Reading Fever
A Big Success for the Niankorodougou Library

In December 2006, I arrived in the village of Niankorodougou, Burkina Faso to start my service as a Small Enterprise Development Volunteer with the Peace Corps. Shortly thereafter, I met with the director of the secondary school, Ouedraogo Mamadou, and several professors to discuss the community’s education-specific needs. Mr. Ouedraogo reported that the biggest problem for students is a want for books. Further meetings with local officials highlighted literacy and a lack of access to reading materials as a grave issue in the community as a whole.

Community leaders and instructors in the secondary school decided the best way to address this problem was to open a village library. As the community did not have any experience opening a library, my counterpart, Zongo Passo, researched organizations to work with. He met Leslie Gray, co-founder and member of the Board of Directors for Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL). Zongo gave me FAVL’s contact information and we went from there.

In the last quarter of 2007, the project “A Library and Literacy for Niankorodougou” commenced. The goal of the project is to promote equitable social development and productive literacy practices by providing materials and other educational opportunities to children, students and adults in Niankorodougou.

In March 2008, FAVL sent two representatives to Niankorodougou to meet with the 6-member village library committee under the direction of Ouattara Drissa, Mayor of Niankorodougou. Meetings focused on the logistics of opening and running a library, promoting library usage in the community, and the selection of a librarian. After interviewing three possible candidates, Ouattara Moussa was selected as librarian. Mr. Ouattara then attended a week-long librarian training with FAVL at another library in the village of Bereba.

continued on page 9
President’s YIRI

I am so excited to have this opportunity to reach out to all of you and bring you up to speed on a couple of things with FBF and Burkina Faso before the end of the year. Since reporting on FBF’s success in the America’s Giving Challenge last spring, even more great things are currently in the works for Burkina.

On July 14, 2008, Burkina became the 17th country to enter into a monumental compact with the United States via the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Burkina will receive $481 million over the next five years in order to make strategic investments in its own development in the areas of land security, agriculture, irrigation, roads and primary education.

The compact will involve a massive effort in a relatively short amount of time but the MCC compacts represent a new approach to how the U.S. provides foreign assistance – that is, to reduce poverty through economic growth working with countries, like Burkina, that have shown a sincere move towards implementing and practicing sound political, economic and social policies.

While Burkina is still in the early stages of implementation, this is a great moment for the country we cherish and we in FBF can count among our ranks at least three members that are part of the MCC effort. Guy Fipps (RPCV 1975-1977), our Technology Chair, recently served on an MCC assessment team to expand irrigation to the Sourou Valley; Geraldine Sicot (RPCV 2003-2006) served on the Burkina Transaction Team through the compact development and signing process, and continues to work for the MCC in Washington D.C.; and Molly Glenn Mbengue, a former Peace Corps Burkina Administrative Officer (2002-2005), was selected as the Deputy Resident Country Director.

I’d like to also take a moment to welcome to our Board of Directors, Dennis Haraszko (RPCV 2000-2002), our new Community Relations Chair. Unfortunately Caroline Chambre, our former Chair, had to resign due to unforeseen family circumstances earlier this summer. Dennis wholeheartedly jumped in to fill the gap and I know that he will bring fresh energy and dedication to this newly created role. In all of the past fundraising competitions FBF has participated in, Dennis has always taken my request to “spread the word” very seriously. Most notably, he set up a table in his cafeteria at Harvard, raising money for our Lambs for School Project, dubbing his campaign, “Youth, Ewes, and Education.” So please welcome Dennis – we are so happy to have you on our team!

Speaking of “spreading the word,” FBF is undertaking an effort to establish Points of Contact (POC) within each training group of RPCVs – along with anyone else who has a network of friends and colleagues with an interest in receiving announcements from the FBF.

We would like to reconnect with folks that we have lost contact with over the years, and ensure that this does not happen as often moving forward. Having POCs established will streamline and expand our ability to reach these folks. We promise not to “wear out our welcome” and overload you with requests. We believe that the POC network will improve our ability to keep folks connected to the good things happening within FBF and Burkina in general. Please see details on the back cover for how to become an FBF POC and thanks in advance for considering this request!

Best wishes for fall and the upcoming holiday season. Thank you as always for your support and well wishes for FBF’s continued success!

