

FACES OF GUÉOUL

FRIENDS OF GUÉOUL 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Friends of Guéoul, a non-profit organization, enables female Senegalese students to achieve economic and life successes by creating access to education through annual scholarships and learning enrichment programs to pursue their education through high school.

EDUCATING GIRLS
LIFTING FAMILIES
BENEFITING A COMMUNITY
BETTERING OUR WORLD

THE FUTURE WE COULDN'T IMAGINE HAS ARRIVED!

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS! *by John Montaña*



Reflecting back on the last 20 years, Friends of Guéoul has been an amazing ride for me. That first year, we managed to keep a few little girls in school for a little while. And we were satisfied that we could do so much as that. **We were not thinking much about the future—it was a long way away back then.**

But it has arrived. And who could have imagined that I would live to see those little girls having matured into young women—educated young women—ready to take their place in the world? **Yet here we are, and a wonderful thing it is to see.**

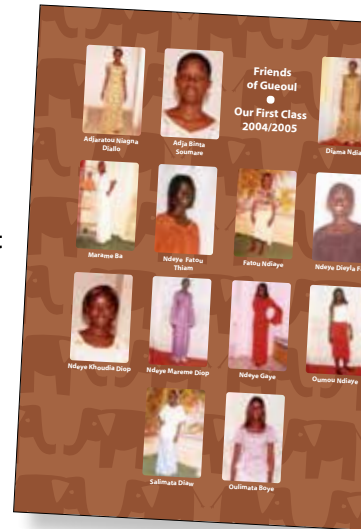
That our organization has endured is a testament to our **collective power to do good.** We have all made this happen. And in so doing, we've

affected not just the lives of these young women, but the future of all the generations of their families that come after them.

The reality of that impact is a testament to the power and permanence of what we have done—and of what we can yet achieve. **So let us look forward to another 20 years of success! And to many more after that!**

Best,

John Montaña,
Co-Founder,
Friends of Guéoul



270 GIRLS IMPACTED SINCE 2005

guéoul **20!**
SINCE 2005
FRIENDS OF GUÉOUL



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As President of Friends of Guéoul's Board of Directors, I have been amazed and impressed by what our **dedicated Board and volunteers** have accomplished! The past year has been one of growth, resilience, and commitment to our mission of empowering the girls, the young women, and the families of Guéoul by providing educational opportunities that would not otherwise be available to our students.

Despite **complex challenges**—both global and local—we have witnessed the incredible strength and creativity of our students; of Elke, our U.S.-based Executive Director; the local Board, staff and educators in Guéoul; the families; and our volunteers.

Some highlights:

- Our scholarship program expanded by **two additional first graders** each year, ensur-

ing more girls attend school, dream boldly, and build brighter futures for themselves and their future families.

- We secured a grant from *For a Better Tomorrow* to ship 95 refurbished computers to **replace the aging laptops** that could no longer support our educational programs.
- **We ended the fiscal year in the black**, and are looking forward to our biggest fundraising push later this year with the *ColoradoGives* campaign.
- Our grant committee has diligently applied to opportunities in the U.S. and in Senegal, receiving several grants, including **\$23,800 for STEM instruction from Agilent**. In the past, we applied for funding support from various U.S. government agencies. While we were disappointed not to receive those grants, we are somewhat reassured that, for now, we aren't reliant on such an unpredictable source of support.

We are proud of our collaborative spirit, both within Guéoul and across continents. Our partners, donors, and tireless team members have

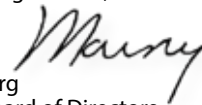
once again proven that **compassion and solidarity know no borders**. Each achievement—large or small—has been the result of collective dedication and shared vision.

Looking ahead, we embrace the coming year with renewed hope and ambition. We are committed to deepening our impact and nurturing the dreams of Guéoul's future leaders. Together, we can continue to break down barriers and unlock opportunities, one student, one family, and one community at a time.

None of this is possible without YOUR unwavering generosity and support!

On behalf of the entire Board, thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us. Your support transforms lives and helps build the foundation for a more just and vibrant future for all.

