Technologies, Gender Equality, Valorisation of children, Education, this is Danielle's world!

Danielle is an engineer in computer science with 10 years of experience in education and development. Today, she is the founder and CEO of Genius Muna, a start-up with a mission to teach computer engineering, robotics, and entrepreneurship to children through www.geniuselab.com.

Danielle has been recognised for the following:

• 2019 : Motivational speaker at Unesco France for girls' empowerment. Laureate Cameroon of Women In Africa. Among the 4 Cameroon winners of the Pitch Hub Africa. Jury member of the Total Start-upers Cameroon competition.

• 2018 : Parliamentary group member responsible for drafting digital economic laws and regularisations in Cameroon.

• 2017 : Among five Cameroon winners for Techwomen 2017, a US government program selecting only the top 4% of tech women in emerging countries. A six weeks US Internship and Mentoring program electing women in tech from Cameroon.

• 2016 : #eSkills4Girls, a program that represents Cameroon at a summit promoting code learning. organizations that promote code learning for children. A Career Girls Role Model, selected for a video shoot to inspire young girls www.careergirls.org/role-model/tech-ceo-3-2/

• 2014 : Selected to be apart of a Google Developers Group, particularly to represent the community of Cameroon developers at a summit in the Silicon Valley

• 2013 : Selected to be a part of Jcertif, a program designed to inspire women of the Congo to engage with the field of technology.

Genius Muna

Genius Muna is a Start Up that develops creativity and leadership of girls and boys through introductory various workshops: computer engineering, design, robotics, and entrepreneurship. These programs are offered through an e-learning platform available even in the absence of internet.

It's vision?
Reduce the digital divide between various children and social classes and create true TechMakers, who create solutions that meet the needs of their environment.

Its mission is to offer playful, high level training at a low cost, thanks to the magic of e-learning. Thanks to it's magic, all children, no matter social class, can compete in the tech market and offers these children an interactive network of young developers.

GENIUS MUNA

hirondelle de l'avenir

Community Multimedia Centers in Benin by Hirondelle de l'Avenir and Genius Muna

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Sophie Thouvenel, Co-founder of Hirondelle de l'Avenir

Founder of Hirondelle de l'Avenir-France

The "Hirondelle de l'Avenir" NGO is first and foremost the story of an encounter between Sophie Thouvenel, an environmental student in Paris in the 2000s, and Romaric Tchokpon a young Beninese at the origin of the project.

A common vision and passion led them to create Hirondelle de l'Avenir Benin. Romaric therefore became the President of the organization in Benin, and their friend Rodrigue became the Secretary General. As for Sophie, she coordinated the actions in France.

For two years, nearly 25 French volunteers worked in the field, and various environmental, health and social projects were launched. Everything ran perfectly, but the group felt like doing more. They then decided to launch a larger social project by creating the sponsorship of children in the villages.

That's when Sophie decided to create Hirondelle de l'Avenir France.

Since 2008, the establishment of the French branch allows for fundraisings in France as to finance the sponsorship of 500 children in Benin and developmental programs to ensure a more autonomous future for the generations.

Hirondelle de l'Avenir's mission is to meet the vital needs of these children (health, nutrition, water and a healthy environment), to protect them from all forms of exploitation and violence, and to provide them with quality education. This approach seeks to liberate the next generation of young digital innovators at a time when the demand for digitisation in the health, education and other sectors is increasing.

By preparing young people for careers in the technology and innovation field in Africa, we are developing their creativity and leadership through computer and robotics in rural areas where they can access the program for free.

How did the idea of a partnership come about between Genius Muna and Hirondelle de l'Avenir?

A wonderful partnership was born from two passionate women meeting, Sophie Thouvenel, founder of Hirondelle de l'Avenir and Danielle Akini, founder of Genius Muna. At the WIA (Woman for Africa) meeting, these two women decided to create 8 multimedia centers in Benin to allow the 500 children sponsored by Hirondelle de l'Avenir to develop their leadership and creativity through computer learning and robotics.

This project is pertinent to children living through this technological revolution; as the mastery of computer code, artificial intelligence, and robotics become necessary skills to stay competitive and create an autonomous socio and economic future.
Many have understood this, which is why many children are introduced to these skills from an early age.

What about children living in rural areas where their parents are illiterate?
We will create eight multimedia centers located in rural areas, where children can have frequent and easy access to training in the following subjects : the creation of mobile applications, robots, artificial intelligence and general tech skills.

Social Feedback

The children benefit from a personalised regular follow-up. Training courses are delivered by professionals in e-learning.
The gap is still big between women and men in the tech environment. Hence, the program will represent at least 50% of girls.
Our goal is to create a business incubator.

How it works?

To access the center children will be tested on motivation and imagination. Those that get accepted will be allowed to attend the program during the school year for free. After the first year of the program, a further exam is provided where those, who score 50% better than when they started, will be allowed to stay on and the other half will give their space so that others can participate.