

## Reve Kandale, with help from Global Mission, Realizes Dream for Congo

Reve Kandale Foundation, a Bethesda, Md.-based nonprofit organization that received a \$5,000 global mission grant this year through its partnership with Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, is well on its way to reaching its goal of erecting new school buildings in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The grant was part of Reve's first major fundraising campaign since its founding in 2016 and helped the organization purchase a brick-making machine to benefit the community of Kandale, located 700 kilometers from Kinshasa, the DRC capital.

"Our vision is that every child in Kandale attains the right to quality formal and non-formal education and develops his or her full potential," says Colette Ramm, a founding board member of Reve Kandale Foundation and a parishioner at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church. Colette was born and raised in Kandale.



The name of the organization carries a great deal of significance. **Reve is the French word for "dream" and it also is a French acronym that translates into rehabilitation of green space and schools. In addition to education, Reve also focuses on reforestation as a means of protecting the environment.**

Although Reve Kandale Foundation incorporated only a year ago, Colette and her husband, Greg Ramm, have been helping the Kandale community on an informal basis since 2010.



They have raised funds and donations of goods sufficient to build a classroom block for the elementary school in Kandale and have supported the planting of more than 3,000 fruit-bearing and medicinal trees. "We work closely with the church and the community, and they really want Kandale to improve and to develop and to have schools, so they're very, very involved," Colette says.

Colette's organization has purchased a brick-making machine from Belgium, and Colette expects to help deliver it to Kandale when she visits in October.

There are two priority projects that are expected to get underway soon: the building of an assembly hall that will, among other things, serve as a venue for the state exams taken by students in and around Kandale; and construction of a dormitory that will enable girls from surrounding villages to remain in school all the way through the secondary level. Kandale has the only girls secondary school in the area and attracts girls from a wide area who need lodging.



Reve Kandale Foundation is in the process of determining its development strategy over the next several years, a collaborative effort between the board in Maryland and members of the Kandale community in the DRC.

"The board members and all the people in Kandale really appreciate the global mission grant since we could not have achieved our goal of purchasing the brick-making machine without it," says Colette.