With deepest gratitude,



Marny Eulberg
President, Board of Directors

A MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF GUÉOUL'S FIELD DIRECTOR, *Makhfou Diop*

Il est très facile de parler de Friends of Guéoul lorsqu'on a eu la chance de participer aux activités qu'elle mène dans la commune de Guéoul. C'est également le cas pour les mères de famille, les élèves et les étudiantes qui ont bénéficié de son soutien, leur permettant de poursuivre leur scolarité. Sans l'appui de Friends of Guéoul, beaucoup d'entre elles n'auraient pas pu continuer leurs études ni envisager l'enseignement secondaire ou supérieur.

Le taux de passage des élèves de l'élémentaire au secondaire ne cesse d'augmenter, et le taux d'abandon scolaire est presque nul ces dernières années. Autrement dit, le modèle de scolarisation des filles, soutenu par Friends of Guéoul, reste mesurable et constitue l'un des meilleurs atouts pour identifier et surmonter les obstacles qui empêchent les filles d'accéder à des études avancées.

It's easy to talk about Friends of Guéoul when you've had the chance to participate in its activities in the commune of Guéoul. This is also the case for the mothers, pupils, and students who have benefited from its support, allowing them to continue their education. Without the support of Friends of Guéoul, many of them would not have been able to continue their studies or consider secondary or higher education.

The transition rate of students from elementary to secondary school continues to increase, and the dropout rate has been almost zero in recent years.

In other words, the girls' education model, supported by Friends of Guéoul, remains measurable and constitutes one of the best assets for identifying and overcoming the obstacles that prevent girls from accessing advanced studies.

*Dieurejef in Wolof,
Thank you,*



Cheikh Makhfou Diop
Field Director, Senegal

OUR BOARD AND STAFF IN GUÉOUL



Friends of Guéoul Senegalese Board, Left to Right: Bity N'Dir, President; Maguette Diop, Vice President; Ndeye Codou Sarr, Secretary; Kara Beye, Treasurer; Amadou Bachir Diop, Mayoral Office Representative; Ibrahima Gueye, Board Member, U.S. & Senegal



Friends of Guéoul Senegalese Staff, Left to Right: Makhfou Diop, Field Director; Issa Lo, Administration and Finance; Mor Talla Gueye, Noos Club Coordinator; Nogaye Diop, IT Teacher and alumna; Alioune Niang, IT teacher



Marny Eulberg,
Board President



WELCOME MATY THIAM!

Welcome to the Friends of Guéoul family, Maty!

Some of you have noticed that our recent social media posts have been more focused on **news from Senegal and are often in French**. I wanted to share the story behind this change!

On my last trip, our Board Member, Ibrahima, introduced me to the incredibly talented Maty Thiam. He knew that I'm not the best at remembering to take photos during my visits, and Maty has been an absolute gift.

She not only traveled with our Field Director, Makhfou Diop, and me to capture beautiful and informative images, but she also has a wonderful way of making our scholarship recipients feel comfortable and confident in front of the camera. She brings out their personalities and lets us share a more personal look at their world.

We hope you're **enjoying this new perspective** and the chance to see more of the work happening on the ground!



Elke McGuire,
Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

Elke McGuire

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Friends of Guéoul, I find myself reflecting on the **incredible journey we have shared**. It seems like only yesterday that our founders, John and Judy, planted the seeds of this dream. I will never forget the first time I traveled to Guéoul in 2020 and celebrated the scholarship ceremony with John and Judy. I saw firsthand the profound need, but also the immense potential, of this community.

Following Judy's passing, I wasn't sure what the future held for our organization, but I am so incredibly proud of what we have built together with the help of our team, led by our Field Director Makhfou Diop and support of our Board and the community in Guéoul. With the steadfast support of you, our donors, and your generosity, we have honored their vision to ensure every girl in Guéoul receives an education.

This year has been a roller coaster of challenges and triumphs. My recent trip to Senegal was a powerful reminder of how resilient communities can be, even as they face the cuts in funding for global programs that have been felt so deeply. I witnessed firsthand how every organization that we visited was ready to collaborate and work as one. This spirit of partnership reaffirmed my belief that together, we go further.

It is an extraordinary privilege to witness the impact your generosity makes in the lives of so many. These young women, whose futures have been forever changed because of your support, you may never meet. We are so grateful for your trust in our mission, and if you ever would like to accompany me on my trip to Guéoul, please let me know!

As we look to the future, I invite you to stay connected with us through our e-newsletter, social media, and website for more stories from the field and updates from our journey in Senegal. Thank you for making a difference that will last for generations.

