

BURKINA CONNECTION



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

2010 - No. 1



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 NEEED girls display their tee shirts at the primary school in Tilli

NEEED GIRLS WELCOME FBF FRIENDS

by Claire Billingham

Of her first trip to Burkina Faso, FBF donor Claire Billingham said, "if a person could have but one experience like this in a lifetime, it would indeed be a very fortunate life". On a recent trip to West Africa, Claire, her husband Joseph and friend Barbara Scattergood visited a NEEED participating school in the small village of Tilli. Claire wrote the following letter to Suzanne Plopper sharing her joy of experiencing Burkinabé culture for the first time and witnessing the success of FBF projects first-hand.

The old cliché, "save the best for last" captures our recent experience in Burkina Faso perfectly! We traveled for two weeks before visiting a Lambs for School Project participating school. The greeting we received upon arrival at the primary school in Tilli rivaled any experienced by major dignitaries! As soon as we got out of the car, the kids surrounded us with outstretched hands in an overwhelming show of warmth and greeting. My eyes filled with tears—the emotion cannot

be put into words. I could not have imagined that they would greet us with such immediate trust and loving welcome.

After a moving rise of the national flag and singing of the national anthem, we were introduced to those who had come to welcome us. Lacine, the NEEED project coordinator, spoke to the needs at Tilli and NEEED supported schools in general and the regional director of primary education speaking briefly about the goals and needs of the schools. Thirty girls who were recipients of lambs wore their uniforms, which included NEEED tee-shirts. I was humbled to see the results of FBF's work and contributions and felt very proud to represent FBF! We were also welcomed by the village chief who said to us that, "We have been told that we have friends in the United States, now we see you." There are no words to describe my feelings at his simple eloquence.

We witnessed many of the challenges the

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PRESIDENT'S YIRI

by Kristie McComb, '01-'03

Dear Friends of Burkina Faso, happy spring! Well for many of you spring has arrived but for me, now that I am living in the southern hemisphere, we are getting ready for winter just a few short months away. I moved to Maputo, Mozambique almost a year ago to take a position with Peace Corps and while our winters will never rival those of DC (especially this last one that I was fortunate to miss), I do already miss the flowering of spring and the excitement that the arrival of warm weather brings. But I hope you are all gearing up for a good one wherever you are!

As always, words of appreciation are in order. I want to thank you all again for your tremendous financial support of our most recent Global Giving (GG) fund-raising competition, the "Give More, Get More" Challenge that took place in December of 2009. Just when I start to worry that we might be wearing out our welcome, asking all of you to open your



 Kristie McComb

wallets for one of our online fund-raising competitions again, you continue to amaze us with your generosity, even in economically challenging times as we are in now. Our Noon Meal Improves Girls' Learning project was the focus of this competition and though FBF set its sights only on the remaining \$10,000 that we needed to meet our commitments, we managed to raise approximately \$17,000 in total, in part due to GG's funds-matching pledge and the bonus we received for generating the 2nd highest number of unique donors in the competition! For an organization that is run virtually—for the most part through email, a list serve, a website, and the phone—we have been so pleased at how you all find a way time and time again to come together cohesively, generously, and resolutely in support of our community

development efforts during these online fund-raising campaigns. I guess the quote rings true," nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion." Thank you so much for your passion for Burkina Faso!

Before I move on, please do not forget about the many smaller projects we fund raise for throughout the year that are not featured on our GG projects website. You can learn about some of the unique and worthy proposals we've received recently that are in need of unrestricted funding in the projects' update section. As always, we thank you in advance for all that you do to make our community outreach efforts work so well!

Though this may come as a surprise to some of you, this will be my last President's Yiri. After serving three years as President and two years as Vice President and Membership Coordinator, I am stepping down from this role in August of this year. It has been a wonderful experience that I have shared with many dedicated individuals on our Board of Directors and leadership team; however, now that I am living half a world away from the US with a job that requires lots of travel into the bush and an often poor internet connection even in the capital city, I struggle to give to FBF what it needs at this time. I am not removing myself entirely from FBF but I will seek a role that more appropriately matches what I can give at this time.

