



Modeste had successful heart surgery in 2012 by Doctor Gregory Khatchatourov

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*"Whoever saves a single life saves the entire world"*

A universal quotation taken from the Talmud

## *A short history to explain a unique humanitarian action in Switzerland*

**Because you cannot put a price on life: Une Chance, Un Coeur!  
this means A chance, A heart!  
... A story when you follow your heart...**

Professor Jean-Jacques Goy, a pioneer of heart angioplasty in Switzerland, has been asked throughout his career if he can assist young patients with heart disease when appropriate treatment is not available in their own country. Without cardiac care these young lives are seriously threatened.

This is why Modeste, Diarra, Babayel and twenty other young patients came, one by one, to the Clinique Cecil in Lausanne. Firstly certain investigations were carried out and then with the help of Dr Francine Tinguely, cardiologist and with the efficient collaboration of Dr Gregory Khatchatourov and Dr Patrick Ruchat, both cardiac surgeon specialists, the heart operations were performed.

Later, each one returned home to their country, much happier and with a new chance for the future.

Nonetheless this professional medical team has had to face up to some inevitable realities. These young patients, aged between 16 and 25 years of age, come from third world countries and do not have the support of non-governmental organisations (NGO's). Each time it has been necessary to develop ingenious ways to collect the crucial funding needed for their care.

With continuing new demands and not wanting to remain powerless against this unfairness, the doctors realised they must organise their help. Surrounded by a team of enthusiastic health professionals and other associates from different backgrounds, all volunteers, Professor Jean-Jacques Goy decided to create **the foundation " Une Chance, Un Coeur!"** meaning, "a chance, a heart!" to help in the most efficient way possible young people with heart disease.

Each young person who arrives in Switzerland is welcomed into an experienced host family that have ties with the patient's country. This relationship helps build confidence, relieves the anxiety of new surroundings and concerns about the operation, and later provides an opportunity to discover a little of Swiss life during convalescence.

The foundation brings these young people to our country to perform the heart operations they desperately need. **Our project is happening close to you**, it is controlled by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority and can be assessed by anyone at anytime. Our position on collecting funds is unusual. In general we do not ask for public aid but prefer to appeal directly to people, institutions and local companies, which is why we are sending you this document.

***We need your help and deeply thank every person for giving a chance  
to these young people and supporting our campaign.***

## Details of the foundation

NAME ADDRESS	Foundation Une Chance, Un Coeur!
ADDRESS	Ch. Croix-Rouges 5 1007 Lausanne
TELEPHONE	+41 79 213 64 65
WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.chancecoeur.ch">www.chancecoeur.ch</a>
AIMS AND ACTIVITIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Temporary accommodation and surgical treatment, in Switzerland, for young patients with severe cardiac illnesses, coming from disadvantaged countries, when their own country or other NGO's are unable to care or assist them.</li><li>2. To provide medical support for young patients coming from disadvantaged countries, which are suffering from life threatening illnesses other than cardiac, after discussion and approval by the foundation's committee.</li></ol>
LEGAL STATUS	please consult enclosed documents
CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Professor Jean-Jacques Goy
BANK DETAILS	Julius Baer – IBAN – CH62 0851 5026 0086 5200 1
EXTERNAL AUDITORS	Ma Fiducia Côtes à Tenot   1040 Echallens



**Diop Elhadji M'Baye** 22 years old, with host companion **Nicoll Mougine Diakhoumpa** who shared her home in Switzerland until Diop could return to his own country.

## *The uniqueness of our foundation*



To assure, in Switzerland, medical care for young patients that have no hope of receiving treatment in their own country.

To assure the highest medical standards by a competent professional health team, which offer their skills and time free of charge.

To assure care and accommodation by an experienced host family, which have ties with the patient's country.

To assure the transfer of medical information, indications or recommendations to the doctors in the home country for optimal follow-up care.

### **The Foundation Une Chance, Un Coeur! An organisation that offers guarantees.**

The patients referred to us receive the same guaranteed standards of medical practice, present in our country, by professionals from our partners in certain hospitals and clinics.

The risks are related to the initial pathology or disease, but are reduced to a minimum by thorough pre-operative investigations, completed in Switzerland if necessary.

### **The Foundation Une Chance, Un Coeur! A rigorous organisation.**

In order to provide care for 10 to 20 patients a year, we estimate an annual budget of at least 300 000 Swiss francs is required.

This sum would cover surgical products, hospitalisation fees for the intensive care and travel costs.

The foundation's hospital or clinic partners work on an inclusive minimal fee.

The medical follow-up, the surgical operation and accommodation, in a host family, are offered free of charge.