Sincerely,

Elke McGuire

Elke McGuire,
Executive Director



A FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FROM OUR VOLUNTEER CO-TREASURER,

Ann Saunders

During fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, Friends of Guéoul achieved a surplus \$36,247 compared to a deficit of \$1,088 in the prior year. This improvement resulted largely from the generosity of our donors, Board Members, and successful volunteer fundraising efforts.

FoG leveraged Board Members with professional expertise and volunteers to handle accounting, fundraising, data analysis, graphic arts, and technical support. These volunteer efforts allowed us to conserve funds for program operations in Guéoul while building a strong platform for increased funding through donations, grants, and legacy gifts.

Grants became a significant new revenue source this year, totaling \$30,300. Volunteers focused on grant writing and outreach to foundations committed to girls' education and achievement. This additional funding is enabling us to expand the program to eventually include all eligible girls in Guéoul.



Expenses and revenues since 2007. For a more detailed look at Friends of Guéoul finances, please visit Candid, formerly Guidestar.

A PROGRAM THAT WORKS! A MESSAGE FROM BOARD MEMBER

Jaquet Dickson

In last year's Annual Report, I reported on the long-term education attainment of the girls in our first entering cohorts (2005-2007). That group had a 38 percent high school completion rate, a remarkable achievement as less than one percent of girls in low-income rural areas of Senegal were completing high school in 2017 (World Bank data).

This year we are reporting on the cohorts who entered in 2007-2009. We are pleased to report an even higher graduation rate for this group—a full 47 percent!

Unfortunately, more recent comparative data on high school graduation rates are not available for low-income rural areas of Senegal. However, UNESCO-UIS data from a 2023 report provides a different measure we can use for comparison. It notes that only 21 percent of high school-age girls in Senegal were enrolled at the high school level in 2023. This compares to 56 percent of the girls in our 2007-2009 cohorts having at least some upper secondary education and 47 percent having graduated (with one still enrolled). The comparison is even more favorable than it might appear as the UNESCO-UIS data include urban as well as rural areas, with urban areas having much higher enrollment rates than rural areas.

We want to help an ever-increasing percentage of girls complete their education. This program works and we are deeply appreciative that you, our donors and sponsors, make it possible!

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

SCHOOL YEAR 25/26

18 NEW STUDENTS

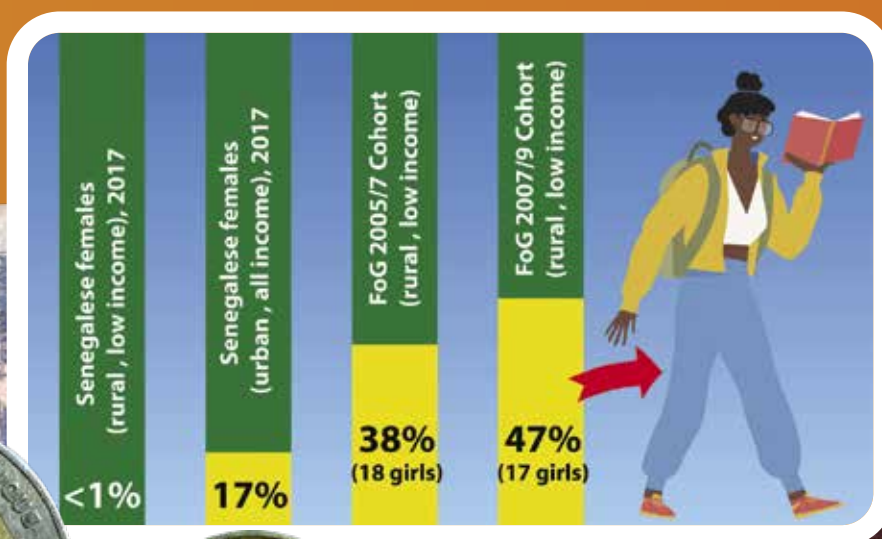
Every year, a new cohort of first grade female students receives scholarships that enable and encourage them to attend school.

175 SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR

Through annual scholarships, Friends of Guéoul sustains support for our participants through secondary school.

\$ 150 PER BOURSIERE

A \$150 donation underwrites the scholarship of one Friends of Guéoul scholar and provides her school supplies for an entire academic year.



FRIENDS OF GUÉOUL OUT AND ABOUT

PROMOTING AND COLLABORATING FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION



African Leadership Business Summit in Denver with Papa Dia, Executive Director of **ALG**, Elke, and Sinna Gueye, Director of **Youth Employment** in Senegal.