Kristie McComb, ’01-’03

by Kristie McComb, ’01-’03

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Best wishes for fall and the upcoming holiday season. Thank you as always for your support and well wishes for FBF’s continued success!
As I write this at the end of September, Burkina is very green after a great rainy season. We have all enjoyed the cooler weather; but, as the rains taper off, the heat is coming back. I am sure this is all too familiar to RPCVs, but it is new to me – as I only arrived at the beginning of March. I still have a ways to go to get through a full year cycle!

We currently have 97 PCVs in country. On August 29, Peace Corps Burkina swore in 28 Math, Science, and Girls Empowerment and Education (GEE) Volunteers, and new this year, IT teachers. We had a wonderful ceremony at Ambassador Jackson’s residence. On October 15, a new group of Health Education and Small Enterprise Development trainees will be arriving in country. They will be training in Ouahigouya and surrounding villages.

You may be aware that Peace Corps worldwide is facing budget cuts and, as a result, we expect fewer trainees next year. Our PCV numbers will drop down to about 90 over the next year or so.

There is a lot of discussion about the growing world food crisis, and we have been taking appropriate steps to help Burkina. In May, we held a workshop on the Hearth nutrition model, an approach based on the concept of positive deviance, for PCVs and their counterparts. In June, we hosted an exciting subregional Moringa workshop in Ouahigouya which was attended by more than 40 PCVs, staff and counterparts from Benin, Ghana, Niger, Togo, and Burkina Faso. The Moringa tree, originally from India, is considered a “miracle plant” because of its drought-resistant properties and nutritional value – it holds promise as one way to fight malnutrition in Burkina.

On June 17, there were demonstrations in Ouaga by university students with various academic grievances. Students blocked off roads, damaged buildings and cars, and threw buckets of stones and Molotov cocktails. Police used tear gas and arms fire (when tear gas was depleted). Fourteen police and 10 students were wounded, and 62 people were arrested.

As the event unfolded, we quickly notified PCVs and staff who were in Ouaga. Fortunately, the demonstrations lasted only a few hours and the following days were peaceful. The outbreaks were a reminder of the sometimes fragile security situation in Burkina.

In mid-July, the U.S. and Burkina Faso signed an agreement that will bring nearly half a billion dollars to Burkina in upcoming years through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Shortly thereafter, Kateri Clement, a former PC Country Director in Mali, arrived in Ouaga as the new MCC director. Her deputy is Molly Glenn Mbengue, former PC Administrative Officer in Burkina and, most recently, Senegal.

As recommended by the Volunteer Advisory Council and COSing PCVs, we are pursuing a long term project to preserve PCV Institutional Memory. One of many changes we have made includes an extensively revised PCV handbook. I personally spent many hours on the handbook, adding new sections and rewriting policies that were unclear. Perhaps the most significant change in this document is the addition of summarized “Volunteer and Staff Responsibilities.” For example, Point 20 of the staff responsibilities: “Our goal as staff is to inspire the Volunteers to achieve a higher level of personal and professional performance, and we will strive to achieve this in all aspects of our work.”

Remember the movie “Back to the Future” when Michel J. Fox, a teenager with pitiful parents, went back in time to when his parents were teenagers? Michael convinced his future father to stand up to a bully, and when Michael returned to the present, his parents were transformed into accomplished adults.

While it was a funny movie, it had an important point: Decisions we make today DO change the future, and I am sure that the efforts of PCVs, both past and future, make a positive difference in the future of Burkina – even if we don’t have a time machine to go back and forth to prove it!

That is the news from Ouagadougou! I am eager to work closely with the FBF and, if by chance you are in Burkina, please stop by my office and say hello. I want to hear your stories.

Sincerely,

Douglass Teschner
FBF Tribute to Jackson

The Friends of Burkina Faso would like to bid a sincere farewell to Ambassador Jeanine Jackson who will complete her Ambassadorship in Burkina as of March 2009. She has served as Ambassador to Burkina since March 2006. Ambassador Jackson visited many PCVs during her three years in Burkina, as demonstrated in the photos below. Thank you Ambassador Jackson for all you have done for Burkina and we wish you much success in your next endeavor!

Mary Kay Landis is a health volunteer in Sala. Mary Kay is “over 60,” and Ambassador Jackson and her husband greatly admire her determination, physical strength and ingenuity. In addition to a very active health care agenda, she has set up pen-pal relations between her village school students and a U.S. school.

