



A Child For All Bringing Hope to Malian Orphans

# 2011 Annual Report

A Child For All, Inc. 21 Arbor Lane Stafford, VA 22554 www.acfacorp.org 540.659.6497

### A Message from the CEO

Dear ACFA Friends and Supporters,

2011 was a wonderful year for ACFA. I urge you to read on, so that you can experience, just as we do every day, the difference that you are helping us make in the lives of Mali's vulnerable children.

The year started at ACFA-Mali with volunteers, Beverly and Leah Henderson, my family and I ringing in the New Year in Bamako with the children. What a blessing that was. To make the best use of your donated funds, all travels were self- funded by the travelers. Soon after the New Year, the second academic semester kicked off, and six months later, ACFA-Mali accepted four new girls. We deliberately focused our 2011 expansion efforts on girls because the literacy ratio for Mali's children age 15 and over is 53% to 39% for boys and girls respectively. Additionally, according to a report published by Women For Women "when 10% more girls go to school, a country's GDP increases on average by 3%". A country's average annual target GDP growth is 2.5%, this Kadiatou with some of the ACFA children during her

means that by sending just 10% more girls to school on a yearly basis, Mali can maintain healthy economic growth. We currently have twelve children: six boys and six girls.



July 2011 visit

After having adjusted to their new way of living in 2010, the children are now blossoming in their new environment. What differentiates ACFA from a typical orphanage is that we are not trying to merely feed and clothe our children; we are giving these children hope and transforming them into citizens of their country. Mali. The integrated strategy includes developing their minds, and bodies. In this vein, we stress their participation in extracurricular activities, such as karate, and basketball. These sport activities help them maintain a healthy body and attain their best intellectual performance. Further, as Mori Taheripour of USAID stated, the benefit of sport programs is that they "promote leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, and perseverance." The children's summer art school program culminated with a play, posted on our website at www.acfacorp.org, where they depict the situation of vulnerable children in Mali and how your assistance is helping them escape this path.

In 2011, we strengthened our relationship with The Segal Family Foundation. Thanks to their financial support mentoring and matching challenge, we were able to increase our donor base and meet the financial challenges of our new programs. Our new farming program, implemented in 2011, was not as optimal as we expected, because of a drought that ravaged Mali in 2011. As a result, food prices have skyrocketed in Mali.

In 2011, ACFA-Mali's children enjoyed the visits, in-kind donation of school materials, and volunteering activities of Alexis Strader, Erich Pacheco, Jack Harb, and Salma Tabet. Joyce Carpenter's unrelenting perseverance kept our children well clothed and provided protection against the cold and mosquitoes.

The magnitude of ACFA's growth in 2011 is a testimony to the untiring support of its Board of Directors, the continued support of our partners: the Segal Family Foundation, the Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, the Globalgiving, the Exotic Caye Beach Resort in Belize, and the unlimited support of donors like you. For that I cannot than you enough. ACFA's success is your success. Each of you have helped support, sustain and contribute to ACFA's growth and changing lives a world away in Mali.

Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe, ACFA CEO & Founder

### ACFA Mali/ACFA USA

In March, 2008 ACFA (A Child For All) was founded as a non-governmental and non-profit organization under a clear vision of its CEO and dedicated volunteers. Since then, ACFA has been bringing hope to vulnerable children. Established in Virginia, USA, ACFA is implemented in Bamako, Mali, West Africa and has two centers for operation:

#### **ACFA-Mali**

sports and games that build teamwork and cooperation.

#### Safe Shelter

Located near the Niger River in the capital city of Bamako, ACFA-Mali is the home of Malian vulnerable children. Our live-in staff cares for the twelve ACFA children on a daily basis. We are blessed with dedicated volunteers who eagerly come to the ACFA house on a daily basis and help our staff in caring for the children.

#### **Nutritious Meals**

A healthy balanced diet is essential to the children's physical and mental development. Proper nutrition enables the ACFA children to pay attention in school and make the most of their education. Our staff lovingly prepares and distributes our children's meals on a daily basis and give daily supplements to the children.

#### **Health Care**

In coordination with the Primary Health Care Center of Badalabougou, ACFA-Mali provides the highest health care services to our children. In addition, local doctors and pharmacists visit the children at their home, and make in-kind donations.

#### Education

Education is a very important component of ACFA's strategy. In coordination with the public education system in Mali, we provide the best curriculum for our children. The standard Malian educational curriculum is supplemented with added activities including arts and crafts, critical thinking skills, English language instruction and life skills, all conducive to the children's mental and intellectual development. Study and nap time is built into the schedule.

believe that education is the link that will break the chains of poverty in Mali. Our efforts in educational development are both academic and physical, including that are required for its operation.

