



HELP Madagascar
Health, Education & Life-skills Projects
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Toamasina 24 December 2018

Dear Friends of HELP:

It's been a long time since most of you have heard from us personally and we apologize for that. School year 2017-2018 will be remembered as the elastic, never-ending school year. First, classes were cancelled and delayed due to a pneumonic plague "epidemic." Then Cyclone Ava hit on January 5th, 2018 -- damaging infrastructure up and down the East Coast (and cancelling our annual holiday letter as we had no power for weeks). A few months of "normalcy" returned and then public schools and government offices began to strike for salary increases. By the time the school year ended, our high school 12th graders had been in school for nearly 12 months.

HELP programming continued despite the delays, but it was a year that never seemed to find its own rhythm. This year, many schools started in November to give an actual vacation between the two school years. Now we are awaiting the official results of Madagascar's presidential election. Both candidates have been president in the past, so we hope their experience will be an asset for positive change – we can dream!

Space does not permit us to name all those who have so generously contributed to HELP since we last wrote, but a special thank you to Madacan and the Patricia Wang Foundation for giving so much towards HELP's university expenses; for Rotary Genk (Belgium) providing Leadership for Life funding; for the An Foundation's ongoing support; for HopeShares Canada's management advice; to ADRA Madagascar for post-cyclone relief supplies and school canteen donations; to Christine Botha for her volunteer English teaching at our site and the generous way she points people to donate items to HELP; to the Ambatovy International School and Ambatovy staff, whose donations will & have provided dental care for our students and additional school canteen funds...and all of the individuals and groups who have given of their hard-earned money and many new and used items that have enriched the lives of our students – thank you from the depth of our hearts!

We equally need people in our lives who give moral support, prayer and encouragement – both to us and our students. Please know how much we value and need you, too!

The attached e-card shows just a few of the gifts HELP has received since we last wrote. Wherever you are in the world, we wish you a joyful holiday season – a blessed Christmas (if you celebrate) and a New Year's 2019 filled with peace and healthy priorities!

Kim & Colin Radford
HELP Madagascar (*Health, Education & Life-skills Projects*)
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