I have made calls in the past for interested members to join our ranks to make FBF strong, viable and sustainable. Our team of volunteers has grown in the past few years and I thank each of them sincerely for putting the time and effort in supporting FBF's many activities. I am calling on all of you again today to consider whether or not you can devote some of your time, energy, and creativity to our organization. We still pride ourselves that 100% of our

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FIELD NOTES FROM DOUGLASS

by Douglass Teschner
Burkina Faso Country Director, '08-'10

Dear FBF members, as I write this in mid-January, I am packing to move to Ukraine to become the Peace Corps Country Director in that Eastern European nation. This was a difficult decision that was driven mostly by personal and family considerations. I leave behind so many warm feelings of the Volunteers and our wonderful Burkinabè staff.

I will remember watching Volunteers joyfully teaching school in hot, under-equipped, and overcrowded classrooms. I will remember sitting under the trees in village taking in a World AIDs Day event and seeing PCVs weigh babies and lead nutrition workshops. I will remember watching our Volunteers lead girls club on confidence building activities and observing them teaching business skills to young entrepreneurs.

I feel incredibly grateful that I have been given this wonderful opportunity to share a part of my life with Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, and I will never forget it!

To be perfectly honest, I have never been to Eastern Europe, don't speak any relevant languages, and won't be able to read the street signs. I have a lot to learn! On top of that, Burkina Faso never has had more than 125 Volunteers at a time during my tenure, and I took pride in knowing them all by name. I am wondering if it will be realistically possible to know all 325 plus in Ukraine, the largest PC post?

A thought from a COSed PCV. This was my first time with PC since I was a Morocco PCV in the early 1970s, but I am pleased to report that the vitality of the Volunteers and the core of the Peace Corps experience remain largely unchanged. For example, I received this email below, and others like it, which I really treasure. I thought you might enjoy this one for what it says about the universality of the Peace Corps experience:

It's my first night back in America and I can't sleep. The pharmacist at my CSPS just woke my family up, calling all the way from my village to see if I had arrived safely. In one of your early newsletter pieces you wrote to the first year volunteers, which I was at the time, and told us how PC is difficult and challenging and sometimes

you just don't know why you're there but if you push through and persevere, it usually gets better. I remember at the time thinking, "usually"? But actually, what you wrote stuck with me. There was a big hill leading into my village from the city and every time I had to bike that hill, with all my stuff strapped to the back after a few cushy days in the city with my friends, I thought to myself "I hate this." So for a long time, every time I had to get up that hill I repeated to myself over and over (out loud even!) that comment you wrote, except I switched "usually" for "WILL". Thanks for helping me get up that hill!

Here is some other news:

New Country Director (CD) Shannon Meehan. Shannon, a Senegal RPCV with many years of international experience in Africa and elsewhere, will be coming to Burkina in mid-February to take over as the CD. Welcome Shannon!

Transfers. We recently accepted transfers from Guinea and Mauritania when those PC programs were suspended due to security concerns. PC/Madagascar, which was suspended last year, has reopened, so that is good news!

Burkina's First Peace Corps Response Volunteer. This program (formerly Crisis Corps) selected a Burkina RPCV to work with Catholic Relief Services on a six-month assignment to support housing reconstruction following the September Ouagadougou flood.

Health Impact Study. This research was conducted as part of efforts to better document the long-term impact of PC programs worldwide. This study included these key results from the 133 interviews in 30 current and former Health Education sites:

- 95% of those surveyed have a more positive perception of Americans since working with Burkina PCVs
- 70% are very satisfied and 25% satisfied with work of PCVs
- Nearly 90% of respondents report that the community health committees function better due to Peace Corps work
- Over 90% of respondents say that community based organizations' skills and

continued on next page





Notes from Douglass cont'd

empowerment are better, with much more capacity, thanks to Peace Corps

- Over 90% of respondents believe that the PCV gained the support of community leaders in HIV activities.

