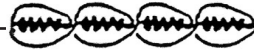




# FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

## ANNUAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN



Dear Friends,

November 2015

Nicholas Kristoff writes: “Over time, I’ve concluded that the greatest unexploited resource in poor countries isn’t oil or gold; it’s people and that education may be the single best way to help people help themselves. So, in this holiday season, I’d suggest a moment to raise a glass and celebrate those who spread the transformative gift of education.”

This holiday season I’d like to urge friends not only to toast those who are actively involved in promoting education, but to help create educational opportunities for girls in Burkina Faso. Providing financial support on behalf of one or both of our FBF-sponsored scholarship programs is an excellent way to enable young women to gain an education! Studies show that women who are educated gain control over their lives—benefiting not only themselves, but their families and their communities at large.

One of our partners—*Association Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education et Développement* (a.k.a. NEEED)—is well known by many, if not all of you, as is its **Post-secondary Education Project** which is mounted on the GlobalGiving website. This FBF/NEEED scholarship program has been spectacularly successful over the course of its six years existence. To date, 118 two-to-three-year scholarships have been granted, enabling 103 young women to become midwives, nurses, and primary-school teachers, and 14 to pursue university educations, including one (an orphan) who has completed a masters degree in law. Currently, the program is supporting four women at the university level, two of whom are pursuing law degrees, while two are seeking degrees in science.

The other partner, recently affiliated with FBF Projects, is the **Burkina Faso Girls’ Scholarship Fund** (a.k.a. BFGSF). This program was developed by sisters Beth Knight and Anne Knight in collaboration with Hermann Yelkouny, the Director of *Help for the Future*, a Burkinabè NGO. (Note: Anne served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Titao, Burkina Faso, 1999-2002). The primary focus of BFGSF is to offer need-based scholarships to girls living in the rural areas of Gonsin, enabling them to advance their education in neighboring Yako where there is a secondary school.

It is noteworthy that the objectives of both the NEEED and BFGSF programs are consistent with the goals of a U.S. government-wide initiative, launched last March by the President and First Lady, called **Let Girls Learn**, [www.letgirlslearn.gov](http://www.letgirlslearn.gov). Principal objectives of *Let Girls Learn* is to address the challenges preventing young girls from attending and completing school, which will put them in a position to realize their potential as adults. The initiative “places particular emphasis on community-led solutions to reduce barriers that prevent adolescent girls from completing their education.” As part of this U.S. government effort, the Peace Corps is developing programs, including one in Burkina Faso, that “will empower local leaders to put lasting solutions in place.”

There are two ways to contribute to FBF-sponsored efforts to advance girls' education in Burkina Faso: You can make a financial donation to NEEDED scholarships on GlobalGiving's website:

[globalgiving.org/projects/post-secondary-education-for-girls-in-burkina-faso](http://globalgiving.org/projects/post-secondary-education-for-girls-in-burkina-faso).

The holiday season is a particularly good time to do so because it coincides with **GG's Year-End Campaign** during which there are \$10,000 in Bonus Grants available. The GG Campaign begins at 00:00:01 am EST on December 1st and runs through 23:59:59 pm EST on December 31st.

Here are some details about the GG campaign:

1. Projects must raise at least \$3,000 from 30 donors in order to qualify for a bonus award.
2. GlobalGiving will not count any GG recurring donations that were initiated before December 1, 2015.
3. For more detail about GG's Year-End Campaign, visit <http://tools.blog.globalgiving.org/2015/09/25/globalgivings-year-end-campaign-is-here>.

Another way to make a financial contribution in support of NEEDED and/or BFGSF scholarships is to channel your contribution directly to FBF. This can be done either by:

- 1) completing the attached donation form and sending it with your check to FBF's Treasurer, or
- 2) clicking one of the "donate" buttons on our website, [www.friendsofburkinafaso.org](http://www.friendsofburkinafaso.org), and use PayPal.

One advantage of choosing the GlobalGiving route is that your contribution helps FBF earn a GG bonus award during its Year-End Campaign. An advantage of selecting the direct route by sending your monetary gift to FBF directly is that 100% of your donation will be sent overseas in support of scholarships; whereas GG levies a 15% charge to cover its overhead. Either way, rest assured that your donation will benefit scholarship recipients and local communities!

Keep in mind: when a girl in Burkina Faso receives an education, she marries later, has fewer children, earns more income, and is better able to invest in her children's health and education. An educated woman gains control of her own life. She also is better able to contribute to the development of villages in Burkina Faso and the nation as a whole. Importantly, education empowers the next generation to reach its potential.

Consider making donations to FBF-sponsored projects, including, if you wish, contributions to the *unrestricted FBF Projects Fund* by clicking the appropriate donate button on our website. (Choosing this option gives the Committee and the Board the flexibility to support other worthwhile projects). Donations to FBF projects is a great way to continue your commitment to the country that has touched many of us who have had the privilege to live in Burkina Faso and to get to know its people.

And here's a tip to remember: Any time you order something on Amazon.com, first type in *Friends of Burkina Faso Inc* on the **Amazon Smile** page, and then FBF will receive a donation from Amazon for your purchase—It's another great way to support our community-based projects in Burkina Faso!

Very best wishes during the 2015 holiday period!



Tom Vollarth  
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

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