Ambassador Jackson was proud to introduce Deputy Secretary of State for West Africa Todd Moss to PCV Manish Saxby, a Small Enterprise Development Volunteer near Fada. Manish initiated loan programs for farmers and livestock growers and initiated a project for growing and using the nutritious leaves of the Moringa Tree. He also teaches English classes for the police and organized a basketball camp with a Japanese volunteer. DAS Moss was, to say the least, extremely impressed.

Etienne Yonli (FBF Projects Committee and ABURWA member), Kristie McComb (President of FBF), Blaise Compaare (President of Burkina Faso) and Paramanga Yonli (the current Ambassador of Burkina Faso to the U.S. and former Prime Minister of Burkina Faso) celebrate Burkina's MCC compact signing at the U.S. State Department on July 14, 2008.
Bob Coffey and I, plus our spouses, went to Burkina Faso in September on what might be best described as a “working vacation.” In addition to being tourists – and for me visiting parts of Burkina that I had not seen on earlier occasions – we spent several days at a development project that FBF has funded in the town of Loropeni. It is called the Association Omigbéfité, or “help our brothers.” (An article on Omigbéfité also appeared in the 2008 No. 1 Issue.)

Bob first became acquainted with it and its charismatic director, Pale Togo, when he visited the area two years ago. Loropeni is a small town, located about 20 miles west of Gaoua, in the southwest of the country. Before this trip, I had never appreciated the contrasts among the different parts of Burkina. Loropeni was quite different from Tenkodogo where I spent my two years as a well-digger. I was impressed by just how green and lush the countryside was, even with it being the rainy season.

We went directly to Gaoua from Ouagadougou, where we had arrived the previous evening. The roads were quite good but even in a private car it was still a trip of nearly six hours; the network of paved roads is a huge change from the way it was during my two years in Burkina from 1967-1969. When we arrived in the village with Togo, we were met by most of the 30 or so members of the Association, as well as the minister of the local Gan king.

The greeting ceremony would be very familiar to anyone who has spent time in West Africa. We received a warm welcome and there had obviously been a lot of thought given to our visit. The people of Burkina are extremely hospitable and welcoming. We lodged in some very basic but nice houses in the concession of one of the members of the Association. After an excellent lunch prepared by Togo’s wife, Pauline, we took off to look at the various projects of the Association.

The first stop was the newly cultivated garden project next to the reservoir. On two hectares of land made available through the good graces of the king, the Association is raising a large variety of fruits and vegetables: yams, tomatoes, eggplant, corn, peppers, melons and cabbage among others. The produce is sold in the local market to raise funds for the other activities the Association supports. San San, a master gardener who has been trained by the Association, is in charge.

By all appearances, it is a very productive garden. What was very impressive is the constant experimentation to determine which varieties of plants will best thrive and be productive in this part of Burkina. Future plans include the introduction of a number of different fruit trees that will expand the nutritional content of garden; this will happen next year. There is also a plan to fence in the garden to protect it from herds of cattle, and to purchase a water pump to irrigate the garden with water from the reservoir during the dry season. The garden has the potential to be productive year-round. The Association has made a big effort to be organic and free of chemical fertilizers through the use of composting.
Membership Update

by Tajanay Ki, ‘01-’03

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2008 membership dues. Dues continue to trickle in throughout the year and though we greatly appreciate your support, which helps us offset our organizational expenses, as Membership Coordinator I want to remind you that our tracking system is not set up to handle rolling memberships. Although we accept and process payments year-round, your dues will come up for renewal in February each year during our Annual Membership Drive regardless of when you pay your dues during the calendar year.

Some of you have requested that we move to an online system of payment (dues, T-shirts, calendars, etc.) and we are currently exploring that option with the hopes of having something in place early next year. We too agree that this would make it easier for more folks to stay connected with FBF. Thank you for the suggestions – we take all of them seriously.

NPCA Update

NPCA’s Virtual Peace Corps Community

by Lyndsey Wilson-Williams, ‘01-’03

The annual NPCA conference was held in early October, with one of the main topics of discussion being the creation of a Virtual Community (in the past referred to as the Communicopia Project). Below are a few key points about this project, which is still in the planning phase:

• This project began in 2005.
• The budget is $400,000 with a planned implementation of three years.
• As of 2007, $21,000 has been raised through RPCV groups.
• This community, created in the same spirit as Facebook and LinkedIn, will be a social networking site for the Peace Corps community and their many initiatives. It is being envisioned that this site will be community driven and will serve as an open platform where anything PC related can be posted.
• The planned launch of website is the end of January 2009.

