

Kadiogne Courier

The Newsletter of Kids of Kadiogne ❖ www.kidsofkadiogne.org ❖ Spring 2008
Kids of Kadiogne, Inc. ❖ P.O. Box 18983 ❖ Philadelphia, PA 19119 ❖ 215-844-0426

Community Education Center Under Construction

We broke ground for our new Community Education Center in Kadiogne in December 2007. Construction is moving along quickly, and we anticipate completion of the first phase of construction on the center before the start of the Senegalese school year in October 2008. The classrooms and library in the center will provide additional space for the elementary school, which has had to turn away some students in recent years for lack of space, and they will house our after-school tutoring programs, as well as other community activities.



which has had to turn away some students in recent years for lack of space, and they will house our after-

school tutoring programs, as well as other community activities.

Kids of Kadiogne Sponsors Health Education Tour

On Saturday, March 15, four Peace Corps volunteers, led by volunteer Amparo Garcia, met with a group of young women from the middle school in the town of Taredji. They provided a training on sexual health issues, including HIV/AIDS and STDs. The next day, the selected girls and the Peace Corps volunteers, along with two health workers from the departmental capital of Podor, set up an informational table at the weekly market in Taredji. They put their health knowledge to work, performing a skit in the local language, and afterwards the local nurse discussed responsible sexual behavior with the crowd. A team from the Spanish NGO



Medicos del Mundo offered free confidential HIV/AIDS testing onsite. The group then moved on to two other nearby villages, reaching over 100 adults and 200 young students and children with their skit and discussion.

Kids of Kadiogne sponsored this two-day event, whose goals were both to educate the audiences about sexual health issues and to offer an empowering opportunity to the young Senegalese women who took part in the program. We hope that these young women have gained new confidence from this experience to be able to continue to pass on their new knowledge to their families and communities and eventually to their own children.



Mosquito Net Distribution Scheduled for June

Bill Gates has called malaria "the worst thing on the planet". A recent article in National Geographic explains that "some 3,000 children die of malaria each day in Africa, one every 30 seconds." That's more than one million children a year. The article explains that the mosquito net is "one of the best defenses against malaria [...and can...] cut infections by half and child deaths by a third."



While many of the large organizations working on this problem find great difficulty in effectively distributing the nets, Kids of Kadiogne has created a simple model that has allowed us to use direct connections with children and families in remote villages to get the nets directly into their hands. Tonight, thousands of villagers in northern Senegal will sleep peacefully beneath mosquito nets

that we have provided, not only protected from malaria but also sleeping better and staying healthier and happier.



Senegal in early June, at the beginning of the rainy season and just before the start of the worst mosquito season of the year.

Sister School Program Update

Through our Sister School Program, American children from Abington Friends School and Senegalese children from Kadiogne Elementary School are getting to know each other and learning about each other's culture.



This program helps to bridge the geographic, linguistic, and cultural gaps between these two schools, allowing the children to exchange letters, drawings, and crafts, as they learn about the fascinating differences and often surprising similarities of life in a faraway place.



In March, Executive Director Luke Klein passed on to students at AFS the most recent



letters and drawings from the students in Kadiogne. In turn, AFS students presented to Luke the board games that they had made for the students in Senegal.

A Special Thank-You

Kids of Kadiogne wishes to extend a special thank-you to Nick and Agnes Forst and family and to Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc. for their crucial and consistent support of our programs.