



FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

ANNUAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN



Dear Friends,

November 2016

Your donations and support for FBF-approved projects during our annual 2016 Fall Fundraising Campaign is a great way to generate goodwill, enhance cross-cultural communication, and make a difference in the lives of Burkinabe, while expressing appreciation for a country that has touched many of us who have had the privilege to get to know its people.

Here is a brief summary of two new initiatives that the Friends of Burkina Faso would like to be able to support in 2017.

AIVPDL's agricultural project in South-Central Burkina Faso

Both the FBF Board of Directors and the Project Committee are keenly interested in supporting an agricultural extension project submitted by a group of eight recently retired professionals who wish to "give back" to their communities. These retirees wish to share their accumulated expertise with smallholder farmers in the Zoundwéogo province. The principle objective of the project is to provide 375 smallholders, 200 of whom are illiterate, with improved seed and to educate them about crop management practices that can increase yields of rice, cowpeas, maize and soybeans using technologies that are within their reach.

Patrice Yameogo is the leader of this group of retired professionals--called *Association: Initiatives pour la Valorisation Durable du Potentiel Local* or AIVPDL (*Association: Initiatives for Sustainable Enhancement of Local Potential*). Interestingly, Patrice was Leslie Berger's counterpart during her 1981-83 service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kalbo.

Leslie, Desire, Mead, and I have evaluated the AIVPDL proposal. Leslie is taking the lead communicating with Patrice. Desire has identified two Burkinabe (Lisa Niebe and Gisele Tapsoba) to facilitate communication and oversee developments in the field should FBF support this initiative.

On October 29th, after receiving a revised AIVPDL proposal that addressed three rounds of questions and answers about the proposal, the Project Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve this initiative, contingent upon the availability of FBF resources, the willingness of AIVPDL to establish relationships with third parties that we have identified, and its commitment to provide an intermediate and final report to FBF.

Tigoung Nonma cooperative for the physically disabled

Tigoung Nonma (TN) is a cooperative for disabled persons in Ouagadougou. It operates two primary income-generating activities: handicrafts and a catering service. Artisans with physical disabilities make and sell jewelry, baskets, textile products, ceramics and sculptures. Other members living with disabilities operate a catering service that prepares and delivers meals to clients living in or near Ouagadougou. These revenue

activities enable individuals belonging to the TN community to become autonomous and to participate in the socio-economic development of their country.

FBF is interested in providing additional support to TN. The unstable socio-political situation in Burkina Faso during the last two years has created major challenges for the cooperative. Craft sales fell markedly due to the decline in tourist traffic. International Service (IS) withdrew its British volunteers because of safety concerns.

Nevertheless, Zoenabou Savadogo (TN president), her management team, and its members remain firmly committed to becoming self-sufficient and productive members of society. They believe that building a workshop for its physically disabled artisans and members is vitally important to the achievement of this goal. In an effort to bolster its finances under trying circumstances, TN recently established a new income-generating activity for its catering services, namely the sale of millet, soya, *bissap* (hibiscus flower drink), tamarind fruit and maize/corn.

TN has benefited from its relationships with both the Friends of Burkina Faso and a UK organization of ex-IS volunteers, called *Lasting Action For Inclusion* (LAFI). Two years ago, FBF helped TN launch its project on the [GlobalGiving](#) website. LAFI, under the leadership of Alice McGonnell, reached out to its member network in numerous ways this past year and actively generated financial support for TN.

The TN, FBF, and LAFI teams frequently communicate with each other in an effort to enable the cooperative to attain its overarching objective to become financially independent. The results of this collaborative effort are heartening. This summer, GlobalGiving awarded the TN project its Superstar status. In October, the project reached its targeted objective (i.e., \$17,500) established on the GG website, largely due to a surge in donations from former British volunteers who had rendered service to TN.

The TN leadership recently met with several government officials, including the Director of the Promotion and the Protection of Disabled People, and received encouragement that the GOBF may provide it with a subsidy to defray the cost of purchasing a plot of land. Faissal Ouedraogo, current president of FBF, has signed a letter of recommendation that will strengthen the probability that the cooperative will, in fact, receive a government subsidy. The Tigoung Nonma cooperative is highly valued by its members as it provides them with the means to earn a small income and it gives their lives a purpose.

There are two ways that you can contribute to our Fall Fundraising Campaign: One is to make a financial donation to the FBF-approved project on the GlobalGiving website, namely for [Association NEEED's girls' scholarships](#). Another is to either complete the enclosed donation form and send it to our treasurer or simply click the [donate button](#) on our website. Choosing the *unrestricted FBF Projects Fund* option gives the Committee and the Board the flexibility to support projects that it views as generating high returns per investment dollar.

Very best wishes during the 2016 holiday period!


Tom Vollarath
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

P.S. Remember, both FBF and GG are 501c3 nonprofit organizations, donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

