

# FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO



November 26, 2005

Dear Friend of Burkina Faso,

At the turn of the century five years ago, the United Nations issued the Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015. Worthy though this objective is, most people are skeptical about the success of realizing this goal, fearing inadequate commitment and action.

Global summits designed to alleviate poverty and promote development in developing countries are often not successful in achieving their stated objectives, according to speakers of a special National Public Radio program focused on globalization and poverty held in May in Washington D.C. Panelist Bill Easterly, former lead economist at the World Bank, explained why follow-through is likely not be sufficient: The problem with proclamations, such as the Millennium Declaration, is that the whole world is responsible for achieving grandiose goals, yet no one is held accountable should these goals not be met.

I found Bill Easterly's explanation to be right on the mark. Interestingly, Bill provided an example of what individuals could do to help make a difference: send young girls to school. His message will surely resonates with our members, given FBF's successful partnership experience with NEEED in promoting girls' education in the Yatenga region.

## **FBF Projects' accomplishments this year**

- In 2005, FBF supported NEEED's *mouton ecole* program, enabling 200 young girls to embark upon a six-year primary educational program with the possibility of a 4-year secondary-school extension should they earn superior grades.
- FBF provided financial support (in partnership with other organizations) for the construction of the *Collège Moderne de l'Amitié* for girls whom NEEED has sent to primary school.
- FBF funded a partnership between the *Bureau des Artisans* and Peace Corps Burkina (BA/PC) focused on small enterprise development. Mike O'Sullivan's BA/PC summary report in the most recent edition of our newsletter, *The Burkina Connection*, describes successes, challenges, and the institutional-building process of this initiative. Seven workshops imparted skills to villagers in small engine repair and in the manufacturing and marketing of soap and soubala.

## Looking forward to 2006

- The FBF Projects Committee is currently reviewing several proposals focused on gardening and small enterprise development and is in the process of interacting with potential grantees. We hope to be able to fund these programs this year.
- We would also like to continue to support the NEEED “mouton école” project. This project provides a pathway for many young girls to obtain a primary school education. It also provides them with the opportunity to secure a 6-year secondary school education.

Those of us who have served in and/or know of Burkina can do more than agree with ambitious declarations of world leaders and organizations. With your generous contribution to FBF projects, we can make a real difference by supporting people’s empowerment at the local level.

Tom Vollrath  
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

P.S. If you have a question, idea, or willingness to participate in FBF Project work, please contact me or any Committee member. We welcome your talents, energies, and interests!

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Please complete and return this form to:

**John Dickey  
FBF Treasurer  
2622 Grambling Court  
Davis, CA 95616**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution to support projects in Burkina is enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Of this contribution, I would like to designate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to lamb’s certificates that I have sent to family and friends.

**Make all checks payable to FBF. Thanks for your support!**

*Friends of Burkina Faso is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.*