights and duties of the children, and
- to promote education of the talibé children.

All funds and materials received by the organisation are to be used exclusively for the purposes listed in Maison de la Gare's charter. No member may use funds for purposes that extend beyond the stated goals of the organisation, and no member may derive personal benefit from any property or other goods belonging to the organisation.

Maison de la Gare's charter may only be changed by a vote of two thirds of the members at a general assembly of the Association.

### ***Officers of the Association***

Issa Kouyaté, President, has overall direction of all of the Association's activities.

Sidi Bouya Seck, Secretary General, joined Maison de la Gare in early 2008 after earning a mechanics diploma and taking courses at l'École de commerce.

Babacar Ndiaye, Treasurer, also with Maison de la Gare since early 2008, has studied at l'École de l'informatique. He organizes the Association's sport and recreational activities.

Babacar Touré, Assistant Treasurer, has studied literature at university. He guides educational programs and serves as a counsellor to the talibé youth.

Céline Bartholomeeusen, Counsellor, provides support for program activities and is responsible for production of publicity materials.

Maodo Diagne, External Relations, provides invaluable assistance in the Association's relationships with other community organisations in St. Louis. He is President of L'Association Action Femme Enfant, and of the St. Louis branch of the Croix-Rouge sénégalaise.

## ***Membership***

There are four categories of membership in Maison de la Gare.

### *Full-Time Staff*

Anyone living in St. Louis who can contribute their time and skills to the improvement of the talibé children's health and psychological wellbeing, the strengthening of their education, and the furthering of their social integration may become a full-time member. The central condition for admission and maintenance of full-time membership status is adherence to the goals of Maison de la Gare as stated in the charter documents (Exhibit 2). Full-time members should be present regularly at the centre and should demonstrate dedication to the organisation's principles and goals. Full-time members attend meetings and cast votes on any group decisions.

### *Foreign Volunteers*

Any short-term volunteers from abroad who can contribute to the children's development may participate, provided that they act according to the organisation's principles and goals.

### *Partners*

Partners who provide financial and material support play a fundamental role in the organisation. Active partners are kept up-to-date with the organisation's progress, and should be informed about any substantial changes or developments. Partners have the right to vote on important changes and decisions made by the organisation.

### *Management*

Management includes Issa Kouyaté, Sidy Bouya Seck, Babacar Ndiaye, Babacar Touré, Maodo Diagne and Céline Bartholomeeusen, as set forth above.

Meetings attended by the full-time members are held on a monthly basis to the extent possible, so as to foster communication and keep everyone up-to-date with all aspects of the organisation. These meetings provide an opportunity to share concerns, develop new ideas, and maintain a positive working atmosphere.

## ***Banking***

Association Maison de la Gare's bank account is with CBAO, rue Khalifa SY, St-Louis nord. Details required for transfer of funds are as follows:

**SWIFT Code: CBAOSNDA / K001208274**

**Account No.: 36157919701-56**



Two signatures are required for all withdrawals from this account. The signing officers are currently Issa Kouyaté and Babacar Ndiaye.

## **Maison de la Gare’s International Support Structure**

As Issa shares in his personal summary of Exhibit 1, he worked with an international volunteer organisation in St. Louis during the period when he was setting Maison de la Gare in motion. Many volunteers became aware of Issa’s personal project in support of the talibé children. Several of these became dedicated supporters of Maison de la Gare, teaching French classes, distributing food, and helping in many other ways. Others, in Senegal for other reasons, learned of the project and have become committed to it. Some of these volunteers, now back in their home countries, have maintained strong and supportive links with Maison de la Gare and have indicated a willingness to provide on-going financial and material support.

A partial list of these potential contributors and their related organisations is appended as Exhibit 3. All of these individuals and organisations are prepared to contribute to Maison de la Gare’s on-going development, in various ways. However, only three are in a position to contribute financially to the purchase and development of the permanent site for Maison de la Gare, as follows:

**Table 1: Financial Contributions Expected for Maison de la Gare’s Acquisition and Development of a Permanent Site (Senegalese CFA francs)**

	<b>May 2009</b>	<b>June 2009 to May 2010</b>
Ammer Foundation	6,500,000	1,000,000+
Oxford Friends of Senegal	775,000	7,000,000+
Rev. C.F. Johnston Charitable Foundation	2,500,000	1,000,000+
	<b>9,775,000</b>	<b>9,000,000+</b>

## A Permanent Site for Maison de la Gare

### ***La Maison de la Gare ... Original Site***

The rail line between Dakar and St. Louis was inaugurated in 1885. It has been abandoned for some years now, and the station building and the grounds around the rail head have been unoccupied. This is the area that Maison de la Gare has been using for its activities, in return for a modest rental fee. Two rooms in the station building have been employed exclusively by Maison de la Gare as office space and classrooms.



The sandy open area to the south of the station, around the rail head, has served as a gathering place for up to 300 talibé youth each afternoon. The open area to the south of the tracks was used for football games and other sports activities. Some shower and toilet facilities were available by the adjacent market, to support Maison de la Gare's hygiene programs.

This situation is now drastically changed.

The neighbouring market has expanded to completely surround Maison de la Gare's classroom areas and it covers the former assembly and playground areas. The noise from the market makes almost any activities inside the rooms in the station house impractical. A new site must be



found, or Maison de la Gare will not be able to continue its activities.

