



A Child For All  
Bringing Hope to Malian Orphans

# ACFA: A Child for All



## 2009 Annual Report

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## Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Constituents,

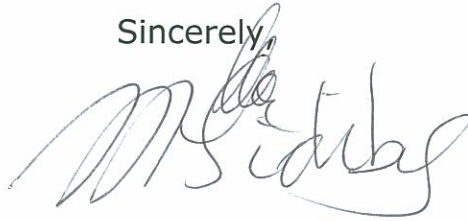
It is my distinct honor to address you through our first Annual Report. Born in Mali and raised by a single father, I have long dreamed of helping the vulnerable children of Mali as well as its orphans, hence the founding of A Child For All (ACFA) in March 2008. We define orphan as a child under the age of 18 who has lost one or both parents. Vulnerable Children on the other hand are defined as children who (1) has lost one or both parents, or (2) has a chronically ill parent/caregiver; (3) lives outside of family care, in an institution or on the streets. The value of education that my father instilled in me, coupled with my own observation of the positive effects education can have on people's lives, are the cornerstone of ACFA's strategy. My dream started to take form in 2006, when I decided to pursue a MBA with a concentration in Non Profit Organization. While my original intentions were to realize my dream after retiring from the military, I cannot look an orphan in the eyes and tell them, "Wait, I will be back in a few years to help you". This is what led me to incorporate *A Child for All*.

I lived 15 years of my childhood without a mother. Despite this, I was blessed with a father who valued not only the physical and emotional well-being of his children but also their education. Three of those fifteen years were especially difficult, as my father had to be away from my younger brother and I so he could work to provide for his family. From the ages of 13 to 15 I lived with my illiterate aunt, and therefore lacked any academic supervision. This lack of educational supervision caused my academic performance to suffer and stagnate. The third year, also the last year of my father's absence, my performance was so dismal that I was held back one academic year. Luckily, my father's return and supervision brought me back up to par academically and I was able to graduate from high school with the highest GPA in the country of Mali. This testifies to the importance of proper care and attention that children in vulnerable situations need and ACFA hopes to provide.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to spend numerous hours a week to help Malian children achieve their dreams of

access to shelter, nutritious meals, health care, and education. Through this fostering and nurturing of their abilities these children will be able to grow and become integral parts of Mali's economic development. I invite you to join us in our journey towards a Mali where all children have the opportunity to become who they want to be. To learn more about ACFA, please email [kadiatou@acfacorp.org](mailto:kadiatou@acfacorp.org). Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kadiatou F. Sidibe', written in a cursive style.

Kadiatou F. Sidibe

CEO, Founder, ACFA Inc.



## **Description of ACFA**

"A Child for All" is a non-profit organization based in the Commonwealth of Virginia and founded in 2008. Its main purpose is to bring hope to the vulnerable children of Mali as well as its orphans, by providing them shelter, food, education, and most importantly a loving environment conducive to their physical, psychological and intellectual development.



ACFA implements its strategy through ACFA-Mali. ACFA-Mali is the home of vulnerable children located in Bamako, Republic of Mali, where orphans and vulnerable children are lodged. It is ACFA's on-the-ground operations site, where staff take care of children's well being, hence the closest contact with the children that we are helping.

ACFA is a long term project inspired by dedicated people who volunteer their time and energy to make this world a better place through aiding the cause of vulnerable children in Mali. Thanks to their contributions, Malian children will have the opportunity to realize their dreams and contribute to their society.

### **Actions and accomplishments:**

Since our incorporation in 2008, ACFA has come a long way; we are now ready to report to you the road so far traveled and the road that lays ahead. At the beginning of 2008, ACFA was just an idea in the mind of our CEO and founder, Kadiatou. By the end of 2008, we had become an incorporated organization in the state of Virginia and had also earned the Federal Tax Exemption status from IRS [501(c)(3)]. Having satisfied all the legal requirements for a NGO operating in the United States, in 2009 we turned our attention to Mali. We are pleased to announce that as of July 10<sup>th</sup> of that year, we now have authorization to operate in Mali as an American nonprofit organization. Two months later we were afforded the opportunity to partner with the "Direction Nationale de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfant", which will hopefully make us even more successful in working towards our goals. We re-adjusted our strategies based on our financial capabilities, which were affected by the global economic crisis. Our short term strategy led us to identifying a location where we will open the orphanage. As to the long term strategy, we plan to build a Sustainable Farm Community for Malian Orphans on our own piece of property. We do



not intend to rely on donations forever, hence we will conduct sustainable operations at the farm producing crops and other nutritional items for the children. Though we still have a long way to go, our goal is to open doors in 2010, in conjunction with Mali's Cinquantenaire celebration. In addition to the opening of ACFA-Mali, our goals for next year include more engagement with the Malian Embassy in Washington D.C., recruiting corporate sponsors, and an active celebrity ambassador.



