



Newsletter nº 5

5 May 2016

Written by Annette Helle

Dear friends of Cape Verde,
Well, I'm back with more to report from DaM. Unfortunately, this time there's some bad news, at least for us, and I'll start with that. Our head nurse extraordinaire and founding member Ilídio Costa left Cabo Verde in early March to fulfil his dream: he will be studying medicine in Bolivia. His degree, specializing in surgery, will take six years. Although this is a serious blow to the inhabitants of Tarrafal and to us at DaM, we sincerely wish Ilídio every success and an enjoyable time as a medical student. You're bound to become an outstanding doctor!



Nurse Madelene Simone Sousa Rocha from Porto Novo is currently in charge of the *posto sanitário* or health centre. She is 29 years old and three years ago completed a four-year nursing course at the Universidade de Mindelo. She then worked at the Baptista Sousa hospital in São Vicente and at health centres (*centros de saúde*) in both Porto Novo and Paúl. Having already spent four weeks filling Ilídio's shoes

when he was on holiday in June 2015, she is familiar with the work and the particular challenges that Tarrafal holds. Her first contract runs until the end of June, after which the Ministério de Saúde will decide who is to hold this post in Tarrafal thereafter (initially for a year). Madelene says she can certainly see herself doing this. "It wouldn't be easy. I have an eight-year-old son and have only two weekends off every month. But my family can visit me here and have already done so. In terms of my work, I have a great deal of responsibility, and this must also be borne in mind. If I'm not a hundred per cent sure about something, I telephone colleagues with more experience for advice; I'm very vigilant about this. But I have received excellent training and I'm used to working independently. I like Tarrafal very much, it's very tranquil, peaceful and quiet here."



Our health unit, the *posto sanitário*, welcomed another new arrival in February: a dentist's chair! And not any old dentist's chair, but a very special one – it was the very first in Cape Verde! This collector's item belonged to the family of Aníbal Lopes in São Vicente, and came to Tarrafal at the initiative of dentist Dra. Maria da Luz Salomão St. Aubyn. This 'museum piece' is on loan here for an indefinite period, the idea being to restore it to life here! No electronic frills, but solid mechanical functionality and not prone to technical problems, making it a perfect fit for Tarrafal.

The status of our supporting association in Germany is now official and all the loose ends of red tape have been tied up. On 3 March, word came from the Burgdorf tax office that it has been recognized as a non-profit organization. Now we can issue donation receipts that are accepted for tax purposes in Germany, too – an important aspect for future fundraising. The society's membership fees are also subject to tax benefits. The 'Friends of Dar as Mãos' has already set up an account:

Förderverein 'Dar as Mãos' ('Friends of Dar as Mãos')

IBAN: DE83 4306 0967 4106 7279 00

BIC: GENODEM1GLS

This new account will soon have a very impressive credit item. A musical duo, the Jeanine Vahldiek Band, have sold 623 copies of their third CD ('Blank Canvas') so far. Which means 623 euros for us! But that's not all. Jeanine and Steffen have generously rounded up the total to 700 euros. What's more, they have decided that, for their next release, DaM will be the organization that they will donate part of the proceeds to. Up to now, for every album they have