Yussuf Sané, Program Leadership Coordinator; Elke, Kadji Diop, Chief Finance and Operations Officer; Rose Diop, National Coordinator, Senegal; and Makhfou during a visit to meet an important future partnering organization, **Tostan**, in Thies, Senegal.

US-based Board Member Ibrahima Gueye with Senegalese Board Members and Field Director Makhfou Diop with new computers funded by a grant from **For A Better Tomorrow**.



Elke and Makhfou with **Students of Senegal** Founder, Amaye Seck, in Lambaye. We learned about their coding, robotics, and 3D printing program and introduced him to our program.



Volunteer CPA Ann Saunders and Jude Biggs hosted a fundraiser at Ann's home in Longmont.



Once or twice a year we try to meet in person. This holiday event was hosted by our Board Member Janet Dickson at her home.



Elke met to discuss FoG scholars' participation in this year's **Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) Program** (spelling bee and student exchange) with Adja Gueye and Christina Wilson at the American Council's office in Dakar.



Teacher Marilyn Hines and her students from **Academie Lafayette**, a French immersion school in Kansas, made their 2nd trip to Senegal this summer. The heart of their trip was a visit to Guéoul, where her students met their pen pals from Friends of Guéoul.



Planning our first fundraising and donor event in Dakar with the president of the **Women's Art Council** and **Loman Art Hotel** event manager, Terry Eyang.

For the third year in a row, FoG participated in **Women Powering Change**, a networking event in Denver.



The incredible Codou Gueye and Natali Marshall, juniors at **Eaglecrest High School** (Codou is the daughter of Board Member Ibrahima Gueye), taught tennis to young students to raise \$520 for Friends of Guéoul!



Our staff and Board Members (in green) during our annual scholarship celebration in Guéoul.



**A MESSAGE FROM
SENEGAL-BASED
BOARD PRESIDENT**

Bity N'Dir



Pour ceux qui découvrent notre organisation, laissez-moi vous parler de la clé de notre succès : l'engagement communautaire.

Les Amis de Gueoul est une organisation qui s'appuie fortement sur la communauté locale pour identifier les besoins et mettre en œuvre son programme. L'engagement des habitants de Guéoul est essentiel à notre réussite. Ce n'est

que grâce aux échanges directs entre parents, enseignants et aînés que notre conseil local peut identifier les filles les plus vulnérables et les plus méritantes, qui seraient autrement exclues du système éducatif.

Il est également de notre devoir de défendre sans relâche l'éducation des filles. Pour certaines, il s'agit d'une nouvelle priorité. C'est une véritable joie d'entendre les membres de la communauté affirmer qu'ils croient en l'importance d'améliorer cette moitié de notre communauté.

Je voudrais remercier mes collègues ici à Guéoul et de l'autre côté de l'océan pour l'attention qu'ils portent à notre objectif commun de scolariser nos filles et de les aider à tirer le meilleur parti de cette opportunité.

For those just learning about our organization, let me tell you about the key to our success—**community engagement.**

Friends of Guéoul is an organization that relies heavily on the local community to identify needs and implement its program. It is only through the in-person relationships of parents, teachers and elders that our local Board can identify the most vulnerable and deserving girls who would otherwise be lost to the education system.

It is also our role to tirelessly advocate for the education of girls. For some, this is a new priority. It is a true joy to hear from community members that they believe in the importance of uplifting this half of our community.

I would like to thank my colleagues both here in Guéoul and across the ocean for your focus on our mutual goal of getting our girls in school and helping them make the most of this opportunity.



Mor Talla Gueye

**COURS DE RENFORCEMENT
ET SUMMER SCHOOL**

Une très bonne initiative pour aider nos élèves à la maîtrise des enseignements/ apprentissages. Les parents, les enseignants et l'ensemble de la communauté éducative de manière générale ont apprécié le projet et en sont reconnaissants. Tout le monde est sensible à l'apport des bourses que vous octroyez aux enfants pendant l'année scolaire. Et le projet va même jusqu'à appuyer les établissements scolaires en intrants informatiques. Le coordonnateur Makhfou Diop très disponible va au-delà de sa mission en participant activement à la formation et au renforcement des capacités des enseignants en informatique. Merci et bonne continuation.

