

# The Camel Express



Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

October 2022

Friends of Niger PO Box 452 Haverford, PA 19041

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From the Editors

Dear Readers,

Your team of board members, volunteer proposal reviewers and project champions has been hard at work. As we wrap up another round of grant reviews and award grants to the successful candidates, we are simultaneously tracking the completion and implementation of previously awarded grants. The behind the scenes work of getting taxes filed—THANK YOU GARY GEOGHEGAN—and staying on top of recordkeeping and management is a labor of love for us all. We were recently interviewed by the Borgen project and included in their magazine aimed at promoting good works. See <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/friends-of-niger/> [BORGEM Magazine is produced by The Borgen Project, an influential humanitarian organization working to make global poverty a focus of U.S. foreign policy.]

Please keep an eye out for our **annual fundraising appeal** due to arrive in your actual mailboxes soon. We will also share our annual appeal via email shortly thereafter. If you do not receive a letter from us, we may not have accurate mailing information, so please send us your updates by completing a membership form here: <http://friendsofniger.org/pdf/MembershipFormFillable.docx>  
We sincerely appreciate your support and partnership in achieving our mission.

Merci, Fofu, Mun godey, Tanimert, Foma, Thank you

*Ismaghil Ag Moussa & Amy Wilson*

## 1) GRANTS AWARDED, PROJECTS COMPLETED

Many thanks to our reviewers who thoughtfully evaluated the 22 proposals recently received. Based on their recommendations the Board has awarded funding to 8 projects for a total of \$35,269.

### THANK YOU GRANT REVIEW TEAM OCTOBER 2022

Mary Abrams	Kimberly Dixon	Judy Smith
Kelsey Andersen	Alix (Barstow) Fedoruk	Alhassan Ali Souna
John Baird	Chris Huh	Douglas Steinberg
Paige Pihl Buckley	Don Koran	Amy Wilson
Ann Byerly	JoAnn Lewis	

### GRANTS AWARDED OCTOBER 2022

<b>Prévenir les conflits</b>	\$ 3,923* - Outreach and training in Makalondi to foster youth leadership and prevent exploitation and radicalization. Appui Au Developpement Et Aide Humanitaire(ADAH)
<b>Job Skills for Recovering Fistula Patients</b>	\$ 5,000 - Nine months training for recovering fistula patients to learn sewing, Niamey. DIMA

**Fournitures et matériels scolaires Tchinzini** \$ 4,080 - Desks, books, water storage for school previously funded by FON, Agadez region. Assemblée des Formateurs et Animateurs des Associations (Association AFAA)

**L'autonomisation de la femme** \$ 4,596 - Purchase seeds and inputs for a women's garden and provide functional literacy courses, Agadez region. ONG TIDENE

**Deux jardins scolaires** \$ 4,615 - Construct 2 wells for a school garden, Agadez region. Les Puits du Desert

**Zankey Tabi Ban** \$3,692 - Provide tables and benches, and training for certain schools in the rural commune of Tondikandia. Solidarité Environnement et Développement au Niger (SEED Niger)

**NAMU (Le nôtre)** \$ 4,478 - Training and establishing women and youth in poultry production – Zinder. MOUNE KOULOUDOU

**Restaurer la Dignité des Tagala Koye** \$ 4,885 - Training and establishing women in new income generating activities based on previous outreach- Niamey. ONG TAGAZ ESPOIR

*\*Note dollar amounts subject to change with exchange rates*

### **CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION IN MARADI COMPLETED**

Former Board member Yari Rabiou visited with the school principal in July while on a work trip in Niger and witnessed a community hard at work. Before he returned home he received word that the project was already completed!

More than just a classroom, Yari reported that there was heartfelt emotion and profound thanks for the support from FON and the diaspora, who added around \$2,000 to complete the project. The classroom replaces the straw-built rooms that burned tragically killing 34 primary students. The principal and parents can now rest a little easier knowing that the classroom is a safe place.



## **GET INVOLVED: REVIEW TEAM & PROJECT CHAMPIONS NEEDED**

If you are looking for a way to get involved and make a contribution, we are always happy to add members to the grant review teams and to recruit project champions. These are opportunities to participate on a focused basis if your time is limited.