### ***Alternative Sites***

#### *On the Station Property*

Issa and representatives of Oxford Friends of Senegal met in July 2008 with the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer du Sénégal (SNCS) in Thiès. Maison de la Gare was offered a space of 30m x 10m on the south side of the tracks opposite the station, in the

area shown in the photo on the previous page. Cost would be 1 million CFA francs. However, the offer was subject to the condition that the land could be taken back at a future date if SNCS had need of it. The purchase price would be refunded in this case, but no compensation would be given for any facilities which Maison de la Gare had erected on the site.

### *Ngallèle*

Issa met with the Directeur de l'urbanism of the Senegalese government, and was received very sympathetically. Maison de la Gare was offered a property 100m x 100m, 15 kilometres north-east of St. Louis close to the university. This property is unfortunately too far from the heart of St. Louis for it to be useful in Maison de la Gare's day to day activities. However, the offer remains open, and Issa is exploring the possibility of taking title to this land for use in revenue generation projects. One possibility is the cultivation of traditional medicinal herbs, and this is being evaluated by Amandine Yerle (see Exhibit 3).

### *Commercial Properties in Sor*

Issa made an extensive study of available properties in the vicinity of Sor, where the talibé youth congregate. The commercial rates are beyond any reasonable prospect of purchase by Maison de la Gare. For example, in the Niakh area, there are properties 20m x 20m in size which sell for about 8 million CFA francs, before value-added tax and other expenses.

### *Property Opposite the Sor Stadium*

In the course of his investigations, Issa was directed to Mr. Mouhamadou Samb, who proposed to make a very suitable property available at an advantageous price. This property is 727 square meters in area, roughly 40 meters wide by 19-23 meters deep. There is a small building on the north-west corner of the site, and another on the north side of the west-ward finger. The property is approximately 50 meters back from the main road, so it offers reasonable privacy. Issa and his colleagues believe that this is by far the best available choice.

The price that Mr. Samb is asking, including all taxes and fees, is 15,023,042 CFA francs. He views this as his family's contribution in support of the talibé children.

The location is shown to the right and on the following page in Google Earth photographs of Sor. The view below shows also the location of the original Maison de la Gare site.





## Site Purchase and Development Plan

### ***Purchase of the New Site***

The current owner of the new Maison de la Gare site, Mr. Mouhamadou Samb, has agreed to transfer title to the land to Association Maison de la Gare in return for an initial payment of 9 million CFA francs, which will include 3,023,042 CFA francs for the value-added tax on the transaction, notarial and other fees. An additional 4,000,000 CFA francs must be paid no later than one year from the date of transfer of title, and the final 2,023,042 CFA francs no later than eighteen months from that date.

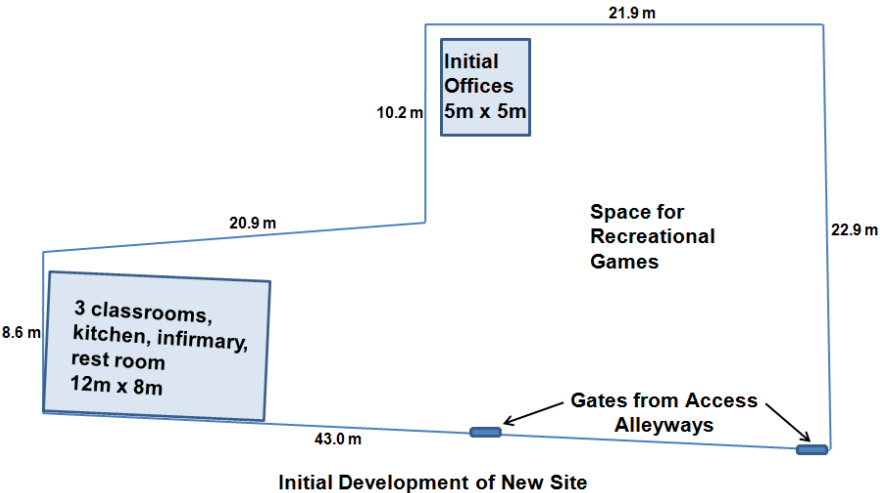
A purchase agreement has been drawn up by Mr. Samb's notary, Maître Ibrahima Diop. This has been reviewed by the international partners who are providing funds.

The objective is to complete the transaction in May 2009.

**Development of the Site**

The adjacent figure is an approximate representation of the new site, with a preliminary indication of where the initial buildings will be located.

As is clear from the financial estimates of Table 1 above, there is no certainty concerning the funds available for purchase and development of the site, beyond the initial down payment. The first priority for such funds will be to complete payment for the land, so as to minimize risk of re-possession.



Thus, site development will take place as funds and resources become available. The budget below indicates a possible scenario concerning how the financial resources anticipated in Table 1 could be allocated to completion of the purchase and site development.