Our fundraising took off in 2008 with our first event, a luncheon at one of our board member's house: Takady Konaté. The event raised over \$1,300.00, and was sponsored by the Outback Steakhouse of Stafford, VA.

The 2009 fundraising strategy included our own board secretary, Aissata Traore's graduation party, where she requested funds be donated to ACFA in lieu of graduation gifts, as well as a fundraising dinner at Vision Restaurant in Bethesda, MD.



Additionally, our new fundraising strategy for 2009 includes a partnership with GlobalGiving<sup>1</sup>; so far it has proven to be extremely successful. We are proud to announce that we are close to meeting the goal we set for ourselves of funds required for opening ACFA-Mali.



Our partnership with "Globalgiving" has allowed us access to the organization's international donor database of over 49,000 people, allowing us to broadly expand our constituency. Our board members are working extensively to bring awareness to the cause of Malian orphans, vulnerable children and the challenges they face. We are eager to

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/build-a-home-for-orphans-in-mali/>



begin bringing hope to Malian orphans, thus your continued help and support is appreciated in whatever form this may take.

We would like to build upon our past successes and move forward with more marketing and spread awareness of Mali's vulnerable children. We are always on the lookout for passionate people to join us in our endeavors.

On the Mali side, we are tackling the challenges of our pilot project to test the possibility of having volunteers from America travel to Mali, help at the orphanage, and experience firsthand the results of our donors' contributions, as well as the results of their own sacrifices and contributions. This allows them to donate not just their money, but also experience the children's daily challenges, and contribute their time, while enjoying a great and rewarding experience. The desire to experience this led two teenagers to travel to Bamako on behalf of ACFA in Mar 2009. Aissata Traore, ACFA's board secretary, and Stephanie Terra graduated from high school one semester early and traveled to Bamako to volunteer for ACFA. Their extensive research and time on the ground gathering information and firsthand experience helped us reshape our short and long term strategies. Don't miss their testimonial on page 9.

## **Cause, Vision, Mission and Goals**

### **ACFA's Cause**

There are many orphans around the world, but those of Mali are among the most vulnerable. According to UNICEF, Mali is 7<sup>th</sup> in the world in rankings of infant (under 5) mortality, with a rate of 1 in 5 children dying annually.<sup>2</sup> Being one of the poorest countries in the world, Mali has a very low life expectancy rate (according to the World Bank, it was 54 as of 2007, the last year for which statistics are available).<sup>3</sup> The death of even one parent in Mali can brand a child with the label orphan; they can be abandoned with little or no support. The Batonga Foundation reports that



<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Children's Fund. *Mali: Basic Indicators*. 26 March 2007. <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mali.html> (accessed 10 April 2010).

<sup>3</sup> The World Bank Group. December 9 2009. *Data Profile: Mali*. [http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/mli\\_aag.pdf](http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/mli_aag.pdf) (accessed 10 April 2010)

there were 710,000 orphans in Mali in 2005.<sup>4</sup> Further, research has shown that children with high levels of instruction and high involvement of parents outperform those without such a chance.<sup>5</sup> Some aid comes from extended family members, but they are struggling to meet their own family's needs, and the Malian government is often incapable of bearing the burden of so many uncared for children. These children are then left vulnerable to the streets. This in turn leads to more social and financial turbulence as they grow to be adults who, with no education, are incapable of caring for themselves, never mind any children they may have. Growing up in such conditions results in a much higher probability of suffering from serious psychological problems, the effects of which spillover into Malian society as a whole.

In light of the aforementioned situation, and that of the real life story of the president-founder, ACFA was created as a non-profit organization, unique because of its staff and board members' expertise and firsthand experience with Malian culture. ACFA is dedicated to building a long lasting relationship with its constituents through a commitment to transparency and evaluation of performance.

### **ACFA's Vision**

A Mali where all children are protected, safe, healthy, well-nourished, provided a home or shelter, and can become who they want to be.

### **ACFA's Mission**

To ensure a brighter future for Mali's vulnerable children through providing nutritious food, health care, safe shelter and education.