#### **ACFA-USA**

ACFA's vision and mission remain constant. The way ACFA actualizes these is through dynamic child centered programming, donor investment, local and international partnerships, and volunteer support.

The CEO and the ACFA Board of Directors are based in the Washington, D.C. area and meet regularly to provide fiscal and governing oversight to the organization. The board is made up of Africans and Americans, working together to enable and encourage the Mali staff in their work with the ACFA kids.



Lassine and Fousseni enjoying corn from the ACFA farm.

Education is the primary focus of ACFA's efforts. We ACFA supports vulnerable children and makes no distinction based on gender or age. ACFA is bounded legally and officially to US, Mali, and all international laws

# **Major Accomplishments in 2011**

- In its relationship with the Segal Family Foundation ACFA met the latter' challenge , raising \$7,500 in matched funds. ACFA met this five-month challenge through a campaign of program and mission awareness, increasing our donor base.
- The past year was a year of growth for ACFA. We now house twelve children, four more girls than last year, helping to achieve ACFA's goal of gender equality.
- Volunteer exposure continued. In 2011, four international volunteers visited ACFA-Mali, and, in addition to in -kind donations, dedicated their time in the following areas: farming, mentorship, and tutoring
- ACFA children were enrolled in school, where they continue to perform well. After school, ACFA's staff assists children in needed areas, including English tutoring.
- Recreational activities continue to play an important part in ACFA's approach to its children's development. In addition to Tae Kwon Do and basketball, ACFA children also completed an arts & drama class in the summer, culminating with a short play, viewable on ACFA's website. These activities allow the children to discover their own talents through creative exercises.
- ACFA began a local farming program, seeking to create a more sustainable and reliable food source for ACFA's children. Crops include corn and beans.
- ACFA concluded 2011 with another successful annual fundraising dinner, attended by honored guests Bernadette Paolo, President and CEO of the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa, and Daba Modibo Keïta, two-time Taekwondo World Champion. This year's annual fundraising dinner exceeded previous years' totals in terms of attendance and dollars raised, a testament to ACFA's growing success and outreach.
- ACFA's major 2011 accomplishments was the successful completion of 50% of the following 2011 goals:
  - Increase ACFA's visibility through greater publicity and fundraising efforts, growing the US donor base
  - Improve volunteering support in Mali and USA
  - Continue to improve the orphanage through fixing water damages
  - Seek gender equality in ACFA children by increasing the number of ACFA girls
  - Focus on the self-sustainability of ACFA

The remaining goals not achieved will be carried over to 2012, which are: an internship program, the purchase of a van, ACFA's reunion with families, community mentoring, and training of staff in psychological care.



(From Left) Annual Fundraising Key Note Speaker Bernadette Paulo, Workers on the ACFA Farm, and Basketball Lessons

# The Children of ACFA



Adama and Lassine TRAORE : (Twins)

These children are fatherless and were homeless, living with their mother on the streets of Bamako, where they begged. Though they had been enrolled before, due to financial constraints, they were obliged to drop out of school and return to begging to meet the household's basic needs.

#### Salle and Korotoumoui SINAYOKO

These two kids have an alcoholic father and a mother who is mentally disabled. Because of her mental instability, the mother often abandoned her nine young children. The children were frequently left by themselves, with no supervision. They had not been enrolled into any schools.

#### Fousseni and Allassane DIALLO (Twins)

These twins have been without a father since birth; they lived with their mother who worked as a household maid. When she lost her job, she turned to begging to feed her children.

The twins were in 1<sup>st</sup> grade when they arrived at ACFA-Mali. Due to lack of financial means and necessary time for studies, these children, who begged with their mother on the streets of Bamako, were not advanced to the next grade, so they abandoned school.

#### Fanta and Billy KONATE (Twins)

These twins were born in the absence of their father, who had gone into exile to the neighboring country of Guinea Conakry. Since their birth, 7 years ago, their father has not been heard from. In order to meet her children's needs, the mother used to beg in the surrounding area of the main mosque of Bamako. This situation made the children vulnerable to the dangers of the street. In addition, the children had not been enrolled into any schools and their mother could not enroll them due to financial means.













# The Children of ACFA



### <u>Astan DOUMBIA, Known as Bastan (Left) and Hawa</u> <u>BAGAYOKO (Right) :</u>

Bastan and her mother were homeless, and begged for food. Her father, who is unable to provide any support to the family, left for another city of Mali– Sikasso – and does not know anything about Bastan. She had not had the chance to attend any school before her arrival to ACFA. Hawa is fatherless and she has five siblings. In order to provide her six children with food, the mother worked as a street peddler on the outskirts of the city of Bamako. Hawa never had the chance to attend school.

