



## The Pandemic Continues, AIC Resists and Innovates!



France: Strasbourg, Tarbes

The actions of AIC volunteers around the world continue to show that however difficult the situation, it is always possible to keep helping those in need.

Like many European countries, **France** has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is those living in poverty who are most vulnerable to its economic impacts. The AIC volunteers are aware of this, and in various towns across the country (Strasbourg, Verdun, Saint-Valéry-en-Caux, Tarbes and others), they have continued their food bank services to the families that rely on them, adapting the way they work to respect social distancing and hygiene measures. Some volunteers are also making masks for those who need them. The volunteers have the support of the local authorities and the beneficiaries are reassured to see their familiar friendly faces at this particularly difficult time.

In Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne, where St Vincent set up the first Charity in 1617, and where the AIC International Assembly was held 400 years later, the AIC volunteers have continued supporting vulnerable elderly people. They stay in touch with them by phone or in writing, according to each person's capabilities, and they have sent



France: Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne



Germany

homemade masks and greetings cards with words of comfort, poems or Bible verses.

In **Germany**, AIC volunteers are also doing what they can during the COVID-19 crisis. The project "Postcards for phone calls" involves sending postcards mentioning the name and phone number of the sender to establish contact with people who might be lonely or require assistance. In the project "Open doors

against loneliness”, volunteers are sewing reusable masks, which they attach to front doors with greetings, as home visits are not allowed. Some inspiring work!



USA

In **Madagascar**, food distribution to disadvantaged families continues. The AIC volunteers from Fianarantsoa are teaching mothers to sew their own reusable masks.



Madagascar

In the **USA**, some AIC volunteers in New York have been supporting isolated women in a local assisted living facility, sending them sweet treats and flowers for Mothers’ Day. The Junior volunteers (girls aged 8-18) have been chipping in by making masks for the residents.

In **Mexico** too, the AIC volunteers have adapted their services and are distributing food to people who are homeless or have lost their jobs, families of detainees, and those living on the outskirts of cities, who are the most affected by the crisis. Certain AIC services for people who have nowhere else to go have remained open, including homes for the elderly and shelters for children and teenage mothers who have been victims of abuse.



Mexico



Mexico

We are always happy to receive news about AIC COVID-19 actions and publish them on our website or Facebook page. Share your story with us at: [info@aic-international.org](mailto:info@aic-international.org)

## The new AIC Executive Board 2020-2023 is working for you



The members of the AIC Executive Board and the invited guests are meeting every Monday via Zoom to organize their work for the next three years. AIC is overcoming distances and difficulties thanks to modern technology!

### Members of the Executive Board 2020-2023

	<p><b>Rose de Lima RAMANANKAVANA</b> <i>Madagascar</i> <b>International President</b></p>		<p><b>Clara Inés DIAZ HENAO</b> <i>Colombia</i> <b>Vice-President</b> <b>Coordinator for Latin America</b></p>
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	<p><b>Suzanne JOHNSON</b> <i>USA</i> <b>Vice-President</b> <b>Coordinator for the USA</b> <b>Head of Contact with the Famvin</b> <b>Head of Twinnings</b></p>		<p><b>Mia LATRILLE</b> <i>France</i> <b>Treasurer</b> <b>Head of Fundraising</b> Support for: Coordination of Europe/Middle East</p>
	<p><b>Tayde de CALLATAY</b> <i>Belgium</i> <b>Secretary</b> <b>Coordinator for Europe/Middle East</b> <b>Head of Projects</b></p>		<p><b>Ana Lucia BARBOSA GONDIM</b> <i>Brazil</i> Support for: Coordination of Latin America Contact with the Famvin Projects</p>
	<p><b>Melodee Marciana de CASTRO</b> <i>Philippines</i> <b>Coordinator for Asia</b> Support for: Contact with the Famvin</p>		<p><b>Lottie ESPINOZA CONTRERAS</b> <i>Guatemala</i> Support for: Coordination of Latin America Contact with the Famvin Twinnings</p>
	<p><b>Nirisoa Hasindaza RAKOTOVAO</b> <i>Madagascar</i> <b>Coordinator for Africa</b></p>		<p><b>Guillermina VERGARA MACIP</b> <i>Mexico</i> <b>Head of Training</b> Support for: Contact with the Famvin Projects</p>

**Invited Guests**

	<p><b>Alicia DUHNE</b> <i>Mexico</i> <b>Past President</b></p>		<p><b>Bénédicte de BELLEFROID</b> <i>Belgium</i> <b>General Manager</b> <b>Head of Communication</b></p>
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	<p><b>Laurence de la BROSSE</b></p> <p><i>France</i></p> <p><b>Head of Representation</b></p>		<p><b>Marianne CHEVALIER</b></p> <p><i>Belgium</i></p> <p><b>President of AIC Solidarité</b></p>
	<p><b>Fr. Bernard MASSARINI, CM</b></p> <p><i>France</i></p> <p><b>Spiritual Advisor</b></p>		<p><b>Sr. Françoise PETIT, FdIC</b></p> <p><i>France</i></p> <p><b>Spiritual Advisor</b></p>

**In this month of Mary, let us pray together** (Extracts from the prayer sent for the Feast of Saint Louise)

*“Under your protection we take refuge, Holy Mother of God. O Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us in this pandemic of the coronavirus, and comfort those who are lost and who mourn their loved ones who have died.*

*Protect the doctors, nurses, health personnel and volunteers who, in this time of emergency, are on the front line, risking their lives to save other lives. Accompany their heroic fatigue and give them strength, goodness and health.*

*Beloved Mother, make the world grow in the sense of belonging to one great family, in the awareness of the bond that unites us all, so that we may come to the aid of the many forms of poverty and situations of misery with a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity. Encourage firmness in faith, perseverance in service, constancy in prayer.*

*We entrust ourselves to You, who shines on our path as a sign of salvation and hope, o merciful, o merciful, o sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.”*

