



The Emily D'Ancona Resource Center

Emily D'Ancona died tragically in a car accident in 2008. Emily was deeply committed to the education of children and was a beloved member of the Germantown Friends School class of 1993. We are grateful for the tremendous support that Kids of Kadiogne has received from the GFS community, as well as from Emily's family, and we are excited to be naming this resource center in honor of Emily.

The First of Its Kind!

Upon completion, the Emily D'Ancona Resource Center will offer unique opportunities:

- The only **print library** in the region, with resources in French, English, Pulaar, and Wolof
- The only **Internet-connected computer lab** in the region
- The only Pulaar language **literacy classes** in the region



What You Can Do To Help

- **Spread the word!** Let your friends and family know about this great project!
- **Make a tax-deductible contribution!** Most of the resources for the center will need to be purchased in Senegal with donated funds.
- **Donate a special book!** We are planning to have an English language section in our print library, and, if you'd really like to make a physical contribution, we invite you to send us a copy of your favorite work of literature or children's book in English. Please seek out a good quality hardcover copy; used books are perfectly fine, but they should be in at least 'very good' condition without any markings within the content of the book. Keep in mind that books are very heavy, and I'll have to take these over a few at a time in my bags in order to avoid prohibitive shipping costs; so, be sure to focus on quality over quantity.

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Emily's mother, Amy, shares some memories of Emily's commitment to children:

Emily called her students 'friends': "Friends, today we will be doing some more with our letters." Each day, she welcomed each child into the classroom (every single day!) with their name song. To the tune of "Good-night Ladies," she sang, "Hello Rodney, Hello Rodney, Hello Rodney, We're glad you're here today!" The students loved this, and they listened patiently as each student's name was sung on their way in.

One day, a new student, a 5-year-old kindergartener on a disciplinary transfer from another school, was assigned to Emily's class. He came in with an "I don't care about anything" look on his face, and he just stood at the door. Emily greeted him, told him he could just watch, that he didn't need to do anything this day but start getting used to things in his new classroom. He went to the back of the room and sat down by himself. The day progressed, Emily teaching as she always did, with great enthusiasm and happiness for the kids' presence and efforts. At dismissal, many children came for their daily hug from her or to sit on her lap for a moment before they went home. The last one in the class was her new student. He didn't say a word. He just came up to her, put his arms around her, and hugged her. He felt her warmth, and she felt his relief. Another Emily moment, one of so many filled with loving, patience, and understanding the hearts of children. They loved her so and she loved them right back.

From all I have heard from Emily's principal and colleagues, her students learned with growing confidence and security, knowing that it was safe to make mistakes, gaining steadily as the year went on. The students' parents trusted Emily, and she always had high attendance at Parents' Nights, even with parents who had two jobs and limited time to attend.

The letters and notes I received from Emily's students and their parents after the loss of Emily told me so much, and filled me.

How she loved her work. Her calling.

Questions?

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