FBF Listserv

❖ Are you looking for travel partners/travel tips for a return trip to Burkina?
❖ Do you want to locate long-lost Peace Corps friends?
❖ Are you recently-retumed and looking for a mentor in your field?
❖ Do you have an interesting news article about Burkina to share with our members?
❖ Are you doing some exciting Burkina-related work that might interest our members?

If yes to any of these, our listserv is a great place to exchange information!

To join, please visit: http://apache.tamu.edu/xfb/listserv.html.
As the school year begins in Burkina Faso, 300 more girls will enter primary school in the departments of Tangaye and Oula thanks to the generous support of FBF members and your networking on behalf of this project earlier this year. Since 2002, FBF has provided initial educational support for approximately 1,500 girls through the Lambs For School Project.

The girls supported by FBF through NEEED’s Lambs For School Project continue to do very well in their studies: in the ’07-’08 school year, 88% of girls passed the end-of-primary-school exams, enabling them to continue on to middle school; and 81% of students of the Collège Modern de l’Amitié (girls’ middle school) passed year-end exams.

NEEED feels strongly that the provision of a noon meal at the college is an important element in students’ ability to study and in the resulting academic success of the students. With 400 students attending the college this year, and school lunches costing $.40 per student per day, NEEED is asking parents to contribute and is seeking other sources of support as well.

This past year, NEEED received assistance in setting up a computer room and internet capacity for college students, thus enabling students to familiarize themselves with computers and the use of the internet.

With the large number of girls succeeding in their primary school studies, NEEED has worked hard to ensure that all of these students have access to middle school. NEEED has begun the expansion of the college, planning to eventually accommodate a maximum of 1,000 students. A generous donation to FBF earlier this year has enabled NEEED to begin construction, and they continue to seek funds to complete a second classroom building with eight classrooms which will enable the doubling of middle school enrollment.

In collaboration with the government and with funding from McKinsey Management Consulting (Germany) and Stern Stewart Management Consulting (Germany), NEEED has built public lycées (secondary schools) in Thieu and in Tangaye during this past year. In addition to expanding lycée capacity in the region, both of these lycées are able to accommodate college students, thus enabling some middle school girls to attend school closer to their homes and taking some of the pressure off of the Collège Modern de l’Amitié.

Thanks to the dedication of NEEED, educational opportunities for girls in the departments of Tangaye and Oula continue to expand and keep pace with the ever-growing number of girls entering school and succeeding at each level of their studies. We welcome your continued support for this project, either directly through FBF or through our web partner, GlobalGiving.
Meghann Coughlin, PCV in Niankordougou, writes of Reading Fever in the village of Niankordougou on page 1 in this newsletter. FBF contributed to this “fever” by providing $4,250 to buy books that enabled the library to open its doors and begin operation.

The FBF Projects Committee voted unanimously in favor of supporting the Niankordougou venture because of its well-defined objectives, community involvement and sustainable design. The focus on literacy, reading and a target population that includes both school children and adults most assuredly will have positive effects on well-being.

Studies have shown that literacy is correlated with both improved economic outcomes and higher quality of life, as measured by improved health and nutritional intake. The library will serve more than 3,000 people living in the village, including the 480 children in primary school and 370 students in secondary school. Moreover, it will be open to the 34,000 people in the department’s surrounding communities.

The Niankordougou library and literacy program has had and continues to have strong community backing. The community provided the building that houses the library in the village center. Niankordougou residents were actively involved in discussions about the role and importance of the library.

School teachers, members of the village library committee and local-area political leaders are stakeholders in the successful operation of the library – witness the letter of appreciation sent to FBF by Mayor Ouattara Drissa on page 9. For more information about the evolutionary process leading up to the birth of this library, I urge you to visit Meghann’s very interesting blog (http://all4nianko.wordpress.com/2008/07).

In supporting the Niankordougou library, FBF leveraged its resources with the Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL), a non-profit organization with an excellent track record supporting libraries in Africa. FAVL is currently managing 5 libraries in south-central Burkina Faso. Since Niankordougou is situated in the southwest part of the country, it is too far from FAVL’s main program area in Ouaga and Hounde for its staff coordinators to assume management responsibilities. This is why the Niankordougou library is the first of its kind; that is to say, it is a “FAVL-supported,” as opposed to “FAVL-managed,” library in Burkina. (For more information, go to http://www.favl.org).

