

Kadiogne Courier

The Newsletter of Kids of Kadiogne ❖ www.kidsofkadiogne.org ❖ Fall 2012
Kids of Kadiogne, Inc. ❖ P.O. Box 18983 ❖ Philadelphia, PA 19119 ❖ USA



Remembering a Man with the Purest of Hearts

Matar Ndiaga Diop, our dear friend and our very dedicated administrative coordinator, died suddenly in Dakar on October 9. We are reeling from this very unexpected and tragic news; Matar has been a crucial part of Kids of Kadiogne from the beginning, and we have been through so much together. Matar was a truly good man, and he had the purest of hearts. He had a huge network of friends (the truest measure of wealth in Senegal), and he always knew just the right person to call for any given problem or question. Although he was of a different ethnic group from the area around Kadiogne and did not trace his roots to that region, he adopted our work as his own and really put his heart into making sure that our work was carried out promptly and correctly. He will be missed not only by his friends and family in Dakar, but also by the people of Kadiogne and neighboring villages, with whom he had become quite close over the past 7 years. Matar was not even yet 40 years old, and he leaves behind a wife, Salla, and two beautiful daughters, Fatou Kine (age 3) and Khadija (age 1). We have many fond memories of time spent with Matar. We are only few among the many, many people whose lives he touched, and his memory will live on and inspire us all. We have dedicated our school supply distribution this year to Matar's memory, and Kids of Kadiogne is committed to supporting the education of his two young daughters in the years to come.

Senegalese Government Offering Mosquito Nets

Just as the government of Senegal has begun making life-saving mosquito nets available to communities in need, we are thrilled that some of the best village leadership in Kadiogne has come together to create an organization, called *Dendal Leniol*, which promises to be representative of the political will of the entire village. The founding president of the organization is an extraordinary young man named Malick Sow, who has been very helpful in our efforts since we started

in 2006. He is well respected in the village for his integrity and a wisdom beyond his years. Already, this organization has managed to secure a shipment of mosquito nets paid for by the government of Senegal, in a program that the government has just recently instituted. We will continue to support the future efforts of *Dendal Leniol* to procure these government nets, which will allow us to continue our commitment to mosquito net distribution at a far lower cost to us.

A Special Fundraiser in Memory of an Extraordinary Woman

The world recently lost an extraordinary woman who made her life one of helping others. Agnes Forst believed in the transformative power of education, and she believed in the importance of caring for family, and not only our individual families, but also the family of all human beings. Agnes's commitment to helping those in need led her to involvement with many causes, and we were fortunate to count her as one of the most enthusiastic supporters of our work in northern Senegal. Agnes and her husband, Nick, were the largest contributors to the construction of the first half of our community center in Kadiogne, which serves as much-needed classroom space by day and a community meeting space at other times. In memory of her commitment to our work and in the hope of raising enough to complete the second half of the community center, Agnes's family has generously offered to match every dollar we receive in contributions before the end of this year with a two-dollar donation. That means if you send us a \$100 contribution, they will turn it into \$300! The village is excited about the possibility of completing the second half of the community center, which will serve as additional classroom space and a library!

Another Successful School Supply Distribution

This fall, we have completed another successful annual distribution of school supplies to more than 2,000 children in our 22 partner villages!

Looking toward the Future of Kids of Kadiogne

Kids of Kadiogne is a small organization, but we have a firmly established structure in place, and we are committed to continuing our modest programs well into the future. We hope that the Forst family's matching grant will allow completion of our community center in Kadiogne. Looking to the years ahead, we aim to continue a streamlined set of programs as follows:

- a. Annual school supply distribution to over 2,000 children in 22 partner villages
- b. Maintenance of the community center, ensuring sufficient classroom space in Kadiogne
- c. Support of community efforts (including procuring of mosquito nets), such as *Dendal Leniol*

We appreciate the continuing support of our generous contributors! Donations can be sent to the address above or made online at www.kidsofkadiogne.org. Thank you!