Here are some participant quotes:

- “Since working with the PCV, I now treat all people the same way”
- “PCVs have great patience and courage when teaching people”
- “Americans allow poor people to have hope”

Few Early Terminations (ETs). I am pleased to report that there were only 4 voluntary ETs in all 12 months of FY09 and none so far in the first 3.5 months of FY10. In addition, 100% of trainees sworn-in at end of BOTH of last two PSTs (both in FY09). Despite the cut in the number of trainees during FY09 and a worldwide reduction in Volunteers, Burkina actually experienced a 23% increase in the number of Volunteers during this period (from 97 on Oct. 1, 2008 to 119 on Sept. 30, 2009), and post is expected to have 140 plus PCVs by September 1, 2010.

Growth and More Staff. As part of the post’s ongoing growth strategy, we requested funding for nine new staff positions, and, so far, six have been approved:

two Project Assistants (one to work on food security and one in education), a Language Coordinator, Executive Assistant, Assistant Admin Officer/Human Resources Specialist, and a GSO Logistician We also are hoping for two more drivers and more vehicles. This is all intended to position post for growth in this and future years. FY10 is the first year of a single pre-service training with 77 trainees arriving in June.

And More Growth! In January, we learned from PC/Washington that they want to have 10,000 Volunteers in the field by the end of FY

2011. PC has only about 8000 worldwide right now so that will be a big change. Burkina has been asked to consider taking 10 to 25 more trainees next year above the FY10 level of 77. The Minister of Secondary Education has asked for 350 more teachers, so PCVs are in much demand. The staff is weighing options, including determining what new resources would be needed. The challenge is how to ramp up while being sure that Volunteer support remains at a high level and PC/BF does not take on a “cookie cutter” approach.

New US Embassy. This modern facility in Ouaga 2000 opened on January 19. The American Rec Center is still in business at the old location serving burgers, milk shakes, etc. – all much appreciated by Burkina’s PCVs!

Burkina wins for “Best Practices” at Africa CD Conference. Our display and table won first prize among all the Africa posts at the Africa Country Directors conference in South Africa

last October. New Director Aaron William was one of the judges. Our table had the US/Burkina pagne, info on Coaching for Hope (teaching HIV / AIDS awareness through soccer), our core expectation wallet cards, food security and moringa materials, the staff Etalon Award, and the PCV-generated



Outgoing CD Doug Teschner celebrates his 60th birthday with Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams at the Africa Country Directors conference in Johannesburg

Power Point used at the swearing-in ceremony.

Leader Mondial. Winning that award was nice recognition for the Burkinabè staff who embraced the idea of Burkina becoming “leader mondial” for Peace Corps post worldwide at our first all staff retreat more than a year ago. Together, we achieved a lot, and I am so proud of the Burkina Faso Volunteers and staff.

So, sadly, this my last report from Ouagadougou. In the future, I will be following what is going here by reading the FBF newsletter. Thanks to the FBF for all your support, and keep up the great work!

AMBASSADOR'S SELF HELP FUND HELPS OUT

by Kaitlyn Brown, '08-'10

In Amsia, a small Fulani village in the northeastern province of Seno, women wanted to deliver their babies in a health clinic, but distance was often an obstacle. The closest health clinic is 6 km from Amsia in Bani, the departmental capital. When it is time to deliver, women generally travel to the clinic by donkey cart; however, access to a donkey cart in this critical moment sometimes poses a problem. Some families don't own donkey carts, while others own older ones that break frequently. Furthermore, in Fulani social structure, men and women don't



 PCV Kaitlyn Brown

frequently spend time together. Work that involves using the family donkey cart is generally male dominated, while child birth is a woman's affair.