**REINFORCEMENT COURSES
AND SUMMER SCHOOL**

Noos (fun) Club and summer school are very good initiatives to help our students master their skills. Parents, teachers, and the entire educational community in general appreciate the project and are grateful for it. Everyone appreciates the contribution of the scholarships you award to children during the school year. And the project even goes so far as to support schools with computer equipment. The Field Director, Makhfou Diop, is very available and goes above and beyond his mission by actively participating in the training and capacity building of computer teachers.

Thank you and best of luck.



Kids making art at Noos Club

Babacar Dieng

**MATH AND AGILENT STEM
PROGRAM TEACHER**

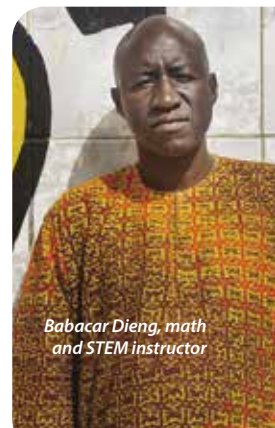
Le programme de sciences, initié par le bureau Friends of Guéoul, a pour ambition de renforcer durablement les compétences des apprenants en leur offrant un encadrement de qualité et des outils adaptés aux exigences actuelles. L'objectif est de hisser le niveau académique des élèves afin d'accroître significativement les taux de réussite aux examens, avec un accent particulier sur la scolarisation et la réussite des filles, souvent confrontées à des obstacles supplémentaires.

En favorisant l'excellence scolaire et en réduisant les risques d'abandon, ce programme ouvre aux jeunes filles de nouvelles perspectives pour l'avenir. Il leur donne la possibilité d'accéder à des postes de responsabilité dans divers domaines scientifiques, techniques et professionnels, et de devenir ainsi des actrices clés du développement économique et social de leur localité. À travers cette initiative, Friends of Guéoul s'engage non seulement à améliorer l'éducation, mais aussi à contribuer à la lutte contre la pauvreté en offrant à la jeunesse, et particulièrement aux filles, les moyens de bâtir un avenir meilleur pour elles-mêmes et pour toute la communauté.

The science program, initiated by the Friends of Guéoul office, aims to sustainably strengthen learners' skills by providing them with quality support and tools adapted to current demands. The goal is to raise students' academic levels in order to significantly increase exam success rates, with a particular focus on the schooling and success of girls, who often face additional obstacles.

By promoting academic excellence and reducing the risk of dropping out, this program opens up new prospects for young girls. It gives them the opportunity to access leadership positions in various scientific, technical, and professional fields, and thus become key players in the economic and social development of their locality.

Through this initiative, Friends of Guéoul is committed not only to improving education but also to contributing to the fight against poverty by providing young people, particularly girls, with the means to build a better future for themselves and for the entire community.



Babacar Dieng, math and STEM instructor



Makhfeu and Ibrahima checking the new laptops

THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF A GENEROUS HEART

Do you remember last year, when Ibrahima Gueye, our Denver-based Board Member, happened to visit his family during his vacation right as we received 95 refurbished computers for the Noos Club in Guéoul? Ibrahima, with a heart for his community and a deep belief in the power of education, recognized another opportunity to make a difference.

He knew the students in Guéoul faced a critical decision: **choosing between a science or a humanities** path before they even started high school. Most had no real way to explore either option. So, Ibrahima looked to his work at Agilent and saw a way to bridge the gap. He introduced our organization to Agilent's charitable arm, believing that together, we could give these young people the chance to truly explore their passions.

That single introduction blossomed into an incredible partnership that has **now fully funded a brand new STEM program** in Guéoul. This isn't just about adding a class to a schedule; it's about opening a world of possibility. It's giving students the tools to ignite their curiosity and discover a love for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. **For the first time, they'll have the guidance to make an informed choice about their future, no longer just guessing which path is right for them.**

Thank you, Ibrahima. And thank you, Agilent, for your incredible generosity. Your support hasn't just improved a curriculum; it's opened a world of possibilities for an entire generation. And a special thanks goes out to the head of our new STEM program, Babacar Dieng, for his leadership in bringing this vision to life.