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<sup>4</sup> Batonga Foundation. 2009. Mali. <http://www.batongafoundation.org/see/country-profiles/mali/> (accessed 10 April 2010)

<sup>5</sup> Sengendo, James and Janet Nambi. 1997. The psychological effect of orphanhood: a study of orphans in Rakai district. [http://www.ceped.org/cdrom/orphelins\\_sida\\_2006/pdf?sengend1.pdf](http://www.ceped.org/cdrom/orphelins_sida_2006/pdf?sengend1.pdf) (accessed 10 April 2010)



## **ACFA's Goals**

Our current goals are twofold:

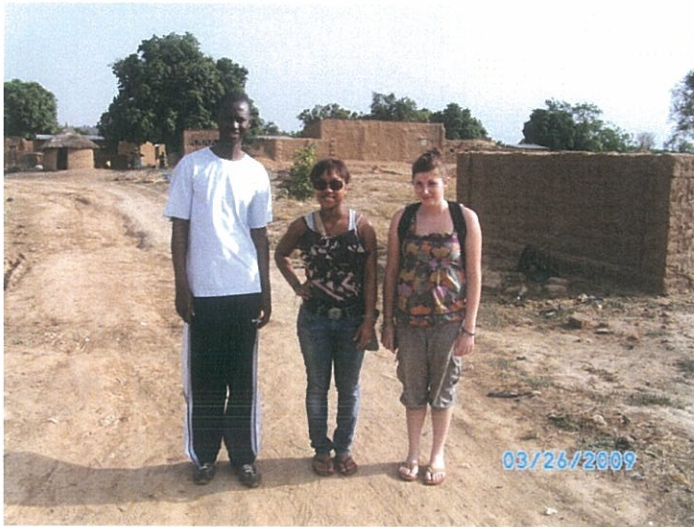
1. In the short term, we intend to raise enough funds to rent a house that would be made into a home for vulnerable children.
  - a. Offering a fun, creative and nurturing environment for vulnerable children.
  - b. Ensuring that children who have lost one or both parents or have been abandoned, are given the chance to grow in a safe, loving, and caring environment with the same access to education other children are blessed with.
  - c. Providing vulnerable children with a childhood where they are cared for and where they receive proper emotional support and physical welfare.
2. In the long term, ACFA seeks to raise enough funds to build our own orphanage and a sustainable farm that will provide food for the children.
  - a. Ensure that we have a sustainable solution to the issues of vulnerable children.
  - b. Provide continued support and services to alleviate the critical situations the vulnerable children.

## **Volunteer Report**

Stephanie Terra and Aissata Traore traveled to Bamako, Mali in March 2009 to do research for ACFA. During their visit, they met with our board Vice-Chair, Moussa Traore, who was also visiting the country. The purpose of the trip was to work with various government and non-profit organizations operating in Bamako, as well as to gain practical information about what it takes to run an orphanage in general as well as in the very specific environment of Bamako. Along with visiting organizations working with children in Bamako, the volunteers also conducted research on various real estate opportunities for the opening of ACFA-Mali.



The organizations visited in Bamako were the Centre d'Ecoute du District de Bamako, Association pour la Sauvegarde de l'Enfance, la Pouponnerie, and the Centre d'Ecoute et d'Hebergement du Kalaban.



Through these visits, the volunteers were able to gain a range of information on different ways to run orphanages in Bamako along with much more information on the situation of vulnerable children in the city. The main message the volunteers seemed to be hearing over and over again was the lack of funding available to such organizations; apart from the Pouponnerie, most organizations seemed very strapped for cash

and, therefore, some of the services being offered to the children were subpar and often little better than what they would be offered living on the streets. This reaffirms ACFA's dedication to fundraising and building a sustainable community for Malian orphans. ACFA's plan to have sustainable agriculture and various options for the children so that they can help themselves once they leave ACFA's care will provide them with countless opportunities to learn skills that will help them not only during their time with ACFA, but even beyond that. Having had the opportunity to observe and witness how orphanages in Bamako are run gave the volunteers invaluable information on the everyday operations of orphanages and children's centers, from how food is stored, to how to handle sick children, to how the education of vulnerable children is handled. The volunteers were also exposed to and reported on various areas of improvement ACFA-Mali will be able to build upon to build an even better organization. The ACFA volunteers were afforded the opportunity to meet with various government officials who explained the procedures and regulations for opening and operating an orphanage in Bamako. The volunteers worked very closely with ACFA-Mali Director Zoumana Bagayoko, who was invaluable in directing them to the most useful organizations for their research.