## *Committee Members*

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## Jean-Jacques Goy answers Proust's questionnaire... Extracts

### PORTRATI OF THE PRESIDENT

Your most marked characteristic?

I am a man of action, persevering and tenacious, endowed with a rebel spirit at times.

The quality you most admire in a man?

Loyalty.

The quality you most admire in a woman?

Honesty, stability and compassion.

What is your principle defect?

I can't stand negligence it ignites a livid rage in me.

Your favourite occupation?

To dream, contemplate and imagine.

What would you like to be?

A believer.

Where would you like to live?

The land of a thousand and one nights.

Your favourite colour?

Yellow.

Your favourite flower?

Iris, edelweiss.

Your favourite bird?

Albatross, nightingale.

Your favourite prose authors?

Baudelaire.

Who are your favourite heroes of fiction?

The Little Prince (St.- Exupéry).

Your favourite composers?

Brel, Mozart, Vivaldi

Your favourite painters?

Balthus, Vallotton

Who are your favourite heroes in real life?

Pasteur, Keppler, Mozart

What is it you most dislike?

Injustice.

What event in military history do you most admire?

The Normandy landing.

What natural gift would you most like to possess?

To be a musician.

How would you like to die?

In the arms of a goddess.

To what faults do you feel most indulgent?

Addiction.



Professor Jean-Jacques Goy and Diarra Bèye

## *Press reviews and personal experiences*

### SAVED FROM AN ILLNESS THAT HAS KILLED THREE OF HIS BROTHERS

By Abdoulaye Penda Ndiaye - Thanks to an association and a generous doctor, a 21-year-old Senegalese man has had successful surgery for a heart illness.



Babayel's smile is back after his operation

### *Our world needs some good news*

"His heart malformation is congenital. In Switzerland the incidence is 1 for every 100000 births and is operated on immediately," explained Dr. Jean-Jacques Goy. This cardiologist with a huge heart is a humanitarian. Babayel is the fifteenth African patient to benefit from medical support thanks to his help. An association called Niokobok, based in Villars-Tiercelin (Vaud), organises the transport and accommodation. Dr Goy does the rest.

" I feel much better. Before I felt I was always suffocating. Now I want to find a job and help my family because my father is retired," declared the young Senegalese just before his return home.

"We'll do a check-up in 2013 Babayel," announced Dr Goy while saying their farewells. "It's this sort of help that makes sense of my work.

Just before the operation at Fribourg Hospital in Switzerland, Babayel asked, with a sad look, if he could be buried in Senegal. This young man from Dakar was frightened that this fatal illness would take him like it had taken three of his brothers already, from a family originally of nine sons.

An hour and a half later a pacemaker was implanted. Babayel suffers from transposition of the great arteries, the doctors had decided that a heart transplant was too risky and a last resort.

For a doctor to see a smiling patient and hear him say thank-you is worth more than gold. Our world needs some good news," admitted Jean-Jacques Goy.

Niokobok's president, Nicoll Mouglin, is already thinking about the next patient, who is expected at the end of the month. " The for one saved Babayal, many others die in Africa," she replied sadly.

## DETERMINED PEOPLE AND CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

Marie-Eugénie suffers from polyvalvular heart disease; it weakens the atria and ventricles, which leads to heart failure.

From 1991 Marie-Eugénie was regularly followed by a doctor in Dakar, but her health continued to deteriorate over the years. According to her medical reports in Senegal, this 25-year-old woman had a life expectancy of about 2 years. The operation that could save her life was not possible in Senegal. So Marie-Eugénie and a local doctor, who had taken her story to heart, asked repeatedly for help from several organisations in Europe to no avail, mainly due to her age.

Even though Sentinelles does not have a cardiac program, with the force of determined people and chance encounters, we heard Marie-Eugénie's story and through a good friend we



met Professor Goy, a cardiologist. His total commitment helped make it possible for Marie-Eugénie to have the operation and care in the Clinique Cecil, Switzerland. Very quickly a chain of charitable solidarity developed in Senegal and Switzerland from generous friends, doctors, surgeons, a pharmaceutical company and the directors and staff at the Clinique Cecil all offering their help for Marie-Eugénie.

*"A tremendous chain of solidarity was put in place"*

Marie-Eugénie arrived in Switzerland on the 6th April, extremely tired but pleased to be there. A little later she had her first medical consultation followed by a needed rest at her host's home. The next day other examinations revealed the serious damage that her heart had further suffered. The only possibility left was open-heart surgery to change the mitral valve.