However, many other material and human resources are available, and it will be possible to begin site development as soon as title passes to Maison de la Gare. The following is a tentative time-table:

- May-June 09 – Site clean-up, including dismantlement and removal of decrepit existing buildings. This will be done by staff and volunteers. Issa has had encouraging contacts with the new mayor of St. Louis, Cheikh Dièye, and will seek through him city assistance with removal of waste materials.
- June 09 - Set up of tents provided by Monica Pons Ballesta (Exhibit 3) as temporary shelters. Also, top priority will be given to providing water for washing, and toilet facilities (likely portable toilets initially).
- June 09 - Design of initial structures in collaboration to Alain Guérini of Aced-Sud, roughly as indicated in the sketch above.
- June-July 09 - Initial construction begins, likely an office structure and a first classroom. Materials, some financial resources and labour are

expected to be provided by volunteers from France organized by Aced-Sud.

Aug. 09 on - Continued development of buildings and the site as resources become available.

### **Schedule and Budget**

	Year 1		Year 2	
	May - Oct 09	Nov 09 - Apr 10	May - Oct 10	Nov 10 - Apr 11
<u>Site Purchase</u>				
- Initial Payment				
- Further Installments				
<u>Site Development</u>				
- Initial Structures with Aced-Sud				
- Development of classrooms, other				
<u>Cost (CFA)</u>				
- Site Purchase	9,000,000	4,000,000	2,000,000	
- Site Development	700,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,700,000</b>		<b>4,000,000</b>	

## **Towards a Sustainable Operating Plan**

Maison de la Gare has sustained its activities for two years with few reliable financial resources. With a permanent site and the long-term commitment of a growing network of international partners, Maison de la Gare is evolving from an *ad hoc* initiative to a structured project with concrete visions and goals.

Through its development, Maison de la Gare will contribute not only to improving the lives of the talibé children, but also directly to the community by providing opportunities for skilled and committed community members. By employing local staff such as teachers and program officers, Maison de la Gare will ensure that it is and remains a purely local initiative for the benefit of Senegalese society.

Current Maison de la Gare initiatives which will contribute to the development of the community and to the sustainable operation of the organisation include the following:

### *Responsible Volunteer Programs*

Volunteer programs can potentially become a significant source of on-going financial income for the organisation. The Maison de la Gare volunteer program will be built on a need-based approach where placement of volunteers will be preceded by careful consideration of a volunteer's expectations and their potential contributions to the organisation. The program will be fully consistent with standards that are being developed for international volunteering. A particular effort will be made to attract skilled longer-term volunteers who can make a significant contribution to Maison de la Gare's development.

Whereas many volunteer placement agencies are based in foreign countries, Maison de la Gare will run its own program, supported by 'ambassador organisations' in several countries in Europe, the United States and Canada. This will have the result that fees paid by potential volunteers will be invested directly in education and development for the talibé children at Maison de la Gare.

The United Kingdom Talibé Program (UKTP) web site (<http://uktalibeproject.org>) provides a comprehensive outline of the volunteer programs currently in development for Maison de la Gare. UKTP, SDGI and Nolwenn Gueguen of France are collaborating with Maison de la Gare on this development.

### *Collaboration with Aced-Sud*

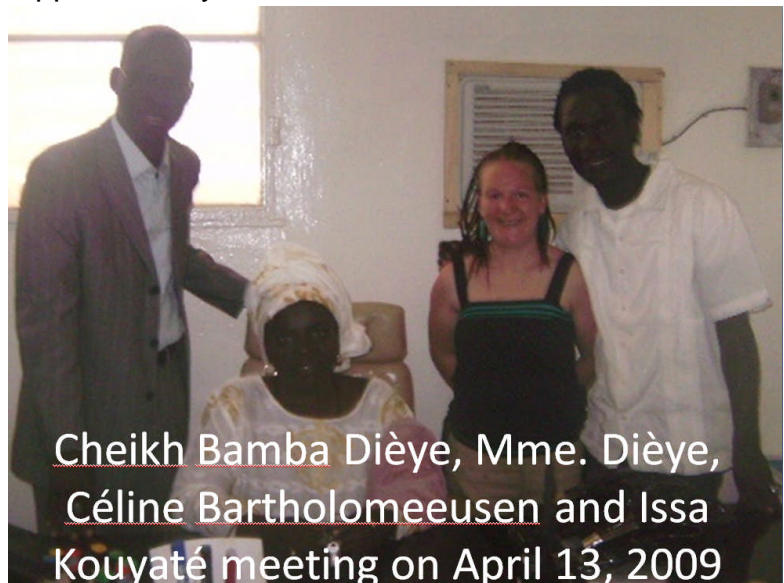
As noted in Exhibit 3, Aced-Sud is planning a number of activities related to apprenticeship programs and initiatives for re-insertion of youth into gainful employment. Issa and Alain Guérini believe that there are opportunities for fruitful collaboration on the new site, and this is expected to lead to some sharing of expenses.

### *Municipal Resources and Local NGOs*

The Stade Babacar-Sée is located approximately 50 metres from the new site. Issa has had several discussions with a representative of the stadium (Mr. Bitée) who is prepared to schedule regular access periods for sports programs.

The mayor, Cheikh Bamba Dièye, has indicated sincere sympathy for Maison de la Gare's initiatives, and Issa and his colleagues will nurture this relationship to reinforce all possibilities for material and program support.

