



# FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

## ANNUAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN



Dear Friends,

November 2013

This year, FBF wired funds both *conditionally* and *unconditionally* to approved projects. Experts say this about both approaches: *Conditional cash transfers* (CCTs) work best when problems go beyond a mere shortage of cash and address root causes of poverty, for example, the need to change attitudes, perceptions, and behavior. The main argument for *unconditional cash transfers* (UCTs) is that poor people are often best equipped to decide what to do with cash—which they lack because of the absence of money and/or available credit.

An example of our use of the UCT approach occurred when FBF wired funds earlier this year to bolster the computer program at the *Lycée Provinciale à Koudougou* (LPK). FBF's previous support of this project has proved to be an excellent investment. (See articles in the last two issues of our newsletter, the *Burkina Connection*). The project has generated much excitement among students, faculty, and government officials. Moreover, the LPK administration has strongly endorsed expansion of the program. IT class enrollment classes more than doubled this year, increasing from 109 to 240 students. Two instructors, rather than one, are now teaching IT classes.

The computer-management team at LPK informed FBF of the need for high-speed internet connectivity. The school's existing infrastructure had proven to be very constraining. For example, the system allowed no more than 4 to 6 students to use the internet at one time, creating major challenges teaching IT classes. It also has severely limited the ability of users to cruise the net and conduct meaningful research. This summer, FBF was informed that the LPK administration and the LPK Parent Teachers Association were willing to assume responsibility for monthly internet connectivity charges by service provider ONATEL—provided that a more powerful structure were to be installed. Given this articulated need, FBF was willing to wire additional funds unconditionally to LPK. This transfer pays for the installation of a high-speed ADSL line that will improve the speed and stability of internet connectivity before the end of the year.

FBF transfers funds conditionally when we wire money to support girls' education programs in the Yatenga. One example is the "Lambs for School" project. The girls selected to enter primary school under this program were effectively "conditioned" by the contracts made between each participating family with our *Burkinabé* partner, *Association Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education et Développement* (NEEED). In exchange for providing school supplies and a lamb to entering students, NEEED received commitments by each household head to: 1) raise the lamb received until it could be sold (upon maturity during the annual *Tabaski* festival); and 2) use the proceeds from this sale to purchase another lamb for the family to raise as well as school materials needed for the subsequent academic year. In this manner, the program has become financially self-sustaining. This program has enabled more than 3,000 village girls to enter primary school in northern Burkina. Importantly, it has also increased awareness of the importance of girls' education in rural villages.

Rest assured that whatever contributions you make to FBF Projects will generate excellent returns in Burkina Faso. So, please do consider supporting our program. Your donations, which are tax-deductible, will enable us to continue to promote community-initiated development projects in 2014!

Many thanks, in advance, for your generous support!

Cordially,

Tom

Tom Vollrath  
Chair, FBF Projects Committee



*There are now three ways to make contributions in support of FBF Projects:*

*1. Do so directly by using the attached contribution form.*

*2. You can also use our PayPal facility by going to:*

<http://fbf.tamu.edu/donations.php>

*and clicking one of the “donate” buttons.*

*3. A third way is to make donations to the specific FBF projects that are on the GlobalGiving website:*

<http://www.globalgiving.org/dy/v2/content/search.html?q=burkina+Faso>

*These include the girls’ educational programs and our new rainwater catchment basin initiative.*

*Your \$15 annual membership fee covers FBF’s operating costs. And thank you, members, for keeping your membership fees up to date.*