Helping with the review process is a commitment of about 3 weeks and you can sign up for one session or more depending on your availability. Volunteering to be a project champion is a different kind of task and the time commitment varies with the project. Champions become the main point of contact for FON during project implementation. Most grantees implement their projects independently and the champion focuses on making sure we get reports and pictures to share with the membership and donors when the work is completed. If interested please reply to this email or to [projects@friendsofniger.org](mailto:projects@friendsofniger.org) to learn more or volunteer to review applications or champion grants.

## **2) In Brief - Announcements**

### **Noting the Passing of Caroljean Coventree (Carol Pint) 1955-2022**

*Comments from some who knew her:*

- *Though she became fervent about a lot of things that we who knew her in Niger might not have predicted, I could see at the beginning of her courageous journey of self-discovery that the essential Carol -- kind, empathetic, intuitive, insightful, cheerful, and ready with a warm smile for any friend -- was never going to be left behind. . . . May she be well remembered. --Jim Delehanty*
- *I remember waving goodbye to CP (after we'd been up all night imbibing too many Grand Flags) as she left Maradi on the back of John Mishanec's motorcycle for a months-long trip around West Africa! She had a truly adventurous spirit. I wouldn't have gotten on the back of that thing for a trip to the market. --Mary Pat Champeau*
- *Carol was indeed a "good soul!" --Ray Jussaume*



OBITUARY: <https://cremationsocietyofmn.com/tribute/details/49522/Caroljean-Coventree/obituary.html>

## **3) Niger in the News**

### **Remembering the Fallen on 5th Anniversary of Tongo Tongo Attack**

October 4, 2022 marks the fifth anniversary of the ambush near Tongo Tongo, Niger that claimed the lives of four Nigerien and four American soldiers. U.S. Embassy Niamey honors the memory of the fallen and expresses its deepest sympathy to their families, friends, and communities.

<https://ne.usembassy.gov/remembering-the-fallen-on-5th-anniversary-of-tongo-tongo-attack/>

### **Suspected Jihadis Kill 11 Farmers in Niger Sept. 21, 2022**

Suspected jihadis have shot dead 11 farmers, nine from Niger and two Nigerians, in southeastern Niger, a local official said on Wednesday.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/suspected-jihadis-kill-11-farmers-in-niger-/6757659.html>

## **Niger's growing insecurity: Country surrounded by a number of hotspots**

Niger is surrounded by several insecurity hotspots - one of them being the North of Nigeria, just across Niger's southern border. In the city of Zinder, small business owners used to cross the border to Nigeria to find products at competitive prices. But in northern Nigeria, Niger and Nigeria's armies face terrorist armed groups and criminal gangs. Ongoing clashes prevent a lot of small business owners from working.

<https://www.france24.com/en/video/20220707-niger-s-growing-insecurity-country-surrounded-by-a-number-of-hotspots>

## **French Development Agency & EU Support Nigerien Education System**

The French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union signed a financing agreement October 31, 2022, for an amount of 9.8 billion FCFA.

Nearly 8.2 billion FCFA will directly support the transformation of the Nigerien education system. The needs remain considerable with more than 50% of Nigerien children not having access to education. The education sector in Niger faces several challenges that negatively affect progress. Universal primary education coverage and completion is hindered by a high population growth rate, low enrollment rate, and high dropout rate. Access and completion is worse among vulnerable groups including girls in rural areas, children in nomadic areas, and children with disabilities.



<https://www.actuniger.com/societe/18745-education-l-afd-et-l-ue-signe-un-accord-de->



## **Insecurity/Education: When Children Find their Way Back to School and Smile**

Depuis quelque temps, des enfants de la région de Tillabéri ne vont plus à l'école, avec des enseignants contraints de désertier et de fermer les classes et de s'en aller loin, conséquence de l'insécurité qui y règne. Les écoles, dans la région, sont devenues de plus en plus silencieuse : pas de cloche, pas de voix d'enseignants, pas de cris d'écopiers dans les cours naguère animées. Des écoles désertées ...

Le gouvernement, s'en est préoccupé et le ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, en a alors fait un axe majeur de

son action pour donner les mêmes chances à des enfants que la situation sécuritaire a privés d'éducation. (Boubé Boureima Niger Diaspora).

