

Friends of Guéoul, Inc.
3120 South Race Street
Englewood, Colorado 80113
www.gueoul.org
Gueoul@mindspring.com
303-788-1716

place
stamp
here

Volunteer and Contribute

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, put me on your mailing list for news from Friends of Guéoul

Yes, I'd like to volunteer. Some possibilities are:

- Special events/committees
- Education/outreach
- Grant Writing
- Graphic design, web design
- Special Programs in Gueoul
- Board membership
- Other _____

Yes, I'd like to help:

- \$7,500 for all classes for a year
- \$1,500 for a class of 12 for a year
- \$600 for half a class for a year
- \$100 for a girl for a year
- _____ Any amount makes a big difference!

Yes, I'd like to contribute \$ _____ to the Endowment Fund

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Guéoul, or pay by going to the web site or by credit card:

Name on card: _____

Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Card security code: _____

Expiration Date: _____

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Guéoul is one of those scrappy little Senegalese villages, perched out there on the edge of the Sahara Desert, hanging on for dear life. The Wolof people are survivors. They are energetic, bright, and community minded. These vivid people make it on sheer stubborn determination.

\$ 2 PER DAY

Half of the families in Senegal live on less than \$2 per day. Among the poor, this figure is much less. At the bottom end of society, poverty is so great that families cannot afford even the minimal costs of supplies and school fees so their daughters could stay in school. They may not even be able to afford to feed their families, which creates an incentive to marry off daughters at a very tender age, just to have one less mouth to feed. The unfortunate result is that the poorest girls drop out of school and are married when they are as young as twelve years old.

\$ 100 SCHOLARSHIP

We give \$100 to a disadvantaged girl each year that she stays in school. She is enormously motivated. Since the scholarship is provided only so long as the girls remain in school, the family is given both the resources and a powerful incentive to keep their daughter in school.

62 GIRLS

The first year, we chose older students and many have finished. Each year since, twelve of the poorest first graders are chosen. We now in our fifth year and have reached 62 girls. All 48 of the girls we brought in as first graders are still in school!

The ceremony to award scholarships has become an annual big event. Each year a town crier is sent all throughout the village, announcing that the next day at 4 p.m., the scholarships will be distributed. About 1000 people gathered at our February 2008 event. The ceremony was reported by national television, national radio, and newspaper. One by one, the girls came to the front of the crowd accompanied by a parent, and one by one, the scholarship money was handed to the girl to symbolize that she is the one being honored. All of the village leaders gave speeches supporting girls' educations, an enormous shift in their cultural beliefs.

OUR ON-SITE ADMINISTRATOR

The key to the program's administrative success is Mbaye Samb. He is a native Senegalese. He was born and lives in Guéoul. He provides oversight, liaison and financial management. In consultation with village elders and school administrators, he identifies candidates, monitors their progress, oversees disbursement of funds, provides periodic audit reports on disbursements, and reports on the academic progress of the students. Mbaye works strictly on a volunteer basis, as does our Board and staff.

A PROGRAM TO LOVE AND BELIEVE IN

Research shows that girls' education is the key to a nation's economic success. Educated girls have better health, are less likely to marry and start a family too young, better protect themselves from violence and abuse and trafficking, are less likely to undergo female genital mutilation, have fewer and healthier children, are more likely to educate their children, and are more active in their communities.

This program is capturing the hearts of contributors because we personally know and track each girl's progress. We have visited all of them in their homes and at school. We track their grades and provide a tutoring program. The five initial Board members have all been to Guéoul. The personal connection and sense of family between the donors and "our" girls is especially endearing.

Friends of Guéoul is narrow in focus and has reasonable goals. We believe it is the best way to accomplish profound and lasting humanitarian works. There is no global aim, just a village. This project, out there at the edge of life-diminishing poverty, is having an immediate and positive effect because of the financial support of people like you!

THANKS to the donation of computers, a classroom is being built which allows our girls and all students in the village to have access to global information and to develop marketable skills.

THANKS to the donation of funds and expertise, a pilot project bringing art classes to the children is starting in January 2009, and may become an annual opportunity for volunteers who want to participate in the village and school life.



WANT TO LEARN SOME WOLOF?

JERI JEF WAAY! (Thanks so much) for helping these **XALE YI BU JIGEEN!** (children who are female) have a **DUND BU NEEEX** (good life).

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- John Montaña, Board President, attorney at law
- Judy Beggs, Executive Director, attorney at law
- Abdou N'Dir, graduate student
- Clare Donnelly, international merchant
- Niki Pierson, non profit art school administrator
- Chas Richards, businessman
- Stacey Spaulding, optometrist
- Sharon Whalen, art teacher

OUR CONNECTION TO GUÉOUL:

ABDOU N'DIR, born in Guéoul, dropped out of school after the 3rd grade. His mother, father, and extended family were born in Guéoul and the family goes back centuries in that region. In 1995, at the age of twelve, he came to the United States under a dance scholarship with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. He danced professionally three years in the Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum performances. A soccer addict, he played for Englewood High School and Colorado College, garnering many honors. He speaks Wolof, French and English, and graduates from the Master's of Accountancy program at the University of Denver in 2009.

JUDY BEGGS, Executive Director, has been an attorney for 30 years and before that in various businesses for ten years. She served two years in Guéoul as a Peace Corps Volunteer, 1990-92, where she lived with Abdou, his cousins, and his grandmother, Fatou Sylla. She's volunteered extensively in several non-profit organizations, often as Chair of committees and on Boards. She's an event creator and organizer, and created and sponsored fundraising house concerts and River Jams.