



PRINCESS CHARLENE OF
MONACO FOUNDATION

Press Release
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The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation continues its activities

The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation works continuously across the world in order to raise awareness of the dangers of water and the importance of teaching children to swim.

Since its inception, Morocco, South Africa, Canada, the U.S.A. and France have all benefitted from the programmes set up by the Foundation.

In India, the “Swim N Survive” programme, run by the Rashtriya Life Saving Society India (RLSSI), is already operating in three States. The Foundation is financing a fourth programme in the State of Maharashtra in the western region of India. Two thousand and sixty children, from 5 to 14 years old, living in the shantytowns and poorest districts of Pune, are receiving swimming lessons and the programme will continue until 31 March 2015. At the beginning of the new school term in early July, a portable swimming pool was installed in a neighbourhood which had no such infrastructures.



Portable swimming pool (RLSSI programme, Bangalore)
© Rashtriya Life Saving Society India

According to the Indian Ministry of Statistics, there were 106,000 deaths by drowning in 2012; 80% of the victims were under 18 years of age.

In Greece, the “Learn to Swim” programme is operated by the Hellenic Center for Disease Control (HCDC) under the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Defence. Practical and theoretical “Water Safety” courses are organised for the children of military personnel during the holidays. The Foundation has contributed to the purchasing of lifejackets, mannequins, ropes, etc. The lessons are given by HCDC instructors.

Four thousand children – between 5 and 17 years old – will take part in these operations in Athens and Corinth before the end of the summer.



Water Safety – Prevent Drowning - Greece
© Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation

In France, during the first six months of 2014, four towns have been helped by the Foundation in collaboration with the Fédération Française de Sauvetage et de Secourisme (French Swimming/Lifesaving Federation): Capbreton, Montpellier, Dinard and Rennes. Three hundred and fifty disadvantaged children have taken part in the “Learn to Swim” activities.

To complete this session and in collaboration with the Association des Secouristes de la Côte d’Emeraude (lifesaving association), the town of Dinard organised a “Water Safety Day” on 22 June. Some 100 children took part in activities in the pool and the ocean.



Water Safety – Prevent Drowning – Dinard
© ASCE

The Comité Côte d’Azur de la Fédération Française de Natation (FFN) — the French Swimming Federation on the Riviera, the town of La Turbie and the Foundation joined forces to teach children to swim and to enjoy water without risking their lives.

On 26 June, 143 schoolchildren from La Turbie, who took part in the training programme, met Olympic champion Alain Bernard, the regional FFN ambassador.

The “Learn to Swim” programme continues for the general public until 31 August at the municipal pool in La Turbie. The lessons are free and take place from Tuesday to Saturday, 09:00 to 10:30. Reservations: 06 89 70 68 18 or at the pool, Route de la Tête de Chien.



Alain Bernard at La Turbie
© Ville de La Turbie – N. Berro

The Foundation is also sponsoring the “Cap ô pas Cap” project scheduled for January 2015. This challenge involves four female lifesaving/surfing champions who will cross from Cape Horn (Chile) to Antarctica on a paddleboard... powered by their arms only.

This global project combines a sports approach, educational missions and scientific input with a common goal... to protect our planet’s water.

The first test crossing between Lucciana (Corsica) and Monaco took place at the end of June. This full-scale experiment enabled the participants to evaluate the equipment and to work on team building during a crossing that looked easy but was in fact highly technical.

Many new projects – worldwide and in Monaco – are planned for Autumn 2014. The Centre de Sauvetage aquatique (lifesaving centre) will be inaugurated on Larvotto Beach. Under the leadership of Pierre Frolla – one of the Foundation’s ambassadors – and in collaboration with the Direction de l’Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports de Monaco (Department of Education, Youth and Sports), this centre’s aim is to teach first aid to children, and to make them aware of the rules and actions to be taken when faced with an accident at sea or other aquatic environments. The children receive First Aid Certificates. This training will be available for schoolchildren in the Principality’s ‘classes de 5ème’ (second year of junior high) in addition to the swimming classes already included in the school curriculum. Courses will also be organised for a wider public during the school holidays.

Finally, it is worth reminding ourselves of a few basic rules to avoid turning a marvellous holiday into a terrible tragedy: Never leave a child alone near a swimming pool or any other water, do not enter water immediately after eating, respect warning flags and signs, turn onto your back if you have fallen into water and do not swim during a storm.

Teaching children preventive measures reduces the risk of drowning and gives them a sense of responsibility. The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation offers this and much more.

Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation
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