



## 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 school supplies to a ramshackle local school, Kyla decided to raise money to help build a new school. She raised almost \$10,000 the first year, and each year another student took over the project. By the summer of 2005, the project had \$20,000 in the bank.

“**Build a School in Africa**”,(BSA) 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 in November, when she went 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 middle school in Dialakoroba began November 10th. By The end of January, 2006, the building was completed, 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 middle school in Massamagana, also in

collaboration with Save the Children, was finished in January, 2007. The partnership continued through our first seven schools; four more more middle schools, in Koloni-Filala, Diaka, Mounkonkoro, and Heremakono, and a primary school in Tabarako.

In 2010, Save the Children shifted its focus to teacher training and was no longer building schools, so BSA teamed up with two partners in Sikasso, and we have continued to build schools in the rural areas in the Sikasso Region. Since 2011 we have built one or two schools per year, in Sossoro, N’Galamatiebougou, Kounfouna, Kongoliko, Ngolokouna, Kartioni, Gongasso, Tiogola, and Nimporodioula; our 17th school was just completed in the village of Dومانaba, with the 18th school planned for the fall of 2017.

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 per 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.



**Primary school, Kounfouna, 2012**

Our \$15,000, plus the community’s “in kind” contributions, will build two concrete block classrooms, two detached latrines, and an office/storage building. If a 3rd classroom is needed, the villagers provide the additional cash.

**GET INVOLVED!** Most of our funding comes from school projects, individuals, and small foundations or companies. Entire schools have been funded by families or schools to honor a loved one or a favorite teacher. Many clever ideas have generated significant contributions. Every donation counts! If you’d like to help and want some fund-raising ideas, contact Judy Lorimer at [jmlorimer@verizon.net](mailto: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’s and masks, carvings, textiles, musical instruments and other African art objects. To schedule a program, contact her at [jmlorimer@verizon.net](mailto:jmlorimer@verizon.net). For more information about the project, please visit our website: [www.BuildaSchoolinAfrica.org](http://www.BuildaSchoolinAfrica.org). Also, see the website for links to PayPal and Network For Good if you’d like to make a donation by credit card.



### “AFRICAN RHYTHMS” BENEFIT SHOWS

These shows have been one of our major fundraisers. Dancers and musicians from several Boston area groups, and led by fabulous Malian drummers, performed 17 shows from 2002 to 2012. Audiences were thrilled by exciting, high-energy music and dance from the African diaspora. Participants volunteered their time and talent, and all proceeds were donated to the project.



(photos courtesy of the Harvard Post)

### BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE

Horseback riders in New England have helped support the school project since 2006 with a pleasure trail ride in Groton, MA in late August. 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 proceeds are donated to the school project. The ride is affiliated with New England Horse and Trail; go to [nehorseandtrail.com](http://nehorseandtrail.com). Click on “August Rides” for this year’s rides info and date.



It takes only about three months to build a school; we hire local contractors to do the actual construction, providing needed jobs. We guarantee that 100% of the donations we receive goes to school construction. 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.**  
 83 Groton St. Pepperell, MA 01463, or  
 use a credit card to make a donation via  
 PayPal or Network for Good on our  
 website- [www.BuildaSchoolinAfrica.org](http://www.BuildaSchoolinAfrica.org).



### EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

**Bambara Proverb: “Dooni dooni kononi be nyaga da:” – “Little by little the bird builds its nest. ” Here are items your contribution can provide:**

- \$1.20 - one concrete block
- \$10 - 2 kg of black slate paint for chalkboard
- \$12 - 1 sack of cement
- \$21 - a chair for the teacher
- \$22 - anti rust paint for metal doors/windows
- \$30 - 30 kg pail exterior paint
- \$32 - a teacher’s desk
- \$35- student desk that seats 2-3 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 cabinet for materials
- \$17,000 - \$24,000 - a 2 or 3 room school for up to 300 students