Mutually supportive relationships



Cheikh Bamba Dièye, Mme. Dièye,  
Céline Bartholomeeussen and Issa  
Kouyaté meeting on April 13, 2009

have been established and will be further developed with several local non-governmental organisations. The St. Louis branch of the Croix-Rouge sénégalaise supports medical care for the Association's talibé children. Maison de la Gare works closely with the long-established St. Louis organisation L'Association Action Femme Enfant ([www.action-femme-enfant.org](http://www.action-femme-enfant.org)), which has recently expanded its mandate to provide support to talibé children. It is also coordinating closely with Jardin d'Espoir, the developing Senegalese affiliate of the Swiss charity of the same name (<http://www.jardindespoir.org/fr/index.html>).

### *Other Initiatives*

UKTP has initiated development of possible products by Maison de la Gare to be certified for sale as "fair trade" goods.

Amandine Yerle of Switzerland is developing opportunities for cultivating medicinal herbs, and sees this as a revenue opportunity for Maison de la Gare as well as a source of natural medicines for the talibé youth.

Issa has had initial promising discussions with a French foster parent plan which, if successful, could lead to significant on-going revenues and program support for Maison de la Gare.

The Canadian-based Fondation Paul-Gérin Lajoie (FPGL) has its main African office in St. Louis. FPGL is currently in the midst of a four-year literacy program under which they are working with Marabouts and talibé children in five St. Louis daaras. Maison de la Gare staff have had some contact with the FPGL personnel, and will be further developing this relationship.

In addition, all possible opportunities will be sought out for developing relationships with UNESCO and national and international NGOs concerned with issues related to providing a just future for the talibé youth.



## **Acknowledgements**

This document was assembled by Rod LeRoy in collaboration with Issa Kouyaté. The material related to Maison de la Gare's history, mission and organisational structure is taken in large part from Luise Ammer's excellent document, "Maison de la Gare Charter: A Non-Governmental Organisation Working to Improve the Lives of Talibés and Put an End to Street Begging", December 2008. The composite photo on the cover is from the United Kingdom Talibé Project web site, while the photos on pages 2 and 3 are from the photo gallery on Oxford Friends of Senegal's web site. Fallckolm Cuenca, Jon Daley, Shona Howes, Elisabeth and Dieter Ammer, and Richard and Nigel Rawlings provided very helpful input on early drafts.

All of the international collaborators identified in Exhibit 3 have contributed in various ways to definition and development of this project. It must be acknowledged, however, that our major debt is to Issa Kouyaté and his dedicated colleagues who have committed themselves to providing hope for the talibé children, without counting the personal cost. It is their efforts and commitment alone that can make this project succeed. As their international partners, we are privileged to be associated with them.

## **Exhibit 1: Personal Statement from Maison de la Gare's Founder and President, Issa Kouyaté**

I am writing to you in the name of all of our partners, those who support Maison de la Gare officially and those who do it discreetly. As you know, you are not the only ones who are helping! Certainly, it is important that I keep you all informed about what is going on. However, there are others who want to stay anonymous, that I can't identify, because the talibés as we say in Senegal are the soldiers of God!!

I have had several different trades and occupations, but what I am doing now is the most worthy of them all. This came to me when I was working with an international volunteer organisation in St. Louis ... this was an experience that opened for me the possibilities of a future concerned with social issues, but it did not satisfy for me the needs that I felt in this area! Thus, I opened La Maison de la Gare in parallel, discreetly.

Above all, it is essential to understand the environment, the different players and the participants.



Issa Kouyaté

As for the environment, it is the milieu where the work must happen (St. Louis). St. Louis is the best known religious centre in Senegal, while at the same time being an historic city and tourist destination. Thus, it is an ideal location for opening a welcome centre for children in difficulty, as the region has only very limited potential for meeting the needs of its people.

I started by talking with long-time residents of St. Louis, and with people who I knew such as the host families of volunteers, the police, the prefect and other officials of St. Louis. With this, I began to get a taste of what a welcome centre could be if it were possible to open one.

It was especially as a result of the work that I did with volunteers in the daaras that I began to get some experience, and this grew day by day. I rubbed shoulders with the Marabouts to learn more about how the daaras operated, and I also had the chance to talk in a friendly and open way with some talibés .... perplexing!

When I opened the centre, I made an appeal to all the people of St. Louis by radio over the course of a month (Fréquence Téranga), asking for help. I also approached other welcome centres. I put together Maison de la Gare's dossier in different formats to approach various official agencies (prefecture, government, mayor, academic inspection, youth programs), everywhere where I thought that there could be a chance of finding help. However, I only got verbal encouragement (for example, "you're doing

the right thing”, “it will work out one day”). This was a big help for me, but next to the talibés it was nothing, because they are truly in need!!!

It wasn't too difficult for me to help, because I am single and I didn't spend too much of my money. And, I'm not proud to say it, my resources came from my own salary and from some business activities here and there. Within the space of eight months, the centre became known in all of St. Louis and the other centres started to ask questions because they weren't seeing the children any more in the afternoons.

We met with the other centres at La Maison de la Gare, and they only asked questions about where I got my money and how I could provide food rich in vitamins for 250 children each day. But if I didn't have a tightly knit team, we wouldn't be there!!

You are our partners, and I know that you are ready to help these children more than you can imagine. However, it is evident that everything must be clear and transparent.

