

New president ECCE from January 1st2015

Mrs Béatrice Cussac de Verteuil



My link to ECCE is my daughter Anne-Charlotte, very recently 33 years old.

Anne-Charlotte was born nearly two years after her brother Charles-Henri. She did not develop mentally and physically like other children and it became clear, when she was 6 or 7 years old, that an ordinary school was not appropriate for her. After many researches I discovered Les Fontenottes, 130 Km south of Paris. As soon as I arrived there and had a meeting with the director, it was evident to me, in spite of the distance, that it was the right place for her... and it was an institution with curative education. By chance Les Fontenottes admitted her. She stayed there from the age of 8 to 14 (age limit) and then, in 1995, she went to Les Allagouttes, another curative education institution where children can stay until they are 20-25 years old. She improved so much in many ways when she was in Les Fontenottes and Les Allagouttes that I decided to know more about that pedagogy.

After Anne-Charlotte left Les Fontenottes, my husband and I became board members of this initiative (he is now the president). In 1999, a board meeting of ECCE was organised in Les Fontenottes. Some me parents were invited to come and meet and we were told that a French parents association was required. We decided to thank and support the professionals by foundation of a parents association. I became the president and I still am of this very small association, Les Ravis, who tries to survive with many difficulties (no parents interested...).

More recently, another initiative practicing curative education very near Paris (IPC de Chatou) asked me to become the president in a difficult moment. I accepted this new task for the same reason that I accepted the others: this education gave so much to my daughter that I want other children and people to experience it. Now we are about to merge IPC, Les Fontenottes and an initiative for adults (Ruzière). My husband is the president of this new structure (in spite of the fact that he is a very busy lawyer and not interested in retiring), and I am a board member.

Les Ravis became a member of ECCE in 2000. A few years later I became a member of the board of ECCE. I now agree to take the succession of Adrienne as a president for several reasons: because I consider that it is important for ECCE to have a parent as a president; because I will retire from my job (I am responsible for the website, magazine... in a bank) in 2015 and I will have more time to give to ECCE; because I like to meet people from different countries and environments... With a great challenge: the English language.

Life is going on. I am 61 years old. Our son is married to a Korean girl and they have two marvellous children 8 and 6 years old (a third one is coming). There are very few places experiencing social therapy in France and my daughter could not have a place in one of them so she is in another facility where she lives and works. She is happy there, she has a boyfriend... but I am missing the very special environment of places inspired by Rudolf Steiner. I know very little about him, his philosophy and his work, but I like to know more about it and I will do my best so the pedagogy inspired by him can still (and more and more if possible) be proposed to disabled children and adults in Europe.

Béatrice Cussac de Verteuil