FBF has strong partners in the Niankordougou joint venture. FAVL is supplying valuable services, providing oversight of library operations, and training local personnel. Meghann has established excellent working relationships with Ouedraogo Mamadou, the director of the secondary school, Zongo Passo, her local counterpart, and other leaders in Niankordougou. She is teaching Ouattara Moussa, the librarian, basic computer skills, including how to take advantage of the internet and use email.
Nous, les villageois de Niankorodougou représentés par le comité de gestion, avons l’honneur de solliciter de votre haute bienveillance une aide auprès de votre organisation pour l’ouverture d’une bibliothèque dans notre village.

L’ouverture de cette bibliothèque va permettre de faire face à une carence en livres dans nos établissements secondaires aussi bien qu’en primaire.

L’ouverture de cette bibliothèque va contribuer à relever le niveau des élèves et améliorer le taux de réussite aux examens de fin d’année.

La bibliothèque contribuera aussi à élargir la culture de la population du village, ainsi qu’à améliorer son niveau de compréhension.

Espérant que notre demande aura un écho favorable auprès de votre organisation, nous vous prions d’agréer, Monsieur le Président, l’expression de notre très haute considération.

Cordialement,

Monsieur Ouattara Drissa
Maire de Niankorodougou
Le Comité de Gestion de la Bibliothèque de Niankorodougou

Village Requests Support from FBF

Thomas Vollrath
Chair, Friends of Burkina Faso Projects Committee

Le 13 Mars 2008

As many of you may know, here in Burkina Faso, we have an expression “West African International Time – WAIT.” After a year of discussing logistics, researching possible partnerships with NGOs, finding a suitable building, making necessary repairs to the building, organizing a motivated library committee, and finding a capable librarian – Niankorodougou does not have to wait any longer.

In May 2008 we received the much anticipated news from FBF that they had approved our grant proposal to cover the start-up costs to open the library. At that time, Moussa and I traveled to Ouagadougou to purchase the starting collection of library books. We officially opened the library the first week of June and Moussa has been hard at work since then. Moussa works at the library Tuesday and Wednesday from 1pm-3pm and 5pm-6pm, and Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 8am-12pm and 3pm-5pm. These hours were selected by the library committee and librarian as the best times that community members can use the library facilities.

When we first opened the library, many villagers did not fully comprehend the concept of a library as a place to borrow books. They were excited to have reading materials available, but children and adults alike were hesitant to ask questions about how the library functioned and how they could become involved. Moussa has helped to solve this problem by inviting people passing by to come in and explore the library, and by explaining what he does as the librarian. He is there to help them! With his invitations and explanations, more and more people are coming to read at the library and borrow books. Children who have not learned how to read yet are coming by to look at picture books and do puzzles. Regular library visitors are starting to request books by specific authors they have enjoyed. The community of Niankorodougou has discovered a love for reading which has been growing over the last few months.

Since opening, we have expanded our book collection to 477 books and we have plans for further book purchases over the coming months. Along with our growing book collection, I am happy to report that our number of library visits and members continues to rise. In June, we had 28 adults and children sign up as library members, 48 books borrowed and 374 library visits. In July, we enrolled 30 new library members (18 students and 12 adults), had 139 books borrowed, and 753 library visits. In August, we enrolled 23 new members (18 students and 5 adults), had 144 books borrowed, and 919 library visits.

These numbers will only go up as people return to the village from their fields. In October, children will be returning to start school, and at that time Moussa and I will be visiting all of the primary and secondary school classes to give library presentations. The reading fever is catching, and Moussa and library committee are doing everything to keep it on the rise.
New Community Relations Chair

by Dennis Haraszko, ’00-’02

My name is Dennis Haraszko. I am very excited to take on the role of Community Relations Chair on the Board of Directors. In my profession, I provide operational support and management oversight for the Millennium Villages project in West and Central Africa. Even though I remain engaged with Africa, I feel disconnected from my Peace Corps experience. I view my time working with FBF as an opportunity to reconnect with my experiences as a Volunteer, reinforce my efforts to promote development work in Africa, and gain additional experience motivating others to increase awareness of the importance of supporting community-based projects as a tool for development.

