



# FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

## ANNUAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN



Dear Friend of Burkina Faso,

November 15, 2006

The Norwegian Nobel Committee wanted to send an important message to the world by awarding the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize to both the Grameen Bank and to Muhammad Yunus, founder of the bank's credit delivery system to rural villages. The message sent was that bridging the gap between rich and poor countries is critical to reducing conflict and misunderstanding in the current age of increased globalization. Upon announcing the winners, the Committee stated that "lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty."

Those of us who have lived and worked overseas in Africa have witnessed first hand the debilitating impact poverty can have on people's lives. We know that the dark shadows of poverty can lead to hopelessness and despair. Given the clash of cultures since 9/11, we also know that economic disenfranchisement can devolve into oppression and armed conflict.

Most of us would agree that the affluent should share a portion of their resources with people less fortunate than themselves. Smart donors contribute their wealth, knowledge, and/or time in such a way that the intended recipients are provided with needed skills to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

To make your statement, remember that we, the friends of Burkina Faso, have a special knowledge of poverty and a special recipient for our support. FBF has an increasingly effective outreach program through which resources are efficiently channeled to promote sustainable development in Burkina. FBF Projects lengthened its good track record in 2006, helping fund five indigenously-inspired development initiatives, each of which promises to make a real difference in the lives of Burkinabè recipients.

In 2006, FBF Projects provided support to:

- NEEDED's "Lambs for School" program, enabling 200 young girls to embark upon a six-year primary educational program, with the possibility of a four-year *collège* education for those who pass qualifying exams.
- 35 women near Kongoussi who are cultivating vegetables using irrigated technologies for the first time—now that pumps, gardening tools, and guidance are being provided under the leadership of APRODES.
- Widows and orphans victimized by HIV/AIDS, along with other socially vulnerable villagers in Wangala, within the District of Zabré, who have launched a garden project to improve the health and income-generating capacity of members belonging to the KOUWANRE association.
- Villagers in Sangou who have launched a micro-financing project focused on peanut production which promises to enhance food security for members of the LEZEKOURA group.
- The construction of additional classrooms at the *Collège Moderne de l'Amitié* for girls whom NEEDED has sponsored in primary school. This project provides a pathway for many young girls from rural villages to obtain a four-year *collège* education.

This holiday season, FBF members, their friends, and families have an opportunity once again to send a message that we care about Burkina and its citizens by giving time and/or money in support of our outreach program. Hopefully, we will be able to build upon our momentum and continue to do our part in helping narrow the poverty gap. Do consider making generous contributions for 2007 FBF Projects!

Sincerely,

Tom Vollarth,  
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

P.S. If you have a question, idea, or willingness to participate in FBF Projects work, please contact me or any Committee member. We welcome your talents, energies, and interests!