

Tapori newsletter

Tapori is a worldwide friendship network which brings together children from different backgrounds who want all children to have the same chances. They learn from children whose everyday life is very different from theirs. They think and act for a fairer world by inventing a way of living where no one is left behind.



No. 434

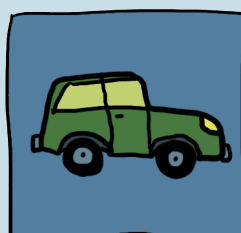
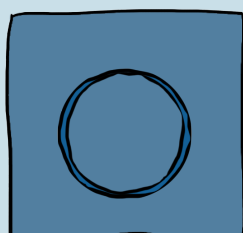
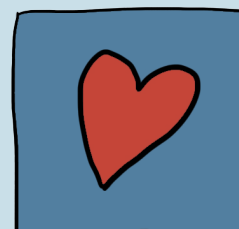
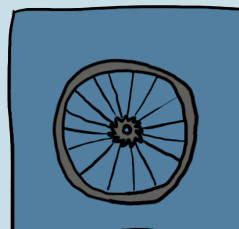
September - October 2021

Searching for our human treasures

Hello dear Tapori,

Tapori is starting a new campaign: "In search of our human treasures". Throughout a year 6 letters, will be sent to you proposing activities to reflect on people and relationships which are important to be able to grow up well. All of these human treasures will be gathered together and shared throughout the world. In this first letter, we invite you to find out what a treasure is for you and to discuss together how it can be kept, safely.

Are you ready for a great adventure? Go in search of our human treasures!



Address:
12, Rue Pasteur - 95480 Pierrelaye - France

Mail:
tapori@tapori.org

Website:
en.tapori.org

The Guardian of our Treasures

Dear Tapori,

My name is Celestine, but everyone calls me Mother Celestine. I live in the Kaarpala district of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. I am a hundred years and a few months old, which makes me the oldest person in my community.

I would like to tell you why the Tapori children in the Zoodo group (Zoodo means friendship in Moré) have chosen me to look after the treasures which they will collect throughout this campaign.

All through my life, I have looked after children. My husband and I had eleven children. When there are many children in a house they bring a lot of happiness, but life can still be a struggle.

I was a child in a poor family myself. As a young girl, I worked to help my family. With my mother, I learnt to make Sumbala, a spice made from nere seeds. I also used to weave traditional loincloths. Later on, I had to leave my village, Manga, and walked all the way to the capital, Ouagadougou, to sell shea butter and peanuts.

That is where I met my husband and where our children were born. One day, one of them became seriously ill and had to be taken to hospital.

During this difficult time, I met a group of people who visited sick people in hospital. I felt I could trust them and over time, I told them my story. They listened to me. That's how they suggested that I take care of children who were ill. I accepted because I understood that everyone's life is important. Since then, whenever a child is in hospital, I am the one who looks after them.

Today, the Tapori children meet in my yard every week. I like to tell them about my life. I give them advice, because I don't want them to go through the same things that I did.