While in Peace Corps, I served as a Community Health Development Volunteer involved in national campaigns and initiatives to address needs at the village level. These included participation in “Guinea Worm Weeks” in Batie, Niessegga, and Manega; co-leading a workshop in Ouahigouya to develop chapters of a health education manual enriching curriculums in primary school; and coordinating the first nationwide AIDS education bike-a-thon.

I believe that to bring about real change in the lives of Africa’s most vulnerable, we need to address the continent’s challenges at all levels – be it international policy, the business community, average Americans’ lack of awareness, civil society, national reform, or village leadership. FBF provides average Americans the ability to help organizations in Africa address critical needs at the local level. The work of FBF and their donors is one important link in the chain which can assist villages, like those found in Burkina, out of extreme poverty.

Our two days in Loropeni were an incredible education in the issues that face local development efforts, and the importance of leadership like that of Togo and his very talented staff and membership.”

“The garden is only one of several projects that the Association has launched; there is an élevage project that is raising cattle and pigs for sale in the market and that will eventually include milk production. These projects are intended to increase the amount of healthy foods available to the local community, and to generate revenue to support training and schooling of local youth, and aid to families that the Association is assisting.

Our two days in Loropeni were an incredible education in the issues that face local development efforts, and the importance of leadership like that of Togo and his very talented staff and membership. There is a constant percolation of ideas and discussion. Perhaps most striking was the honesty of the discussions and the willingness to confront mistakes and to learn from them. It is a quality that is often all too lacking in lots of non-profit organizations. The session that we had with the Association members one evening was particularly interesting in highlighting the issues that the members grapple with – on how to trade off individual needs with the larger needs of the community.

Though we had some great experiences in the other places we visited – Banfora, Bobo, Mopti and the Dogon country in Mali – the two days in Loropeni helped recapture the reasons why we all went into the Peace Corps and that explained our continued attachment to this country and its people. It was definitely a highlight of the trip. I hope others of us will have a chance to see the Association and support its work.
Renew Your Membership for 2009

Name _________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address _________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________ State ____________ Zip ________________

Telephone ______________________________ E-mail _________________________________

☐ I would like to renew my FBF membership for 2009 ($15 a year).
☐ I would like to join the National Peace Corps Association ($35 a year).
☐ I would like to make a FBF Project Fund contribution of $_____________.
☐ I would like to make a FBF Newsletter Fund contribution of $_____________.

Total amount enclosed $_____________.

Please mail this entire page with payment to:

Suzanne Plopper
Treasurer, FBF
P.O. Box 395
Chester, CA 96020

Make checks payable to FBF.
Contributions are tax-deductible.

We welcome your suggestions and your active participation.

Thanks! Puus baarka wusgo!

Order Your Official FBF T-Shirt

Name _______________________________________________

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City ________________________ State ______ Zip __________

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- Map in the baobab
- 4-color on natural
- 100% organic cotton
- Made in the USA

Price per shirt: $17

Shipping: 1 T-Shirt - $4.00
2 T-Shirts - $5.00
3 or more T-Shirts - $7.00

Make checks payable to FBF.
BF hopes to create a Points of Contact (POC) network that will enable us to reach folks interested in Burkina Faso, even if they are not currently members of FBF. Though we count several hundred members in our database, we realize that there are many more folks out there who would like to know what is going on in Burkina. We hope to establish POCs for all past Peace Corps groups.

By becoming a POC, you will assist FBF in sending out periodic email announcements. They will not be related to promoting membership in FBF. They will generally be informative emails including invitations to events, or news on issues such as the historical signing of the MCC compact. Announcements may however involve fundraising for non-traditional funding opportunities such as the recent America’s Giving Challenge.

If you are a member of our community, we would ask that you reach out to PCV colleagues with whom you have served and/or anyone else with whom you are still in contact from your time in Burkina. This outreach effort is not limited to RPCVs – if you are Burkinabé or you have some other connection to Burkina, we welcome your participation! Please note that there is no set period for serving as a POC.

If you would like to join the FBF POC network, please send the following information to Community Relations Chair Dennis Haraszko at fbfcommunityrelations@gmail.com.

- Your name
- Your email address and phone number
- Your connection to Burkina
  - RPCV: Please includes years of service.
  - Other Burkina experience: Please include year(s) in country.
  - Burkinabé: Please include where you live currently.
- The approximate number of people in your email network

If you have additional questions not answered here, Dennis is happy to address those. Thanks for your assistance in this outreach effort!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within do not necessarily reflect the position of the Friends of Burkina Faso.