In terms of real estate, the volunteers visited and photographed numerous houses and sites for the possible opening of ACFA-Mali. They recommended one house in particular for the board to rent; due to its location near a community health center, an elementary school as well as a kindergarten, and the open space for children to play in, the volunteers felt it would be the ideal spot for ACFA-Mali.



All of this information was reported daily to ACFA CEO Kadiatou Sidibe. If constituents would like more information on exactly what the volunteers did, please visit the ACFA website. Stephanie and Aissata's daily reports made to the CEO are accessible there and will provide more information on the volunteer's day to day activities.

We are certain the information provided by the volunteers will arm ACFA with the necessary information to provide the best care it can to Malian orphans and vulnerable children, as well as giving ACFA the tools to grow and develop as an organization that will change the lives of countless children.

### **2010 Way Ahead**

As a non- profit organization, ACFA will take vulnerable children from the desperation of the streets to a loving home where they will receive health care, nutritious meals, education, and job skills that will allow them to grow to be self sufficient in society.

This will be accomplished by implementing ACFA's strategic development goal of a sustainable operation. It is imperative that ACFA be able to sustain itself and not leave the children vulnerable to fluctuating financial capabilities. To achieve this, ACFA will, in the future, engage in business ventures, all of which will be either mission oriented or work towards maintaining ACFA operations and fundraising. Additionally, ACFA will offer volunteering opportunities to individuals willing to donate their time to the vulnerable children lodged at ACFA-Mali. Such involvement will be provided by the care givers and educators of ACFA- Mali.

The orphanage was originally to be located in the village of Zorokoro, thirty miles from the capital city of Bamako, with two branches: "SO" for vulnerable children aged 0 to5 and "DOUBA" for vulnerable children aged 6 to 18.

In the latest development, the board has adopted a short term strategy to open one house to begin its mission as soon as possible. Additionally, the board has limited the recruiting numbers to streamline the costs of caring for the children. The future strategy of the organization is to cater to these children until they reach the age of 18 years old. Upon High School graduation, the top performing student will receive a scholarship to a university, while others will be afforded opportunities to have their own business, using the skills they have acquired, through micro finance credit, or work for one of ACFA's partner company.

## Financials

A Child For All (ACFA)			
Balance Sheet			
As of December 31, 2009			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES + EQUITY	
Cash in the Bank	8,930.68	Liabilities:	
Cash in the Paypal Account	0.00	Gifts Payable	144.00
Donations Receivables *	4,975.20	Inventory Payable	355.00
Prepaid Expenses	0.00	Unearned Revenues	4,975.20
Gift Certificates	144.00	Total Liabilities	5,474.20
Donated Material for Silent Auction	355.00		
Notes Receivable	0.00		
Total Current Assets	14,404.88		
		Equity:	0.00
		Net Profit	8,930.68
		Total Equity	8,930.68
Total Assets	14,404.88	Total Liabilities and Equity	14,404.88
*There are \$5,612 on globalgiving web site			

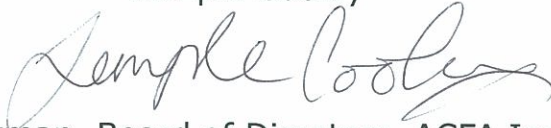


A Child For All (ACFA)			
Income Statement			
December 2009			
Revenues:			
Donations:			
Revenues as of 11.30.09	9,159.55		
Donations:	5,770.62		
Total Donations	14,930.17		
Bank Interest Earned	2.97		
Paypal Deposit	0.00		
Total Revenues		14,933.14	
Expenses:			
Mali Registration fees	0.00		
VA annual registration	0.00		
Web Security	0.00		
Fundraising Expenses	528.26		
Total Expenses		528.26	
Net Income		14,404.88	

Dear supporters,

I hope that the preceding pages have given you a sense of what brought us here, what we have accomplished to-date, what we intend to accomplish in the short and long term, and how we intend to tackle the challenges. I hope that you are as proud as we are of our accomplishments. We have continued to work with a sense of determination, dedicated to our mission of helping Mali's vulnerable children. With your support we are able to announce that we are ready to open our home for vulnerable children. In 2010, we will start "bringing hope to Malian orphans" and we thank you for helping us make this possible, and for your continued support.

Temple Cooley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Temple Cooley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Chairman, Board of Directors, ACFA Inc.