#### <u>Kadiatou KOLOHOGON, known as Mamy (Left) and Fatoumata</u> <u>TANGARA, Known as Hadja (Right)</u>:

Mamy is fatherless and has four siblings. Educating the children was a heavy burden for their mother, who turned to begging on the streets of Bamako. Hadja lost both of her parents and was adopted by very poor relatives. At age eight, when she lost her parents, she was forced to abandon school because her adoptive family was unable to financially support her.







### **ACFA Volunteers**

In December 2010, I was introduced to Kadiatou Sidibe through a mutual friend. The original purpose of our meeting was to talk about my possibly working with ACFA as an intern and I was very impressed with Kadiatou's passion for helping orphaned and vulnerable children. In the end, however, I decided not to intern with ACFA,

but I still wanted to support the organization. As fate would have it, I ended up going to Bamako the following summer and I was overjoyed at the possibility of spending time with the children of ACFA after all.

Along with my friend, Erich Pacheco, I met Zoumano Bagayoko (Zou) and we visited the children at their school. I then visited their home and met the rest of the ACFA staff. I could see that the children were happy and healthy, and they seemed to be especially attached to Zou, as he seemed to be the father figure for the children.

What I'm most proud of as a result of my short amount of time working with ACFA in Mali is being able to coordinate a donation of school supplies from anonymous donors in Colombia as well as having seeds donated from USAID for ACFA's farm. Erich and I brought the Colombians to ACFA so that they could meet the children, and I think it was a very positive experience for everyone.



Alexis (far right) during her visit to ACFA in July 2011

These small contributions certainly will not be my

last to ACFA, and I hope that as a newly elected board member I will be able to continue to brighten the lives of these children and make them happy in any way I can.



Erich playing with some of the children during his visit to ACFA in July 2011

Through my good friend Alexis Strader I came to know ACFA in May 2011. I had the opportunity to visit the orphanage and the school the children attend. I was able to coordinate an anonymous donation of school supplies from two Colombian friends. Additionally, I submitted a proposal to the USAID funded project Integrated Initiatives for Economic Growth in Mali (IICEM) requesting seeds to be used for food production for the benefit of ACFA's children. I also had the pleasure of visiting ACFA's farm and witnessed their cereal and horticulture production. This prompted me to introduce Mrs. Kadiatou Sidibe to Mrs. Aissata Thera, head of IICEM's horticulture program. Ideally, this partnership could assist the orphanage to improve its agricultural vields, hence becoming more autonomous to satisfy its food needs.

### **Budget**

ACFA's budget is comprised of: individual donors that give directly often through fundraising events, on line donations via the Globalgiving website and significant support from the Segal Family Foundation. Part of the Way Forward for 2012 includes ACFAs desire to diversify its funding base and develop more self-sustaining resources in Mali.



In 2011, our annual budget was \$25,295. These funds provided food, shelter, education, and health care for 12 children. Thus, for 2011, ACFA invested approximately \$175 per child per month.

Some may find this sum a bit high for the care of an orphan, but keep in mind that ACFA takes a holistic approach to develop a child which differentiates us from other orphanages. ACFA assumes the care of a child from the streets of Bamako, who has no hope for a meal tomorrow, and enrolls them at ACFA-Mali. Here they have a home and a family. The children receive health care, nutritious meals accompanied by multi-vitamin supplements. They are enrolled in school, have tutors, and take additional extracurricular classes. In keeping a healthy mind and a healthy body strategy, the children take on sports activities such as Taekwondo, Karate, and basketball. Additionally, the children participate in summer programs that enhance their education. 2011's summer program culminated with a role play, which was supported by donors like Joanne Millions. Ms. Millions was impressed with the children's final production and role play. Such talent! The CEO pointed out that this is how the children are when they feel engaged and supported. All these programs demonstrate a great return on an investment.

In 2011 ACFA received a total of \$37,707 in donations. The Segal Family Foundation support represents 45% of the 2011 donation. In addition to the funds raised from the Segal Family Foundation matching challenge, ACFA raised \$4,985 from outside individual donations, which represents 40% of total individual donations for the year. Additionally, through this, ACFA increased its database by 50. Therefore, 58% of our annual donations were received as a result of our partnership with the Segal Family Foundation. The financial support through our three projects with Globalgiving accounted for 22% of our total 2011 donations.

### **Budget**

Most of ACFA's donations are going straight to support children's program in Mali: 80% of ACFA's 2011 expenses were spent in support of ACFA-Mali's programs. The remaining 20% were spent in the States on such services as fundraising, web maintenance, marketing (brochures printing), as well as gifts purchased and sent to the children in Mali for their Christmas party.