Access to a donkey cart posed a problem for enough women in the village that the Amsia Health Management Committee applied to the Ambassador's Self Help Fund with the assistance of Brandi Church, the PCV in the village at the time. The Committee requested a donkey cart to be used solely as an ambulance to transport pregnant women to the health clinic for delivery.

Their request was accepted in early 2009, but due to complications with the required paperwork and payment to the merchant who furnished the donkey cart, the cart was not received in Amsia

until September. In October the women held an inauguration ceremony to begin using the cart. During the ceremony they conveyed their thanks to the American government via Kaitlyn Brown, the new Peace Corps Volunteer in the area.

While the attendees drank zomkoom, the logistical details were announced to the women. The cart would be located at the home of Dicko Fadima Boureima, the midwife who

accompanies women to Bani in order to assist with delivery. She also offered the use of her donkey to pull the cart. Fadima Boureima is responsible for ensuring cart

maintenance and care of the donkey. When a woman utilizes the donkey cart ambulance, her family offers what they can as a contribution for the upkeep of the donkey and cart.

The midwife reported that as of the end of January 2010 about 30 women had used the ambulance. One day, the cart transported two expectant mothers at once! Multiple women have reported that the guaranteed access to transportation to the health clinic has made their delivery day much easier, specifically because the ambulance eliminated the last minute chaos of searching for an available donkey and donkey cart.



FBF LISTSERV

- ❖ Are you looking for travel partners or travel tips for a return trip to Burkina?
- ❖ Do you want to locate long-lost Peace Corps friends?
- ❖ Are you recently-returned 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!

AMBASSADOR'S SELF HELP FUND HELPS OUT





PROVING MONEY CAN GROW ON TREES

by Ryan Gallagher, '07-'09

Proving money can grow on trees. Or at least CFA can! The Moringa Reseau of Ténado has successfully completed their first year of operation with support from Friends of Burkina Faso and the Peace Corps. Last year FBF helped the Moringa Reseau launch a Moringa tree planting campaign which led to over 8,000 trees planted or seeded throughout the Department of Ténado. These small trees, while lying dormant during the dry season will bounce back as soon as the rainy season begins, supplying the community with A LOT of Moringa leaves. This will be an important tool for the community in the fight against malnutrition as most families struggle to eat a balanced diet during the months leading up to the millet harvest later in the year. The Moringa tree can provide important vitamins and minerals that are hard to come by during the vegetable deficient rainy months.

As an income generating activity, the Moringa Reseau's founder Joseph-Marie Bationo has been working with friends and family to transform the vitamin-rich tree leaves into a dried powder. The powder is packaged in air-tight bags in 200cfa, 500cfa and 1000cfa quantities as a vitamin supplement to be added to meals. In just their first year, the Moringa Reseau grossed around \$600US in Moringa sales. Most of this revenue came from the urban markets where consumers tend to be savvy and have the means to try new products.

As for local sales, it has taken a while to get momentum going at the village level, but a steady effort of word-of-mouth marketing and the participation in several regional exposition events has been paying off. The Moringa Reseau is starting to see more and more sales coming from the villagers, one of their main long-term goals. Just the other day a man rode his bike 30km

round-trip to buy a 1000cfa packet (roughly \$2) of the Moringa powder for his father. And a few days later, a call came in from a neighboring village ordering 15 packets of the popular seasoned mix, a blend of Moringa powder with local seasonings like hot pepper, soumbala and salt.

On April 27th, Ténado hosted their biennial fruit and vegetable exposition showcasing their garden harvests. Now in its 4th edition, the event was well attended by thousands of villagers from all over the department, not to mention dignitaries from the urban areas. The Moringa Reseau's director of production, Ebou Eugénie Kando proudly displayed their product gaining a lot of attention of interested fairgoers.

In addition to a strong focus on sales, the Moringa Reseau has continued improving their powder production capacity. With some remaining funds from the original FBF grant, a small building has been recently completed to house the leaf driers and store finished product.