I thank each and every one of you. I have already spoken at length with the Marabouts about an eventual change of program for the children, and I do not think that there will be problems with the program that I am going to propose.

When I think that already we are working with two partners who are helping us with setting up our web site and linking it to a program for volunteers, and other partners are helping us financially, and these partners are communicating together, I think that our objective for Maison de la Gare is already largely realized.

What I want to say to you, my partners, is that being associated with you, and listening to you ... I congratulate you for what you are and for the energy of your contributions and for the great step that you have taken for Maison de la Gare, St. Louis and Senegal. Thank you.

As I have told some of the partners about the local education system, it is very different from western education. We bend the rules when we need to and go back to the system when we want to. It's a shame, but this is the reality.

In Senegal, the governmental approach for dealing with the talibé children is inadequate. If it were not, we wouldn't have to be teaching them at 15 or 18 years old. Most of them do not know key French words, and we all the time meet youth coming to learn French for the first time. We are in contact with the education department, UNICEF and local and international NGOs, but we don't need to wait for them because we already know what we need to do. Our objective is to improve the children's lives and to give them if possible the same level of education that they would receive in a formal school. If we can do this, we can have them apply to a regular school to continue.

This seems very reasonable in words, but for it to be possible we must have the agreement of the Marabouts, and this is why we work with them in the daaras. The idea is to keep the kids in the daaras for longer than they are now. Each morning, they wake

up at 5 or 6 a.m. and learn the Koran until 9, and then they go to beg until noon or 1 p.m. and return back to the daara with sugar, rice and money so that the Marabout can cook for his family. The kids then go out to beg house-to-house for them. They come back at 3 p.m. and study the Koran again until 5 and then do the same thing outside until 7 or 8 p.m. (e.g. go to the market to carry women's buckets or to clean shops before closing to get money for their payment to the Marabout). This is NOT a child's life!!!!

To eradicate this power over the talibé children's lives, Maison de la Gare plans to change the children's lives by introducing into their Koranic education basic medicine, French, math, art and sports, together with providing food and if possible an apprenticeship experience in the trade of their choice.

Thus, the new Maison de la Gare site will be divided into several areas, such as three classrooms (for three different age categories), a medical care room, an eating room, an art room, a room for professional activities, and two rooms to serve as offices for Maison de la Gare and Aced Sud (Alain Guérini will use his office for programs for trade apprenticeships and helping young talibé to be integrated into society). There will also be toilets with showers and space for other diversions.

Maison de la Gare has already invited the local authorities to come and invest in these needs, and we are awaiting their response.

The uses of the new site will be defined based on what works for the children. The most intelligent and diligent will be chosen each year with the support of the Marabouts to enter formal schooling with Maison de la Gare as their "foster parent".

I say to you all that if Maison de la Gare succeeds, it will be due to the partners who came together, but if we are not successful, it will be Maison de la Gare that failed. So, if any of you have any suggestions or ideas, I personally ask you for them. You can be sure that everything will be done openly in front of everyone.

I thank you all,

Issa

*Statement sent by e-mail to Maison de la Gare partners on April 17, 2009*

# Exhibit 2: Constituting Documents of Association La Maison de la Gare

SG/smb  
**REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL**  
**REGION DE SAINT-LOUIS**  
**GOUVERNANCE**

0781

/GRSL/AA/X

## RECEPISSE DE DECLARATION D'ASSOCIATION

( cf. décret 97 – 347 du 02 avril 1997 portant délégation de Pouvoirs du Ministre de l'Intérieur aux Gouverneurs de Région pour la délivrance de Récépissé de Déclaration d'Association )

Le Gouverneur de la région de Saint-Louis délivre aux personnes ci-après désignées, récépissé de déclaration pour l'Association définie comme suit, régie par, la loi n° 66 – 70 du 13 Juillet 1966 portant code des Obligations civiles et commerciales, modifiée par la loi n° 68 – 08 du 26 mars 1968, le décret n°76 – 040 du 16 janvier 1976 et la loi n° 79 – 02 du 04 janvier 1979.

### TITRE DE L'ASSOCIATION

« LA MAISON DE LA GARE »

### OBJET

- ✓ Aider les talibés et veiller sur leur santé;
- ✓ Entre aide entre les membres ;
- ✓ Promouvoir les droits et devoirs de l'enfant ;
- ✓ Promouvoir l'éducation des enfants (Talibés).

### SIEGE

Sis à la Gare Ferroviaire de Saint-Louis, Commune de Saint-Louis.

### COMPOSITION DU BUREAU

**Actuellement chargés de l'Administration et de la Direction de l'Association**

MM	Issa	KOUYATE	President
	Sidi Bouya	SECK	Secrétaire général
	Babacar	NDIAYE	Trésorier général

### Pièces annexées à la déclaration

**-Statuts et P.V. Assemblée Générale Constitutive**

Toute modification apportée aux statuts et tous changements survenus dans l'Administration ou la direction de l'Association devront être déclarés dans un délai de trois (03) mois et mentionnés en outre sur le registre tenu au siège de ladite association, registre qui pourra être présenté aux autorités administratives ou judiciaires, sur leur demande, sans déplacement au siège social.

