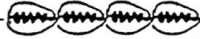




FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

LES AMIS DU BURKINA FASO



11/11/2008

Dear Friends of Burkina Faso,

“The development-aid business is a shambles.” This was the conclusion of 1,200 delegates attending the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that met in Accra this past September. The meeting was the first conference following a 2005 Paris accord to make aid more effective. Representatives from approximately 100 countries, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations attended the September 2008 conference. One major problem identified in Accra was that many aid programs do not place sufficient emphasis on strengthening indigenous capacity. Donors regularly use their own experts to conceive and implement development projects rather than empower local people to assume these roles. The importance of building local capacity is often forgotten.

The Friends of Burkina Faso places a high priority on building institutional capacity in our support of community-based initiatives that both possess potential for promoting sustainable development and are initiated and managed by Burkinabé.

FBF Projects received 13 inquiries about project funding in Burkina Faso this past year, some of which we hope to be able to support in the future. Five were funded, including 1) the recently sanctioned Moringa project in Ténado that targets affordable means to improve nutrition through a drought-resistant “miracle plant,” 2) the purchase of books for a community library in Niankorodougou, 3) construction of additional classrooms at the Collège Modern de l’Amitié, 4) provision of school lunches for 400 students attending this girls’ middle school in Ouahigouya, and 5) initial support of an additional 300 young girls entering 37 rural primary schools in the Tangaye and Oula Departments through our *Lambs for School* project. Members of the FBF Projects Committee spent considerable time evaluating, monitoring, and communicating with those soliciting our assistance. You can read about our projects in *The Burkina Connection*, the FBF newsletter, which comes out twice a year. With your support, we hope to be able to support additional projects in 2009.

In addition we have received feedback from Omigbéfitè and Besazuli Sulu, two innovative projects that we funded last year. As you may recall, Omigbéfitè, prior to its partnership with FBF, supported six to eight orphans providing them with food, housing, and educational opportunities. (See page 4 of 2008 issue, No. 1 issue of *The Burkina Connection*, <http://fbf.tamu.edu/connection.html>). FBF funding helped the group launch

an integrated farming operation designed to augment the group's income and to increase its capacity to care for more children. Project-manager Bob Coffey visited Loropeni earlier this fall. Bob reports that the folks at Omigbéfitè were able to sponsor 14 orphans this past year, thanks to the increased farm earnings. The organization aims to support 28 orphans this next year. Anastasia Hopkinson, FBF project manager of Besazuli Sulu--the theatre group which increases HIV/AIDS awareness and promotes health education via public stage productions--reports that the annual report of the group's activities and accomplishments will be forthcoming shortly following the harvest season. Lacina Bakoan, the third-party overseer of this project in the field, informs FBF that the annual report of the theatre group's activities and accomplishments will be forthcoming shortly following the harvest season.

Friends of Burkina Faso expects our annual fundraising campaign to be particularly challenging this year. We, nevertheless, remain optimistic about what FBF Projects can achieve in 2009. Given the financial crisis and uncertainties about the U.S. economy, your financial contribution to FBF Projects is more important than ever. We, therefore, ask once again for your generous support--either via a monetary, tax-deductible donation and/or a generous gift of your time and expertise helping our outreach program be successful. (If you would like to become involved with FBF Projects, do let us know).

Sincerely,

Tom Vollrath
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

P.S. This holiday season is an especially good time to make tax-deductible financial contributions to FBF Projects through GlobalGiving to support one of our projects showcased on their website. **Due to a unique fundraising challenge in which FBF is participating, donations received before December 15th, 2008 can be leveraged, enabling us to gain additional capital for one of our projects, the *Noon-Meals-Improves-Girls'-Learning* project.**

Because of FBF's work promoting child education and our affiliation with GlobalGiving, we have been invited to participate in a challenge funded by the Kellogg Foundation. **The noon-lunch project will receive \$2,500 from Kellogg if we can generate 50 or more donations and raise a minimum of \$5,000 by December 15, 2008.** To participate in this challenge, simply go to <http://www.globalgiving.com/pr/1400/proj1349a.html>. But please remember to do so by December 15 to enhance our chances of securing the additional \$2,500! (FBF could reap additional awards from the Kellogg Foundation: A bonus prize of \$15,000 will be given to the project with the most number of unique donors and \$10,000 will be given for the project gaining the greatest amount of donations).

We also encourage contributions to our outreach program be sent directly to FBF via our Treasurer, Suzanne Plopper. The primary advantage of choosing this route is that it gives our Projects Committee maximum flexibility to allocate resources projects in ways that it deems most beneficial. A disadvantage, of course, is that the selection of this direct route lowers the probability that FBF will meet the Kellogg challenge.

Whatever way you choose to support FBF Projects will be much appreciated!