Thanks to the FBF, the future looks green for the Moringa Reseau and the villagers of Ténado.



Moringa Reseau partners Ebou Kando and Moïse Bado.



Ebou Kando, Ryan Gallagher and Sonia Gallagher.

WILL FBF PROJECTS MOMENTUM CONTINUE?

by Tom Vollrath, '67-'70

The FBF Projects Committee continues to receive well conceived and well written proposals from the field. I would like to provide an update on projects that FBF has helped support financially since the beginning of 2010. You'll also find a brief summary below of several impressive proposals, initiatives that we have not been able to fund due to a lack of resources in FBF Projects' general account.

Projects Funded in 2010

In January, FBF wired \$13,500 to NEEED in Ouahigouya, to support student lunches for the spring semester at the Lycée Modern de l'Amitié. It's worth noting that this program mirrors "best practices," identified by the UN World Food Program. By contributing cash rather than commodities, FBF enables the school to buy food on the domestic market while also rewarding local farmers who sell their goods on the open market.

In February, the Projects Committee provided \$2,000 to the Pobé Menago library, based upon recommendations from David Noyes (FBF's project manager) and evaluations of the project proposal. FBF's donation will enable Konfé Hamidou, the recently elected librarian, to purchase books for the grand opening of this FAVL sponsored library. Readers may recall that a couple of years ago FBF leveraged its resources with FAVL (i.e., Friends of African Village Libraries) in forming a partnership with village leaders in Niankorodougou where a library was created.

Also during the month of February, FBF Projects Committee members voted unanimously to provide \$2,500 to defray shipping costs of sending re-cycled computer equipment--90 desktop computers, 53 laptop computers, 5 printers, plus some external hard drives--to Ouagadougou. PCV Casey Kean, who is coordinating this initiative in the field, and a cadre of other volunteers will be working with Burkinabé counterparts to distribute this equipment, (donated by interconnection.org) as per the project proposal. They will educate local personnel on the use of computers and monitor site developments in the nine locations throughout the country where the computers are being deployed.

This is a very exciting project, one that holds much promise to increase productivity and enhance income!

In March, the Projects Committee sanctioned FBF's participation in NEEED's new scholarship program, earmarked for qualified students following their graduation from the Lycée Modern de l'Amitié and other secondary schools in the project region. The details of this program are identified in the NEEED's Girls' Educational Programs article on page 9. I would like to express appreciation to the Milton and Beatrice Wind Foundation, the first donor to this program. Thanks to their very generous donation, three young women will further their education, one at a university and two at a vocational school for primary school teachers.

Three Potentially Viable Proposals Seeking FBF Support

The most recent project application received by the Committee was a request to underwrite the \$5,800 cost of a moulin (mill) in the village of Tiogo. The moulin would be used to grind millet into flour, relieving labor constraints of over-worked-village women. It would also provide a 60 person cooperative with the incentives to collect shea nuts, process them into shea butter, and sell the butter in the market. It is clear from my reading of this proposal (submitted by an indigenous NGO known as the Nowon Association) that many strata of the local community have a keen interest and stake in this project.

Another recently received application for FBF funding originated from communication with Jen Lazuta, a volunteer working with Peace Corps' Small Enterprise Development program. Jen, who has decided to extend her service for a third year, wrote a proposal on behalf of 3,000 residents in the village of Bougounam requesting \$4,500 to help launch a village library.

Last fall, Ilana Cliffer (PCV) sent FBF a project application entitled "Pumping Life into Bissighin". The proposal requests \$8000 from FBF to cover 57 percent of the cost of digging a deep bore well and installing a pump at the village health center--Le Centre de Santé et Promotion Sociale (CSPS). Clearly, the availability of clean water is essential to effective provision of health services at the CSPS.