Saint-Louis, le

22 DEC 2008

Le Gouverneur

MOUHAMADOU MOUSTAPHA NDAO

**ASSOCIATION LA MAISON DE LA GARE**

**Diamaguène Saint-louis**

**Tel : 00339601200**

**BP : 150 Stlouis Nord Senegal**

**Email : lamaisondelagare@yahoo.fr**

**website :www.mdgsl.com**

**REGLEMENT INTERIEUR**

**Article.1.** Les membres de l'association »la maison de la gare » sis à Sor, Diamaguene, sont régis par le présent règlement intérieur.

**Article 2.** La qualité de membre entraine les obligations suivantes :

- Présence effective aux réunions dûment convoquées.
- Acquiescement des cotisations.
- Engagement effectif dans les travaux de l'association

**Article 3.** La qualité de membre se perd par (cf. Article 5 des statuts) radiation prononcée par le conseil d'administration pour motif grave et/ ou non-paiement des cotisations. A noter que la qualité de membre ne donne aucun droit à remboursement de cotisations ou autre indemnités quelconques.

**Article.4.** En termes d'administration, la composition et le fonctionnement du comité directeur ainsi que l'organisation et le fonctionnement de l'assemblée générale sont stipulés respectivement par les articles 8,9,10 et 11 des statuts.

**Article 5.** L'Assemblée Générale définit, de plus, en complément des dispositions statutaires, des orientations en donnant mandat au conseil d'administration et au bureau exécutif de les mettre en œuvre. Ces derniers rendront compte, autant que de besoin et au plus tard à la prochaine Assemblée Générale de l'exécution du mandat. Enfin, l'Assemblée Générale donne mandat au Conseil Administratif et Comité Directeur des acquisitions immobilières et des conventions partenariales nécessaires et utiles au fonctionnement et développement de l'association.

**Article.6.** Le présent règlement intérieur, adopté par l'Assemblée Générale extraordinaire du Lundi 4 mai 2009 ne peut être modifié qu'à la majorité des 2/3 des membres de l'association dûment convoqués en nouvelle assemblée générale extraordinaire. Cette séance peut également se tenir sur la demande des 1/3 des membres.

**LE PRESIDENT**

**Issa KOUYATE**

**LE SECRETAIRE**

**Sidy Bouya SECK**

## **Exhibit 3: Maison de la Gare's International Support Network**

### *Ammer Foundation*

This is a family foundation based in Hamburg, Germany, represented by Elisabeth Ammer (elisabeth@ammer.org), mother of Luise Ammer (luiseammer@hotmail.com; volunteer in 2008). The Foundation signed an agreement with Maison de la Gare dated December 2, 2008 (appended as Exhibit 5) under the terms of which it is prepared to provide 10,000 Euros (approximately 6.5 million CFA francs) for the purchase of a permanent site.

Luise and Elisabeth Ammer have indicated that further funds, possibly in excess of one million CFA francs equivalent, could be available the following year to assist in completing the purchase and developing the site.

### *Association de coopération et de développement du Sud (Aced-Sud)*

Alain Guérini, President of Aced-Sud (aced\_sud@yahoo.fr), has been associated with Issa for several years, and is very supportive of Maison de la Gare's mission. Aced-Sud is based in Podor, north-east of St. Louis on the Mauritanian border. With the support of partners in France, Aced-Sud carries out a number of development projects, with a focus being helping school graduates to become re-integrated into society in productive roles.

In furthering its mission, Aced-Sud would like to establish a base in St. Louis where some of its projects can be carried out. The organisation cannot provide funds for the land purchase. However, Alain has plans to assist with materials and labour for construction of buildings on the new Maison de la Gare site, both to assist Maison de la Gare and to provide some space for Aced-Sud programs. Details of such an arrangement will be negotiated in Senegal between Maison de la Gare and Aced-Sud.

In addition, Alain will continue to provide invaluable advice and support to Issa as plans for Maison de la Gare develop.

### *Oxford Friends of Senegal*

Richard Rawlings (ofs@talibe.info) formed Oxford Friends of Senegal (OFS) following a volunteer placement in St. Louis in 2006. He returned to St. Louis in the summer of 2007, and worked with Issa developing ideas for Maison de la Gare.

OFS has attracted the support of a number of students and others in the U.K., including Janek Seevaratnam who joined Richard on a mission to Senegal in the summer of 2008. Richard's father, Nigel Rawlings (nigel.rawlings@assuragroup.co.uk) has visited Senegal with Richard and is very supportive of OFS's initiatives.

OFS's mission report and other details of its initiatives are available on its web site at <http://www.talibe.info>.

OFS has on hand just over £1,000 (approximately 775,000 CFA francs) for the land-acquisition program. They believe that this can be increased to over one million CFA francs equivalent in short order, and that they could raise an additional £10,000 over the next year in response to a credible plan for the project.

### *Reverend Charles F. Johnston Charitable Foundation Inc.*

This is a family foundation based in Montreal, Canada, of which Lisa LeRoy (volunteer in 2008) and her father Rod LeRoy (rod.leroy@sympatico.ca) are directors. The Foundation signed an agreement with Maison de la Gare dated June 20, 2008 (appended as Exhibit 4) under the terms of which it provides 300,000 CFA francs per quarter. To date, four transfers have been made, in September 2008, November 2008, March 2009 and April 2009. The final transfer was the amount for June 2009, but it was paid early to the Association's bank account in order to verify that the funds were safely received, in preparation for the larger transfers required for the site purchase.

