

## Who are we ?

After more than one year of intense work and reflection, the association « Voisins Solidaires-Togo » (Solidary Neighbors) was founded in 2008 and was eventually certified on the 8th February 2010. Indeed it is an apolitical non-profit organisation which started its activities beginning of March 2010.

## Why “Solidary Neighbors” ?

The African populations in general and particularly the Togolese are renowned for their solidarity and their strong sense of community. But unfortunately, these values seem to diminish or even to disappear due to arising individualism. Secondary effects are arising indifference and suspicion towards fellow men. Our goal is to make solidarity a veritable motor of sustainable development.

## Our objectives

- ✓ Developing solidarity within the neighborhood
- ✓ Reinforcing the spirit of conviviality and fraternity
- ✓ Protecting biodiversity
- ✓ Encouraging eco-solidarity and eco-tourism
- ✓ Promoting social peace, healthcare, education, art and culture
- ✓ Sensibilising citizens concerning civic job training programs
- ✓ Promoting hygiene and sanitation in urban, peri-urban and rural zones

In order to achieve our goals, we set up three ambitious projects: “Les Fêtes des Voisins” (festivals of neighborhood), the educational program “PAPASI” (Professionalisation of economic actors within the informal sector) and the touristic program “Voisins du Monde” (Worldwide neighbors).

## Les Fêtes des

## Voisins “Celebrate Neighborhood !”

This project was set up in 2010 due to two observations:

- In Togo, the notion of neighborhood is not limited on direct neighbors, but includes whole districts.
- There was a time when the inhabitants of districts lived like they belonged to one big family. Nowadays, this is not the case anymore. The once strong social bonds of our society diminish increasingly.

In order to liven conviviality and solidarity up, VS Togo initiated the project named “Festival of Neighborhood” which is the first of its kind on the African continent. This festival is organised once a year (usually end of May) and brings together all neighbors of the same district.

The National Committee of the Organisation of the festival of neighborhood strives each year to promote this event in Togo.



## FC VOISINS and the CCAV

In order to fight against juvenile delinquency and to support fraternity, VS Togo founded a soccer team (Voisins FC) which organises matches and participates regularly in local tournaments. Furthermore, a cultural and artistic center (CCAV) has been created.



## The project PAPASI

In March 2013, VS Togo launched the educational project “PAPASI” which reinforces the professionalisation of economic actors within the informal sector.

45 micro-entrepreneurs (seamstresses, hairdressers, tailors, mechanics etc.) have already benefited from our courses, enabling them within 3 months of training to run their business more efficiently.

For this training program, VS Togo called on Togolese volunteers and technical assistants (Students of Economics and Commerce) from France.



VS TOGO offers internships to those students and professionals who desire to be inspired by African life in terms of solidarity and other fields such as healthcare, education, tourism, culture etc.

## Public awareness-raising

With these same volunteers, VS TOGO organises events of public awareness-raising in the following fields:

- Reinforcement of solidarity
- Protection of biodiversity
- Promotion of hygiene and sanitation



## The program "Voisins du Monde" (Worldwide Neighbors)

By introducing the program "Voisins du Monde", VS Togo wants to encourage international solidarity.

Worldwide Neighbors proposes to accommodate volunteers from all around the world throughout the year. Our objective is to reinforce discovery of one another and to experience different cultures. Our program is an interactive offer for tourists: the volunteers of this program offer their services and their competences for diverse projects of local development. Vice versa, they benefit from their stay in Togo by discovering the country in an authentic way.

Two options are offered to our volunteers: the option "Bâtissons la cité" (short stay, work on a construction site) and the option "Epervier" (long stay > 2 months, work on a project of VS Togo). The construction sites are open from end of June to beginning of September in order to build medical centers. Furthermore, our program includes creative workshops, workshops of mutual exchange etc. A construction site requires a minimum of five volunteers during at least 2 weeks. The volunteer has to be at least 18 years old or has to have a parental autorisation. Our international construction sites are "Echange Citoyen" France-Togo 2015 and "Go Togo" 2016-2017.



### Our contact:

The association researches financial partnerships for projects in the future. It recruits every year Togolese volunteers as well as international volunteers for our programme Voisins du Monde.

If you would like to know more about the association, our projects or about the conditions of adhesion, please find out more :

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Construction  
site EC Fr-Tg  
2015



### Our partners:



## Voisins Solidaires TOGO

*"Let's make solidarity a motor  
of sustainable development"*



Association loi 1901  
Récépissé N°0613/MATCDL-SG-DLPAP-DOCA du 06/06/2012  
J.O. N°28bis du 16.16.2012