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FBF 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income	
FBF memberships	\$3,090
NPCA memberships	\$1,925
Newsletter donations	\$479
T-shirt sales (profit)	\$40
Calendar sales (profit)	\$1,354
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$6,888</i>
Expenses	
Bulk mailing permits	\$185
Burkina Connection	\$2,024
Membership letter	\$132
NPCA affiliation	\$90
NPCA rebates	\$2,135
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$4,566</i>
<i>Balance</i>	<i>\$2,322</i>

PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Contributions	
Non-targeted donations	\$9,650
NEEED Lambs for School Project Includes \$4,514 received through Global Giving	\$16,813
NEEED Lycee lunches Includes \$38,557 received through Global Giving	\$40,953
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$67,416</i>
Disbursements	
NEEED Lambs for School project	\$25,120
NEEED lycee lunch project	\$20,500
NEEED lycee mosquito net project	\$4,220
Moringa project	\$900
Koukouldi well project	\$8,850
Aprodes garden project	\$8,452
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$68,042</i>
Project expenses	
Wire/Western Union charges	\$580
Fund-raising letter	\$220
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$800</i>
<i>Balance</i>	<i>-\$1,426</i>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Organizational Income and Expenses

- Difference between NPCA incoming memberships and membership rebates to NPCA: In January '09, FBF rebated NPCA for December '08 memberships paid through FBF
- 206 members paid their dues in 2009; for the second year, the sale of Peace Corps calendars enabled FBF to cover organizational costs.
- Given increases in postage rates, charges for forwarding bulk mail and undeliverable notification, and the USPS estimate that people move every 3-4 years on average, FBF only sends mail out to members we have had contact with in the past 3-4 years. If you know RPCVs who have been "out of the loop", please encourage them to update their membership dues and addresses with us.

Project Income, Disbursements and Expenses

- The two NEEED projects (Lambs for School and lycee lunches) are supported by funds donated specifically for these two projects. Though more was spent on the Lambs for School project than was received in 2009, funds from previous years remained available for this project.
- In 2009, more was spent out of the general project fund than was received. However, we had some reserves from the previous year.
- Sixty-four percent of 2009 project funding was received through GlobalGiving while 36% was received by donations directly to FBF. In order to continue our support for community-based projects in Burkina, we need your participation!



NEEED TO SUPPORT SECONDARY EDUCATION

by Suzanne Plopper, '67-'69

The FBF Projects Committee recently approved a proposal submitted by NEEED to support educational scholarships for young women following their graduation from secondary school in NEEED's project area.

FBF seeks donors interested in supporting individual students for their 2 to 3 years of post secondary education. Because each student will need assurance that she will have financial support for the duration of her education/training, we ask that donors commit to supporting a student for the 2 (or 3 in the case of university education) years of her post secondary education. FBF donors may choose to support the following education/training of girls (based on current exchange rates):

- Teacher training for primary education (2 years): 330,000FCFA = \$690
- Nursing training (2 years): 550,000FCFA = \$1150
- Midwifery training (2 years): 770,000FCFA = \$1610
- University education (3 years): 4,400,000FCFA = \$9170

NEEED will select students to participate in this program based upon the following criteria. Participants must:

- be from an indigent family;
- have been awarded their Bach with mention of 'assez bien' or 'bien';
- have passed the concours (for technical training); and
- be less than 23 years old.

Donors will receive: name, photo, brief background information, & contact information about the girl's they support.

We are most grateful for the first, and very generous, donation we received from Lynn Schneider on behalf of the Milton and Beatrice Wind Foundation. This donation supports a university education for one young woman and teacher training for two young women. Thank you Ms. Schneider for enabling these three women to continue their educations with the goal of achieving marketable and needed skills in Burkina Faso.



NEEED Girls Welcome FBF Friends cont'd school and its students yet face: a roof that is not protective in wind and rain; overcrowded and insufficient benches and most importantly, lack of water. The water table in Tilli has dropped drastically within the recent years with an average well depth increasing to 110 feet, a depth that cannot be dug by hand.

