



It starts with Scouts.

Tout commence
avec les Scouts.

**Scouts Canada
Bureau national**
1345, chemin Baseline
Ottawa (Ontario)
K2C 0A7

helpcentre@scouts.ca
scouts.ca

T 613.224.5131
F 613.224.3571

**Scouts Canada
National Office**
1345 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON
K2C 0A7

helpcentre@scouts.ca
scouts.ca

T 613.224.5131
F 613.224.3571

28 August, 2014

To our friends at Fondation Coup de Coeur,

I would like to first thank you for your generous support on behalf of the people of Ambato Boeni the Scouts Canada Madagascar 2014 project. We have known for quite some time the power that fresh water has to change a community. In 2008, when I first visited Madagascar, I learned that the leading cause of death among children in Ambato Boeni was water-borne disease. In 2009, we sponsored two wells to be dug in the community. Since that time, not a single child has died of water-borne disease. It has had such a profound impact on Ambato Boeni. The people are starting to actively learn more about sanitation and fresh water and because of that, the two wells that were originally dug were under tremendous strain, occasionally running dry because of demand. The three additional wells that Fondation Coup de Coeur has sponsored will not only change lives, but will save them. I have no doubt about this.

The project this year was a fantastic success. We were able to see the completion of your three wells, pictures of which I have sent along with this letter. In the pictures, you will see your three wells surrounded by the smiling children that will benefit from the wells their entire lives. In addition to the wells, we were also able to build a water tower, which will be fed from one of your wells. This water tower will provide running water to the washroom facility that was built in 2012. This washroom facility has also had an incredible impact on the community, changing what was once a taboo to have a bathroom inside a building. People now understand that toilets and hand washing lead to healthier homes and families.

We were also able to build on the success of the 2012 project by adding a second building of three classrooms. The school now has the capacity to teach 300 students at a time, from grade 1 to grade 6. This was coupled with an initiative to build a compost station, which will help with the food gardens around the school.

All of these changes are great, but where the project actually lies is not within the foundation of these buildings and wells. The projects itself is found behind the walls of the school, beyond the wells that are providing fresh water, and between the people of Ambato Boeni. This project, with your support, is about life, about community. It is about the most fundamental need of all people: to have others that they can live with, laugh with and build a community with. The change in the community that I have personally witnessed from my first visit in 2008, through our first project in 2012, and this past summer really is beyond words. Where once there was nothing but an open field with only a few bushes and trees, there is now a community that is working together for the first time in its history. They are working together for the future, and this was only possible with the support of organizations like Fondation Coup de Coeur.

Again, thank you for your support. I hope that we can work together again in the future, to change the lives of those living in Ambato Boeni.

Yours Sincerely,

Iain Tait
International Commissioner
Scouts Canada