The operation programmed for the 13th April with Dr Graf was complex and difficult. Minutes and hours passed... The valve was changed but her heart was having difficulty restarting. For ten hours the surgical team fought with the help of

Marie-Eugénie's will to live. Eventually her heart began to beat but her condition remained critical. The following hours in the intensive care were decisive. The next morning optimism was back; the surgeon was surprised how much better Marie-Eugénie was doing. Three days later, still weak, she was able to return to the ward and a few days after that she was able to

leave the hospital as she had made such a remarkable recovery. Marie-Eugénie's exhausted heart was seven times the normal size, something rarely seen. According to the cardiologist she would only have had a few months left to live.

During her stay in Switzerland between physiotherapy and doctor's appointments Marie-Eugénie had another chance meeting and was offered handcraft lessons. Her warm smile and eagerness easily found a place in the group. The workshop owners gave her a sewing

machine so that she could continue making small articles. Later on the 4th June with the sewing machine in her baggage Marie-Eugenie, full of life, but tears in her eyes, left for Senegal.

Marie-Eugenie wanted to write these few lines:

"My name is Marie-Eugenie and I'm 25 years old. I was born in Cape Verde. I was 16 months old when I left Brava Island to go to Praia Island to live with my grandmother. She brought me up. She gave me a good education and taught

me lots of things. In primary school when I was doing gym I was always the first one to be tired. At home when I used to fetch the water I was soon exhausted. The people around me said that I was lazy. I wanted to work but I always felt tired very quickly.

## *SENTINELLES*



*assisting wounded innocence*

In 1991 when I was 13 years old I left Cape Verde to rejoin my mother in Senegal. A year later I fell ill. They took me to the hospital and I stayed a month. There we found out what illness I had and why I was getting tired so quickly. I had a heart problem. That was the day I started my treatment at Dantec hospital in Dakar. Dr Charles, my cardiologist, did not make me pay for the consultations. I only had to pay for tests and medication. I continued this treatment for many years. It helped me a little, but it was not enough to heal my heart.

At home and at work I tried to lead a normal life. Sometimes it was hard because I wanted to do a lot of things and I could not. I used to say to myself it's not serious life has highs and lows, don't be discouraged. I prayed a lot to God to give me courage and to keep me smiling.

Some years later I fell ill again. I went to see my cardiologist and he told me I needed an operation because I was not at all well. I asked him, 'Dr. Charles this operation, how much does it cost?' He said to me, 'It costs millions, and besides your operation cannot be done here in Dakar you must go overseas.' How could I do that? Who could help me? I knew nobody! From that day on

I began to be frightened. I became sad and unhappy sometimes, but I held on. I said to the good Lord, 'I do not have the money for an operation. Please help me. There are so many things I still want to do in life!' My mother and my friends encouraged me to keep on asking, to be brave and that everything would be all right.

*"Your operation  
cannot be  
done here  
you must go  
overseas"*

I went to see Dr Charles to ask him to give me my medical reports; I was going to ask for help more or less everywhere. I wrote to people in top positions, but that didn't work. I hadn't fallen on the right person I would tell myself, it's not serious, and that God is good. My mother was also at my side. She was sad because she didn't know what to do.

One Sunday my mother visited a friend and told her about my health problems. The lady told her that she knew a doctor that was always helping people. It's the Doctor Rudolph Diop. She phoned him and he told her that I must go to the hospital the next day at 8 o'clock.

On the Monday we went to see Dr Diop. I took my medical files with me. He said he was going to do his best and that on my side I had to continue to do my best as well.

He made a request but it was turned down. A week later he called me to say that he had some good news. Sentinelles had found me a doctor in Switzerland that would do my operation but asked that we pay the airfare, pocket money and find a family where I could stay.

Dr Diop's contacts put me in touch with doctors that could do the medical checks I needed. Tata Jacqueline and her girlfriends from the Cape Verde Women's Association and Tata Antoinette found me the pocket money and also money for the x-rays. Tata Marie Rose gave me the plane ticket. It was all going so fast that I couldn't believe it. It was fantastic! Mother was happy, and me? I was the happiest girl in the world. We thanked the good Lord and all the people that helped me.

On the 6th April I was in Switzerland. On the 12th April I was admitted into hospital and on the 13th at half past eight I was in the operating room. After the operation I was tired. It was a bit sore as well. But the nurses in the clinic and the people from Sentinelles were always by my side.

I really want to thank all these people. To say a huge thank-you to them all. I am so happy. Everything is going well now. I have a new life. I can do all the things I always wanted to do. A big thank-you to Dr Goy and Dr Graf and to all the people that helped me have an enjoyable time. I am very happy to know you. I love you all. Marie-Eugenie."

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<http://www.sentinelles.org/marieeugenie.htm>

## YOUNG MODESTE'S HEART IS JUST LIKE NEW

We have been able to tell his family that everything is going well for Modeste,  
A young 16-year-old Burkinabé has had successful heart surgery for a fatal heart condition.

