



BUILD A SCHOOL IN AFRICA

In 2002, Kyla McKenna, a senior at the Bromfield school in Harvard, Mass, needed a topic for her Senior Humanities Project. Knowing that Judy Lorimer, an elementary teacher, made frequent trips to Mali, West Africa, bringing supplies to a local school, Kyla decided to raise money to help build a school. She raised almost \$10,000 the first year, and each year another student has taken over the project. By the summer of 2005 the project had \$20,000 in the bank.

“**Build a School in Africa**”, an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization, built its first school in late 2005. In a partnership with Save the Children, Ms. Lorimer took \$10,000 from the project’s account when she went in November 2005 to spend a month as a volunteer in the Kolondieba District in the south of Mali. Save the Children provided the additional funding, and construction on a new three-classroom middle school in Dialakoroba began November 10th. By the end of January, 2006, the building was finished, and enrolled its first class in the fall of 2006.

Encouraged by the success of the first building project, fund-raising continued, and construction

of a new middle school in Massamagana, also in collaboration with Save the Children, was finished in January, 2007. A third school, in Koloni-Filala, was completed in 2008, and a fourth in Diaka in 2009. #5 was completed at the end of January, 2010, in Mounkonkoro, and our 6th & 7th schools were finished April 2011 in Tabarako and Heremakono. In 2011 Save the Children shifted its focus from school construction to teacher training, so we teamed up with a local company in Sikasso for our 8th and 9th schools, in Sossoro and N’Galamatiebougou. They were finished in March 2012. Our 10th school, in Kounfouna, was completed early in May 2013; the 11th school in Kongoliko and the 12th in Ngolokouna, begun in 2014, are now finished. In Dec. 2014 we broke ground on # 13 in Kartioni, and #14 in Gongasso in Jan. 2015.

Currently only about 65% of Mali’s children can attend school because of the lack of classrooms. Our goal is to raise enough funds to help build at least one school a year, contributing \$15,000, a substantial percentage of the total cost.

The community receiving the school has to contribute the land, foundation stones, sand and gravel for making the cinder blocks, unskilled labor, and a portion of the funding. All the schools meet or exceed government standards.



New Middle School, Diaka, completed Feb. 2009

"Build a School In Africa" gets copies of invoices for all the materials purchased with our annual donation, so we know that our money is being used for its intended purpose.

GET INVOLVED! A number of organizations and individuals have initiated successful fund-raising projects. Schools have run many kinds of events to raise donations, and families have funded entire classrooms to honor a beloved family member. Every donation helps. If you’d like to help and want some ideas, contact Judy Lorimer at jmlorimer@verizon.net or call 978-433-2384.

Ms. Lorimer is available as a speaker in the New England area for your club, organization, church, or school, and can bring DVD photo-journals, masks, textiles, and other African art objects. To schedule a program, call 978-433-2384 or send an e-mail to jmlorimer@juno.com or jmlorimer@verizon.net. For more information about the project, check our website, www.BuildaSchoolinAfrica.org.

BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE

Horseback riders in New England have helped support the school project since 2006 with a pleasure trail ride in Groton MA, scheduled for a summer weekend. Riders follow a marked trail through beautiful public and private lands, and enjoy a home-cooked buffet of African dishes after the ride. Co-sponsored by the Littleton Horse Owners Association, 2/3 of the ride proceeds are donated to the project. The ride is affiliated with the New England Horse and Trail Association; go to nehorseandtrail.com; click on "Upcoming Rides" for this year's ride info & date.

A three-room school, two latrines, a two-room



EVERY CONTRIBUTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!
Bambara Proverb: "Dɔɔni dɔɔni kɛnɔni bɛ nyaga da"-"Little by little the bird builds its nest."

Here are items your donation can provide:

- \$1.20 - one concrete block
- \$10 - 2 kg of black slate paint for a class chalkboard
- \$12 - 1 sack of cement. 498 sacks are needed for the 5,135 cinderblocks used for the school buildings
- \$21 - A chair for the teacher
- \$22 - Anti-rust paint for the metal doors and windows
- \$30 - A 30 kg. pail of exterior paint
- \$32 - A teacher's desk
- \$35 - A student desk and bench that seats 3-4 children
- \$35 - A door for the latrines
- \$50 - Metal shutters for one window
- \$55 - All the nuts, bolts & hardware for all buildings
- \$100- A classroom door or a cabinet for materials.
- \$30,000-34,000 - A new school for up to 300 students



director's office/library, and all the furniture can be built in 3 months for about \$30,000 -34,000. All donations are tax-deductible and as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation we are eligible for matching funds if your employer offers a Matching Gift program.

Make checks payable to:

"Build A School In Africa, Inc."

c/o Judith Lorimer

83 Groton St. Pepperell, MA 01463-1524



"AFRICAN RHYTHMS" BENEFIT SHOWS

(Photos courtesy of the Harvard Post)

These shows, held annually each spring from 2002 - 2012, initially provided a substantial percentage of the money we raised each year. Featuring dancers and drummers from several groups, and led by fabulous Malian drummers, audiences were treated to exciting programs of music and dance from the African diaspora.

All the dancers and musicians volunteered their time and talent, and all proceeds after expenses were donated to the project.