As we walked out of the classrooms and back into the sweltering Burkina Faso sunlight, a flurry of activity erupted; the girls had brought their lambs to show us! The lambs baa'd and bleated, and for a moment, all I could think of was the nursery rhyme, "Mary Had a Little Lamb", and I began to think that lambs made these "Marys" very fortunate. The children returned to their classrooms and we were able to share the school supplies that we brought with us. We were presented with two live chickens for us to hold

high and pose with for photos! Another honor for which there is no equal in my life!

I would like to express my feeling that the work that FBF is doing is so valuable, every effort is so important, and every kindness is so APPRECIATED!

Thank you FBF members and supporters for all of your help in making the connections with NEEED possible. Thanks also for your kind advice about sitting, listening and not asking too many questions -- it allowed for the experience to simply unfold. I have said to friends about our visit to the school and the interaction with the people there, "if a person could have but one experience like this in a lifetime, it would indeed be a very fortunate life."




PHOTOS FROM BURKINA FASO



 PC/BF Financial Analyst Rachel Sawadogo enjoys sitting in on a PCV's science class.



 Caption (from left to right): A Tilli parent, Regional Inspector of Primary Education, President of the Parents' Association, Claire Billingham, Barbara Scattergood, Lacine Sawadogo (NEEED), Regional Advisor on Primary Education.

President's Yiri cont'd

donations go to the field but that is because we have been able to mobilize volunteers to run FBF without paying the services of a staff person. The more volunteers we have, the more we can share the workload. So please consider this request seriously. FBF does a lot with few resources. But we need your help to sustain our efforts!

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the past Presidents of FBF—Molly Burrell, Bob Osborne and John Sneed—if it wasn't for your leadership and dedication throughout the years since FBF was founded in 1987, FBF would not be where it is today. It is no coincidence that we are considered one of the top and most active NPCA affiliate groups within the RPCV community. We couldn't have gotten here without you! And for the new leaders to come in the next few years—and we know you are out there looking for another important way to give back to Burkina Faso—you are welcome and encouraged to join us!

For anyone interested in joining the FBF leadership team, please send a short statement in writing to fbfpresident@gmail.com by July 15, 2010 describing what you would like to see the

organization accomplish in the future and what role(s) you would like and/or be willing to assume. All statements of interest will be shared with the Board of Directors. If you have any questions or just want to discuss the possibilities, feel free to contact me at anytime via email. Thank you again for your interest and willingness to contribute to FBF in new, meaningful ways!

Kristie



FBF Projects Momentum cont'd

RPCV Drew Gower, who holds a MS degree in hydrology, is spearheading this proposal for the Committee. He has convinced many of his colleagues on the Committee of the technical and economic merits of this proposal.

FBF's ability to support these and other new projects in 2010 will depend upon capital infusions into the general FBF Projects account. Do consider making a donation so that we can strengthen our program!



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
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- I would like to renew my FBF membership for 2010 (\$15 a year*).
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Memberships are valid February 1 through January 31 every year.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATES AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



CALL FOR CONTENT

The *Burkina Connection* is a biannual newsletter and a great source for information about FBF projects, updates from the FBF President, PC/BF Country Director and U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso, and a chance for RPCVs to reconnect.

One way you can contribute to the commemoration of Peace Corps' 50 years of service is to write an article about your experience as a Volunteer in Upper Volta/Burkina Faso for an upcoming issue of the *Burkina Connection*. We plan to feature at least one RPCV per decade since the 1960s to show the evolution of Peace Corps' presence in Burkina. What has changed? What has stayed the same? What impact did your service have on Burkina? What impact did it have on you? If interested in sharing your story, please contact fbfnewsletter@gmail.com for more details. The deadline for the next issue is September 1, 2010. Photos are welcome and must be 300 dpi and include a caption.



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BURKINA CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO



C/O Suzanne Plopper
P.O. Box 395
Chester, CA 96020



 *NEEED participant caught by the camera in the village of Tilli*

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