<https://nigerdiaspora.net/education/48-education/17243-insecurite-education-quand-les-enfan-ts-retrouvent-les-chemins-de-l-ecole-et-le-sourire>

## Niger Expedition Finds Lost World of African Dinosaurs — And Ancient Humans

During past expeditions to the remotest reaches of the country's Sahara Desert, Paul Sereno discovered treasure troves of dinosaur bones, many of them from species new to science. But he also found an archaeologist's dream: a rich fossil record of an ancient human society that lived in the desert during a time of abundant water and wildlife.

<https://explorersweb.com/niger-expedition-finds-lost-world-of-african-dinosaurs-and-ancient-humans/>



**Trust for African Rock Art** is a Nairobi-based organization committed to recording the rich rock art heritage of the African continent, to making this information widely accessible and, to the extent possible, safeguarding those sites most threatened by humans and nature. *In Niger* the majority of the country's rock art is located in this northern area in and around the Air Mountains. Here, almost all the art consists of rock engravings. <https://africanrockart.org/rock-art-gallery/niger/>

### 4) Friends of Niger Donors Keep on Giving!

The generosity of Friends of Niger donors is remarkable! We went through our records back to 2012 and have identified 204 donors who have donated \$250 or more since then to support FON. There are many smaller donations which add up to considerable support--we don't have the room to list all of them all here!

We'd like to take a moment to thank our long term sustaining donors by listing them here and we hope we have not missed crediting anyone.

#### la pate d'arachide [1 donor \$10,000 or more]

\*\* Anonymous Donor \*\*

#### kuli kuli [3 donors \$5,000 or more]

Mark & Christina Headley \* Thomas & Patsy Lightbown \* David Shapiro & Alica Calahorro

#### le baobab [23 donors \$2,000 or more]

John Baird \* Susan Bracken \* Mary Burton \* Daniel Chirot \* Tom Dechert \* Mike Deppler \* Milton & Carolyn Frye \* Elizabeth Griffin \* John P. Hutchison \* Erik Matteo \* Preston McAdoo \* Ethel Loomam Foundation, Inc \* Joel & Pam Neuberg \* Dave Nikkel \* Qamar & Taj Noori \* Robert and Gayle Lyman Reid \* Stephen J Simmons  
\* John W Soloninka \* Penni St. Hilaire \* Walter Tavaska \* Adam Temple \* Raymond Thibeault \*  
The Tides Foundation \* Marilyn Westphal

#### le gombo [41 donors \$1,000 or more]

Mary Abrams \* Amy Amabile & Beth Alderfer \* Alix Barstow Fedoruk \* Windsong Bergman \* James Bishop \* Karen (Hussel) & David Blaine \* Karen (& Andrew) Brenner \* Pamela Britton White \* David Burgess \* Jean and Charles Cecil \* James Comiskey \* Tom Corcoran \* Brenda Cravens \* Lisa Curtis \* Brian Dolan \* Kathleen Fallon \* Holly FitzGerald \* Lois Furgerson \* John P Garrett \* Major Elisha Gray \* Mattie Harms \* Tom Herlihy \* Kyle Hording \* Abdou Illia \* Karen Kennedy \* Clark Kerr \* Larry Koff \* David Kurtzman \* Paul Lorenz \* Gabriella Maertens \* Mike & Sudie McGahuey \* Arlene M. Mitchell \* Charlene Pratt \* Joseph Roche \* Jack Saunders \* Evelyn R Siemens \* Judy and David Smith  
\* Nancy Sullivan \* Jennifer Yanco