• 75% of the total amount that was sent to Mali was spent on the children's well-being. The remaining 25% was allocated to bank finances, utilities, repair on the house, and the farming project.



- 25% of the total expenses are related to Mali's overheads. ACFA maintains small overhead because we do not have any paid staff in the United States. Our paid staff represents those whose full time job is to care for the children in Bamako.
- 10% was used to fix the water damage in the home incurred during the 2011 rainy season.
- ACFA's fundraising expenses comprised 8% of our budget: this is made possible because of board members and other donors donating food to support our events.
- Unfortunately, while we invested 6% of our farming budget (\$1,618), we harvested crops worth only \$490. This is due to the drought Mali suffered in 2011, which led to a less than optimal return on our agricultural project.

# **Balance Sheet & Income Statement**

### Statement of Financial Position As of 31 Dec 2011

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$29,696.00
Inventory	\$171.00
Accounts Receivables	\$4,298.00
Total Assets	\$34,165.00
Liabilities	
Accounts Payables	\$450.00
Total Liabilities	\$450.00

#### Statement of Activities Year Ended 31 December 2011 GAAP Basis

Categories	Total	
Individual Donations	\$12,581.74	
Segal Family Foundation Grants	\$17,000.00	
Globalgiving Donations	\$8,125.30	
Total Revenue	\$37,707.04	
Expenses		
ACFA-MALI		
Program Services		
Nutrition	\$4,410.00	
Health Care	\$1,107.00	
Education	\$1,718.00	
Sports Activities	\$63.00	
Transportation Expenses	\$437.00	
Clothing and Personal Hygiene	\$1,698.00	
Entertainment	\$776.00	
Farming Project	\$1,403.00	
Children's Staff Salary	\$5,879.00	
Utilities	\$1,208.00	
Repair to House	\$1,385.00	
Total Direct Costs	\$20,084.00	
Management and Administrative		
Bank Fees	\$216.00	
Total Management and Admin	\$216.00	
Total ACFA-MALI Expenses	\$20,300.00	
ACFA-USA		
VA Registration and Taxes	\$271.00	
Web Maintenance Fees	\$940.00	
Postage Fees	\$148.00	
Marketing Fees	\$577.00	
Fundraising fees	\$2,109.00	
Travel Expenses	\$440.00	
Children Christmas Party	\$350.00	
Money Transfer Fees	\$160.00	
Total ACFA-USA Expenses	\$4,995.00	
Total Expenses	\$25,295.00	

## The Way Ahead in 2012

It is an exciting time for ACFA as the Board of Directors prepares to build on the experiences of 2011. ACFA had two very successful fundraising events and ACFA is growing in every way. We are blessed with twelve wonderful children who are thriving as they are nurtured in all aspects of their lives – through education, sports, mentoring, a caring staff and encouragement from board members and all who have contributed to ACFA.

ACFA continues to work on fundraising plans for 2012. The Board of Directors has been most grateful for all the donations for the silent auctions held at our fundraising events and we hope to have some interesting auction items at our future events. ACFA looks forward to strengthening its ties with the Segal Family Foundation and forming new partnerships in the coming year. One of our 2012 goals is to secure a capital funding that will allow us to build our new orphanage on ACFA's land in Zorokoro. This is vital. We are experiencing difficulties accommodating the twelve children we currently have in the small house that our founder's father has generously donated to us. The children need a larger space for their activities. While we do have land that we can build on, we need to raise the funds to build the facilities that are needed.

In continuing our efforts to maintain the Malian culture in our children's education, we will continue to forge relationships with the local community in Mali as well as governmental entities in the U.S. and Mali.

We continue in 2012 to seek interns and volunteers to help expose the children to a global outlook and to help them understand that there are people around the world who care for their wellbeing and future. We also hope that 2012 will be a time of improving the sustainability of ACFA Mali in the farming venture and other small business activities. Additionally, due to the challenges of the public education system in Mali which often underpays and consequently impacts the quality of education delivered, ACFA plans to send its 12 children to private school in the next year. The Board found that the cost is a minimal increase given the benefit . The Board of Directors is appreciative of all the support in the first two years of ACFA and we are inspired to continue the work this year and in the coming years.



ACFA's One Year Anniversary Celebration, June 2011

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your donations are tax deductible as ACFA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Please consider a financial contribution or a contribution in-kind. Every donation makes a difference in the lives of the children of ACFA.

Please visit <u>www.acfacorp.org</u> to donate and to learn more about the children of ACFA and opportunities to volunteer.