The foundation has received donations totalling \$6,000 Canadian (approximately 2.5 million CFA francs) designated for the purchase of a permanent site, and has indications that it can successfully fund-raise several thousand dollars more.

### *Streets of Hope Charity*

Laura Checkley of San Diego, California (lauracheckley@gmail.com) was a volunteer at Maison de la Gare in 2008 and, on her return home, established the Streets of Hope Charity ([www.streetsofhopecharity.org](http://www.streetsofhopecharity.org)). This organisation is dedicated to providing clothes and educational materials to the talibé children through Maison de la Gare, and is preparing a container of materials for shipment to St. Louis.

### *Sustainable Development Group International*

Fallckolm Cuenca (fallckolm.cuenca@sdg-int.org) of Sustainable Development Group International (SDGI) is playing a key role in Maison de la Gare's development. Fallckolm has worked with Issa in establishing Maison de la Gare's web site, and he is supporting development of contacts and relationships with international and Senegalese organisations.

While SDGI cannot contribute to the capital project for purchase and development of a permanent site for Maison de la Gare, it is helping with formulation of the volunteer program and other initiatives that will be critical for sustaining the organisation.

Information on SDGI's initiatives for Maison de la Gare is available on their web site at [www.sdg-int.org](http://www.sdg-int.org).

### *United Kingdom Talibé Project (UKTP)*

Shona Howes (shona\_howes@hotmail.com) is coordinator of UKTP. UKTP's website at <http://uktalibeproject.org> is an excellent resource for information about the talibés and



Maison de la Gare. Volunteers working with UKTP have collected substantial funds and materials, and shipped a full container to Maison de la Gare in early 2009. This contained desks, chairs, and enough other teaching and school room materials to fully equip a classroom. UKTP has received a donation of 20 computers from the University of London for Maison de la Gare, and is holding these until shipping arrangements are clarified and facilities are ready to receive them. A number of fundraising events are scheduled that have the potential to raise over £5,000 for ongoing sustainability projects.

UKTP worked persistently with Issa to establish a bank account for Association la Maison de la Gare. The organisation is initiating a volunteer program with Maison de la Gare, supported by SDGI. This is well described on the organisation's web site, and it has the potential to make a major contribution to long-term sustainability of Maison de la Gare. Other sustainability projects are being developed in partnership with Maison de la Gare, including fair trade certification and merchandising of items produced in St. Louis.

### *Individual Contributors*

Monica Pons Ballesta (monicaglez81@hotmail.com) is a Spanish former volunteer who maintains a strong linkage with Maison de la Gare, and is planning to provide five 5m x 5m tents in May-June 2009 along with other supplies.

Jon Daley of Berkeley, California (daley@berkeley.edu) spent an extended period at Maison de la Gare in 2008, working with Issa to develop sports programs and various revenue generation initiatives. Jon is prepared to continue supporting Maison de la Gare in such initiatives.

Johanna Galaski of Belgium is a former volunteer who is the first to have made a cash contribution (40,000 CFA francs) to Maison de la Gare for acquisition of the new site.

Nolwenn Gueguen of France (nolwenn.gueguen@sfr.fr), a former volunteer at Maison de la Gare, is working in France to develop a volunteer program similar to that described on the UKTP web site.

Amandine Yerle is a Swiss national living in Senegal who has strong expertise in natural medicines. She is interested in working with Maison de la Gare to develop medicinal plants both for the talibé children and for sale.

## **Exhibit 4: Agreement with Reverend Charles F. Johnston Charitable Foundation Inc.**

### **ENTENTE - LA MAISON DE LA GARE**

**Cette entente** («Entente») signée en double ce 20<sup>ième</sup> jour de juin 2008

#### **ENTRE**

Reverend Charles F. Johnston Charitable Foundation Inc.

(ci-après dénommée la «Fondation»)

#### **ET**

L'Association de la Maison de la Gare de la ville de Saint-Louis, Sénégal, enregistrée au Sénégal sous le numéro d'Organisation non-gouvernementale 339600039

(ci-après dénommée «La Maison de la Gare»),

**Étant donné que** La Maison de la Gare a établi et est en cours de développer des programmes de support pour jusqu'à deux à trois cent enfants Talibés (les «Enfants») (tout compris, le «Programme»);

**Et étant donné que** ce Programme comprenne la préparation de nourriture pour ces Enfants ainsi que les classes de formation en français, l'établissement d'une équipe de football, les programmes d'hygiène et, au besoin, les autres activités pour les supporter;

**Et étant donné que** les sources de financement pour le Programme sont très limitées;

**Et étant donné que** la Fondation veut fournir des fonds (les «Fonds») pour supporter certains des besoins des Enfants;

**Maintenant, en conséquence de ces objectifs**, les intéressés à cette Entente attestent ce qui suit:

#### **1. Les Fonds**

1.1. La Fondation fournira des Fonds pour l'achat des vêtements, des souliers, des médicaments, des vitamines, et des autres besoins entendus par écrit avec la Fondation, le tout à la seule discrétion de la Fondation et comme entendu de temps en temps avec La Maison de la Gare.

