

Saint-Jean France

2021 highlights

The best-known activity of the French Enterprise is the management of hostels that welcome and house families of hospital in-patients and people who are going into the hospital for a procedure or have just been discharged and want to stay close to medical help, but it is not the only one: Saint-Jean France also has an international activity with Saint-Jean Suisse in Madagascar. Saint-Jean France also runs a program to provide mentor services for young people from underprivileged backgrounds in order to help them through their first years in University

The hostel activity

Despite the sequels of the pandemic, in 2021 all the hostels remained open for the full year and development continued: Saint-Jean France now offers families of patients and out-patients 123 rooms and 234 beds in five hostels in and around Paris and four more linked to the university hospitals of Nantes, Bordeaux, Lyons and, last, Montpellier where a new hostel associated with the Cancer Institute was opened in July.

The pandemic had an adverse effect on the number of bed-nights that dropped by almost 30% in 2020 compared to 2019. In 2021 occupancy improved especially in the fourth quarter in line with the gradual resumption of the non-covid activities of hospitals, but occupancy was not back to pre-pandemic levels. 2022 should see a return to normal.

It is really thanks to the dedication of the Saint-Jean France staff and volunteers that the hostels were able to continue running through those two difficult years.

Diabetes medical centre and clinic in Madagascar

Saint-Jean France and Saint-Jean Suisse support a medical centre for the treatment of diabetes run by AMADIA (Association Malgache du Diabète), a Malagasy organisation of medical doctors in Antananarivo, and a day clinic with mobile antennae at Andranovelona, a two-hour drive north of the capital.

The COVID pandemic combined with poor crops badly affected the population over the last two years. Saint-Jean provides support by supplying medication, equipment and financing meals for patients and their families.

One of the consequences of the pandemic was a fall in the number of patients treated in the clinic: in 2020, it received and treated half the number of patients compared to 2019. The numbers stabilised in 2021, a year during which it held 4,400 medical appointments for patients, over 800 appointments for the follow-up of pregnancies and practiced 150 births.

Madagascar is going through such a difficult time that Saint-Jean France and Saint-Jean Suisse are considering an increase in their support to the centre and clinic in 2022.

Mentoring program

This activity was set up over ten years ago with volunteer mentors helped by educational professionals that also provide guidance on a volunteer basis. The students that join the program are followed by a mentor during the first two years of their university curriculum. The objective while helping them cope with the change in teaching and learning methods from secondary school university, is also the help them bridge the cultural gap they have with student that come from more privileged backgrounds: visiting museums, going to the theatre, visiting businesses to witness work in the real world are part of the program. The pandemic has slowed down this activity, but it is now being relaunched.