Ibrahima visiting our boursières



Agilent

VISION 2026

SUMMER 2025 UPDATE

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS
& LOOKING FORWARD
from Executive Director
Elke McGuire

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

Over the past 20 years, we've successfully supported 270 female students in Guéoul, helping them navigate their entire educational journey from elementary school through high school and beyond. Looking at our 2023 strategic plan, we are proud to have achieved many goals that once seemed impossible. Now, we are focusing on scaling our impact and strengthening our work on the ground.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR GROWTH

1

Increase the Number of Scholarship Recipients

Based on the explicit need we identified during the 2022 selection process, we are committed to growing our impact each year. This fall, we will welcome 18 new students in partnership with the local Parent/Teacher Association and will continue to grow the program by two additional students each year.

2

Strengthen and Equip Noos Club

Our Noos Club provides students with additional educational support beyond the classroom. Thanks to our grant writing volunteer team and grants from several foundations we have already updated our computers and added a new STEM program. We plan to expand this program further by offering a wider range of learning opportunities—including tutoring,

test preparation, and E-learning—as well as 3D printing, coding, and robotics classes. To achieve this, we will forge new partnerships with other NGOs in Senegal and West Africa that are focused on girls' rights and quality of life.

3

Obtain a Permanent Building

Securing a permanent building will provide a stable home for our programs, ensuring continuity and a dedicated space for our students to learn and grow.

4

Establish a Formal Presence in Senegal

We are actively seeking NGO status within Senegal. This will allow us to create official contracts for our full-time and part-time staff, ensuring they have access to benefits like sick leave and maternity leave. This commitment not only supports our team but also reinforces our dedication to the community.

NOTE ON POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM:

After much discussion, we made the difficult but strategic decision to pause the post-baccalaureate program. Our Senegalese Board Members convinced us that our efforts are most effective at the foundational level. **Since college education in Senegal is free** and our high school graduation rate of 47% significantly surpasses the rural Senegalese average of less than 1%, **we are best positioned to help students when they need it most: at the start of their educational journey.** This allows us to reallocate resources to support a greater number of students entering elementary school.

FRIENDS OF GUÉOUL AT A GLANCE

FoG's program provides a yearly \$150 stipend per girl and after-school tutoring, learning enrichment programs, computer classes, and summer school.

Over **270** female students have entered the program over the **20** years we've been operating. We currently support **175** girls from **1ST TO 13TH** grade. This fall, **18** new boursières will be entering 1st grade and the **3** students who passed the high school exam will begin university.



Educating Girls, Lifting Families, Benefiting a Community, Bettering Our World.

IT WORKS!!

FACES OF FRIENDS OF GUÉOUL

THANK YOU TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

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Bity N'Dir, President
Maguette Diop, Vice President
Kara Beye, Treasurer
Ndeye Codou Sarr, Secretary
Amadou Bachir Diop,
Mayoral Office Representative
Ibrahima Gueye,
Board Member U.S. and Senegal

US BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marny Eulberg, President
Leah Bruce, Secretary
Janet Dickson, Board Member
Ibrahima Gueye,
Board Member U.S. and Senegal
John Montaña, Co-Founder, Co-Treasurer
Amanda McCracken, Board Member
Paul Ndione, Board Member

STAFF (SENEGAL & US)

Makhfou Diop, Field Director
Issa Lo, Administration and Finance
Mor Talla Gueye, Noos Club Coordinator
Nogaye Diop, IT Teacher
Alioune Niang, IT teacher
Elke McGuire, Executive Director (US)

VOLUNTEERS

Jude Biggs, Senior Adviser
Codou Gueye
Niki Richardson, Graphic Design
Ann Saunders, Co-Treasurer

PARTNERS

Académie Lafayette
Agilent
BBB
B'Nai Havurah - Tikum Olam
ColoradoGives Community First Foundation
Commune de Guéoul
Ecole Guéoul; elementary,
middle, & high school
Excel Press
For a Better Tomorrow
Guéoul Diaspora
Kendra Scott
Kroger Foundation
Republique De Senegal
Region de Louga
Rotary Club Wheat Ridge
Ruby's Market
Le French
Women Powering Change
World Computer Exchange



AND YOU!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

EASY!

DONATE

Use the QR code
or visit our website!

\$26,250 supports all
scholarships for the 25/26
school year

\$2,100 supports one class

\$150 supports a girl for a year

VOLUNTEER

Help with special
events/committees

Join our Board

Host a happy hour
at your home

Grant Writing

Special programs in Guéoul

JÈRÈ JÈFF WAAY!
Thank you!



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