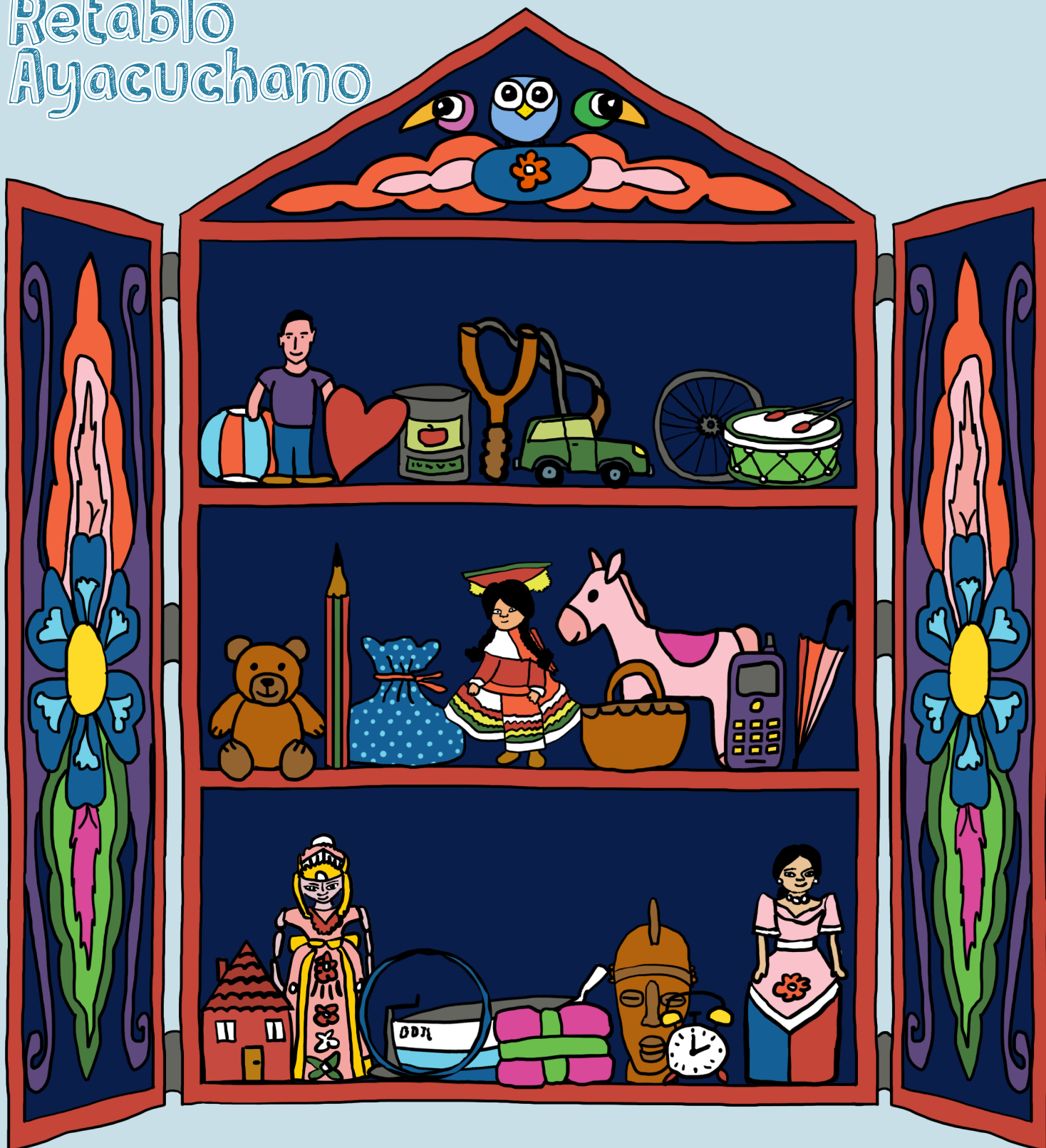
Throughout the year, the children will entrust their discoveries and their creations to me. It will be an honour for me to look after these treasures. I will take great care of them, because a community's wealth is in its human treasures!



What is Mother Celestine doing today?

Despite her advanced age, Mother Celestine is still actively involved in the life of her community. She is still taking care of children, helping young mothers take care of their newborn babies. She also works very hard: she collects wood to sell later. Without this service, people would have to travel far to get it. As an elder, she is invited to give blessings at gatherings. She is also known to restore peace when people are fighting. She mediates by giving advice and invites people to forgive one another. She even gets young people to pick up rubbish which is discarded on the streets.

Retablo Ayacuchano



Do you know about 'retablos'. They are works of art created by Peruvian craft people (craftworkers). They are rectangular boxes, decorated with floral designs, with two doors.

Inside, small figurines illustrate important moments in the life of a family, such as a wedding, the birth of a first child or the acquisition of a house. The 'retablos' also tell the history of the community and illustrate traditional scenes: bullfights, cockfights, festivals, dances and agricultural work...

One only has to admire the composition of these works to understand that the Peruvian craftsmen are true storytellers. The techniques and materials vary and are passed on from generation to generation, becoming authentic family traditions.

Throughout the campaign, the children of Cusco, Peru, will keep their treasures in a 'retablo'. They know that in this way, the wealth of their family and community will always be safe!