### le niébé [74 donors \$500 or more]

Annette Acosta \* Carrie Allen & Evan Thayer \* Jude Andreasen \* Linda Hager Bailey \* Karla A Barbieri \* Paula Bauer \* Janet Beik \* Lynette Bouchie \* Brianne Boylan \* John & Betsy Calkins \* Benedick Chai \* Cindy Cleary \* Anjali Crawford \* John & June Darling \* Aristotle Deftereos \* Cathy Della Penta \* Ruth (Sitton) DeMaio \* Sue Dernbach \* Janet Dewan \* James DiMaio \* Kimberly Dixon \* Dale & Frances Downes \* Noaman Elbially \* Elizabeth Ellinger \* Franceen Fallett \* Allen P. Fleming \* Phyllis Dichter & Richard Forbes \* Paul Friedman \* Meg Garlinghouse \* Gary Geoghegan \* Thomas A Hale \* Terri Hallenbeck \* Diane & Terry Hanson \* Harriet Isom \* Robert Jackson \* Lianne Kennedy Boudali \* Matthew R Kenney \* Brian Kimmel \* Kevin N. King \* Pamela Klein \* Mike Klinger \* Cathryn Kloetzli \* Nancy Knowles \* Leah LaCivita \* Tim LaValle \* Jake Lieb \* Veronica Demko Lowney \* Anne Martin \* Kathryn Hodge Matchett \* Mary Ann Matheson \* Joel Mayer \* Buck (Wm) McAdoo \* Ann McPhail \* Pliny "Chips" Norcross \* Laurie Lehtinen Oman \* Barbara Oppenheimer \* Diana Powers \* Aron Primack \* Lois & David Rakov \* Mimi Huelsenbeck (Margaret & Chas) Rich \* Thomas & Diane Shafer \* David Smith \* Meg Staines \* Gary Steele \* Charles Stover \* Ann Sulkovsky \* Angela Toczek \* Neal and Elizabeth Turner \* Tom Tyler \* Merlin A Van Deraa \* Allen Webb \* Eric Whitaker \* Janet Wilgus \* Amy Wilson \* Peter Yedidia

### le riz [59 donors \$250 or more]

Stephanie Lynn Berens \* John Berry \* Eric & Jennifer Bervig \* Carol Bloom (Wagner) \* Mary Lou Cronin \* Dorothy Culjat \* Janet Donaghy \* Robert Drake \* Dave V Edwards \* Richard Elwell \* Warren Enger \* Iferoma Ezeh \* Luella Foster \* Christopher Frame \* Joyce Gleason \* Willie F Grace \* John Grettenberger & Mary Mahaffy \* David & Elizabeth Ussher Groff \* Beulah Ricki Hall \* Elizabeth A Hall \* Connie Hansen \* Alice Henry \* Stacey Hill \* Deborah and Thomas Holt \* Mason Hults \* David Ikeda \* Judy Irola \* Stephen Isom \* Susan (Grindle) Josenhans \* Thomas Kelley \* John Kelliher (Aries) \* Phoebe Kitson-Davis \* William Knechtle \* Madeleine Krebs \* Sherry Lacenski \* Will Leben \* Libby (Elizabeth) Leinweber \* Rebecca Mandell \* Meredith McGehee & Jeff Drumtra \* Bill Miles \* Dane 'Jadi' Miller \* Mike Mitchell \* Caron Moore \* Tom Painter \* Deborah (Lewis) Parker \* Errett Patterson \* Gary Peckerman \* Thomas Q. Petersmeyer \* Becky (Ann R) Raymond \* Patricia Roberts \* Jane Rodgers \* Josh Rosenfeld \* Irma Poots Sarata \* Lynn R. Schaefer \* John Sifling \* Cheryl Turner \* Heather Vogelsong \* Kristin White \* Steven White \* Rabiou Yari

### YOUR DONATIONS FUEL THIS WORK

Friends of Niger is an organization founded by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to initiate and support activities related to Niger and its people. We pursue three main purposes:

- Connecting and engaging people who have connections to Niger including diaspora, and those who have worked or are working Niger,
- Supporting development and humanitarian activities in Niger, and
- Advocating for and educating about Niger

Donations are accepted at any time. To donate either go to [www.friendsofniger.org](http://www.friendsofniger.org) to use PayPal, or write a check payable to Friends of Niger and mail to:

Friends of Niger PO Box 452 Haverford, PA 19041.

Thank you very much.

For more about Friends of Niger:

- Our website <http://www.friendsofniger.org/>
- Join & follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/676485096587560/>
- Submit news topics and articles: [camelexpressnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:camelexpressnewsletter@gmail.com)
- Contact President Amy Wilson, [president@friendsofniger.org](mailto:president@friendsofniger.org)

**“There is no way to peace; peace is the way.”**