- 1.2. La Maison de la Gare établira un compte de banque pour la réception des Fonds.
- 1.3. Les Fonds fournis par la Fondation sous le paragraphe 1.1 seront remis en devise Euros, et La Maison de la Gare s'entend qu'elle convertira ces Fonds en devises francs CFA pour utilisation tel que requis par le paragraphe 1.1 ci-dessus.
- 1.4. Sans aucune obligation, la Fondation constate qu'elle a l'intention d'envoyer un montant équivalent à, à peu près, cent milles francs CFA par mois, ces Fonds à être envoyés à peu près une fois par trimestre.

## **2. Rapports**

- 2.1. La Maison de la Gare accepte l'obligation de rapporter régulièrement à la Fondation sur l'utilisation qu'elle a faite des Fonds, au maximum trois mois suite à chaque réception de Fonds.
- 2.2. Les rapports comprendront:
  - 2.2.1. le montant de Fonds reçu par La Maison de la Gare de la Fondation, converti en francs CFA;
  - 2.2.2. une description détaillée de l'utilisation des Fonds pour le Programme; et
  - 2.2.3. une revue générale de l'avancement du Programme, comprenant le nombre approximatif d'Enfants inscrits à chaque activité, les défis particuliers, et les plans pour les mois à venir.

## **3. Terminaison**

- 3.1. Cette Entente peut être terminée par la Fondation ou par La Maison de la Gare pour n'importe quelle raison, suite à une notification écrite un mois à l'avance.

## **4. Prévisions générales**

- 4.1. Des notifications sous les termes de cette Entente par n'importe quelles des deux parties seront valides et en force si elles sont envoyées soit par la poste, soit par courriel, en cas de notification à la Fondation à

Reverend Charles F. Johnston Charitable Foundation Inc.  
108, rue Astoria  
Pointe-Claire (Québec) H9S 5A8, Canada  
Attention: Rodney LeRoy, Administrateur  
rod.leroy@sympatico.ca

et, en le cas de notification à La Maison de la Gare, à

Association la Maison de la Gare  
Balacos St-Louis  
Boîte postale 150  
Saint-Louis nord, Sénégal

Attention: Issa Kouyaté, Président  
lamaisondelagare@yahoo.fr

et une telle notification entrera en vigueur sur la date de transmission électronique ou vingt jours après la date de la mise à la poste.

- 4.2. Cette Entente sera gouvernée exclusivement par les lois de la Province du Québec, Canada.
- 4.3. Les parties à cette Entente s'entendent qu'elles utiliseront leurs meilleurs efforts pour régler amicalement toute dispute qui s'est fait jour en application de cette Entente. En le cas où les discussions entre les parties ne permettent pas la résolution d'une telle dispute, l'Entente sera terminée en accord avec les prévisions du paragraphe 3.1 ci-dessus.

**EN FOI DE QUOI** les parties ont signé la présente Entente à la date inscrite ci-dessus.

**Reverend Charles F. Johnston  
Charitable Foundation Inc.**

**Association la Maison de la Gare**

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Lisa LeRoy, Administrateur

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Issa Kouyaté, Président

## Exhibit 5: Agreement with Ammer Foundation

via mail: Stiftungszentrum.de Servicegesellschaft mbH, Sollner Straße 43, 81479 Munich,  
via Facsimile: ++49.89.744.200.300 via email: info@stiftungszentrum.de


### DONATION AGREEMENT

<b>The</b>	<i>Ammer-Stiftung</i>
<b>Address</b>	<i>Meyerhofstr. 5, 22609 Hamburg, Germany</i>
<b>Represented by Mr./Ms.</b>	<i>Elisabeth Ammer</i>
	- hereinafter referred to as "the donor" -
<b>and</b>	<i>Maison de la Gare</i>
<b>Address</b>	<i>Gare Féroviaire de St. Louis, Sor, St. Louis, Senegal</i>
<b>Represented by Mr./Ms.</b>	<i>Issa Kouyate, 911, Rue Adamson, Ville nord, St. Louis, Senegal</i>
	- hereinafter referred to as "the applicant" -

The donor and the applicant will improve the situation of *(purpose of support)*.  
Therefore the applicant agrees to:

- confirm in writing the receipt of the payment within four weeks. This confirmation shall include a copy of the statement of accounts or a bank receipt that shows the amount of payment in the domestic currency.
- use the payment only for the purpose as mentioned in the application form and budget description.
- send a report on the use of the donation at the conclusion of the project or within 12 months after having received the payment. This report shall include a detailed list of what the donation was expended for, a written description of the impact of the donations impact and if possible pictures.
- give the Foundation the right to publish any pictures sent.
- give the foundation the right to ask for additional reports (e.g. annual financial statements, original bills (no copies)) or to send a representative of the Foundation to inspect the books and the use of the money, if important circumstances do require the Foundation to ask for more information.
- inform the Donor immediately and automatically in writing if any important facts are changing (e.g. increasing costs, delayed action).
- give the Foundation the right to demand that money be returned if given details are not correct.

Please sign:

Place, date Management of the Foundation	
Place, date Applicant	<i>Saint-Louis 02.12.08</i> 

### Additional required Information

- Organization's by-laws
- Certification of Registration as a Charity (if is there)
- General information of the organization (e.g. flyer or brochure)