The cardiovascular surgeon Gregory Khatchatourov and his young patient spent no less than six hours in the operating theatre. "I am so relieved," remarks Nadia Smali, the nurse that assisted his transfer to Switzerland and accommodated, in her Fribourg home, this youngster for a humanitarian mission. " Modeste has managed well. It was only on our way to the operating theatre that he started to cry."

The teenager will be awake today. When he is stronger he will have some time to enjoy Switzerland during his convalescence, which will be several weeks with Nadia as his guide. On the program is a boat trip on the lake and a visit to the airport. L.G.R.

© Le Matin



Modeste after successful heart surgery at the Clinique Cecil, Lausanne.

## THE KICK OFF OF A NEW LIFE

Modeste, the young Burkinabé, is thrilled to kick off the Lausanne v Sion match, after having heart surgery in early March.



Studious Modeste at his desk doing his daily 4 hours of homework.

"It's really unbelievable, it feels like a dream," raved the 16-year-old Modeste, just after he had executed the kick-off. He can hardly believe what is happening, or that he is the centre of attraction among all the football fans in the stadium and watched by thousands of others from their homes.

There had been plenty of other thrills and surprises too for Modeste at the Pontaise; a guided tour around the facilities, souvenir photos, a personalised football jersey from each team and also a football, with everything signed by the players. This timid teenager was so at ease in these surroundings that he stuck with the players and followed them out onto the pitch for practise. To be able to kick a ball around means a lot to Modeste. Before the operation he got out of breath very quickly, it was also dangerous and painful for him. "I can't wait to play with my friends," he says with excitement, "and run around."

### The pleasure of giving

Football, football and more football, was the only thing Modeste talked about since his arrival in Switzerland. Which gave Dr Goy an idea. "It was obvious that it was something very important for him," explained the cardiologist, "so I called Lausanne Sport football club and they immediately said yes."

Still smiling and full of energy, Modeste is quite simply very happy. Yesterday evening he had the fortune to kick off the Lausanne v Sion football match at the Pontaise Stadium. It was the highlight of his stay in Switzerland. In fact this was a surprise gift from the people that have saved his life, JeanJacques Goy a cardiologist and Nadia Smali a nurse. The two from Fribourg did everything possible to bring Modeste to Switzerland for life saving heart surgery.

(«Le Matin» 9 March)

Although the club was not against attracting some attention for their action, it was the pleasure to make someone very happy why they accepted. "We were truly very touched by his story," explained the club's president, Jean-François Collet, "and because we could make his dream come true we didn't hesitate."

*"We could make his dream come true so we didn't hesitate"*

It will be a happy, satisfied and healthy Modeste that will be leaving Switzerland next week. "I am looking forward to seeing my family and my friends," he said, "and I'll be able to tell them all the things I've done here." The snow he's touched, his first sledge ride and even a go at golf and ping-pong.

Modeste's every day life for three months has been spent with Nadia, he affectionately calls her Tata. He has felt totally at home. "He does four hours of homework a day and in the evenings he likes to watch the telly because they don't have it in Burkina," explains Nadia. "He's also tried a few of the local specialities." But Modeste knows what he wants, not fondue! Chocolate however..., and to lead a normal life.

Luckily he can take it, because he was extremely thin before the operation and needed to gain weight. He has already put on 7 kilos, and will soon be back to average for his age. Even if he has to rest at times he can still live normally. Obviously he will have to be followed by a cardiologist in Burkina. “ He will be able to go back to school,” adds Nadia. “It’s important because he has already missed a lot of years.” What about the holidays? In Switzerland of course with Tata Nadia. “I’m going to miss her a lot, doctor Goy too.” They obviously feel the same. It’s difficult to imagine otherwise who wouldn’t miss Modeste with his enthusiasm and charming smile.

Anne Hemmeranne Hemmer © Le Matin



Modeste has refound his smile after the operation.

#### **How did Modeste’s operation go?**

Perfectly well. Better was not possible and he recovered extremely quickly.

#### **Will there be any others?**

There have already been twelve others. All of them, like Modeste, have returned home in good health. I have just received documents for two Senegalese youngsters and I’m organising their stay at the moment but I would like to do much more.

***“I would like  
to be able  
to do more”***

#### **What projects do you have?**

I am improving the structure of what I do already. I would like to bring to Switzerland about twenty patients a year. The key is obviously money. For a few children we can find an arrangement but one or two patients a month...I am already looking for donations but I’m convinced that I will make it.

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## *Annexes*

Copy of the foundation's status

Declaration of the commercial register

Latest annual report

Draft action plan

Results of supported actions

Bank details





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