



Remember Niger Coalition | Annual Report 2017
Removing Barriers to Quality Education in Niger

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Dear Supporters,

We have made great strides this year in removing barriers to quality education for more Nigerien children and young women! In 2017, you helped ensure that over 1,900 students received a quality education in Niger. Through the sponsorship and scholarship program, you made sure that 250 children and young women who otherwise would not be able to afford an education are now going to school. Both girls and boys, these students come from a variety of backgrounds: among them are orphans, children from rural and very poor families, and children with disabilities. Together, we added two classrooms to an existing middle school, completed construction on a primary school building and began construction on a pre-primary school. These 7 new classrooms will create room for more than 300 students to receive a quality education.

In addition to these achievements, I have been inspired by the connections that I have watched form and deepen between you, our supporters in the US, and our partners and students in Niger. Visits to Niger, exchanging letters with sponsored students, and thoughts and prayers are just some of the ways these connections begin and deepen.

In June, we received letters from a number of the students we support through sponsorships and scholarships. I remember sitting in my room in the guesthouse in Niger, thinking that I would just read one or two of them that night. They were so moving and beautifully written that I couldn't stop until I had read every last one of them.

The children and their parents are thankful and joyful because of the love that you have shown them through your support. In response, the children desire to do well in school and contribute to their families and communities. By giving them this opportunity, they will be able to offer a hand up to their friends and neighbors.

The Remember Niger Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that exists to unify people and mobilize resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger. We are motivated by the words of Jesus to "help the least of these". We envision a Niger where every child has access to a quality education, because we know that education is an important key to unlocking their God-given potential. This means that we must



continue to remove barriers to quality education so that more children attend schools where their teachers care for them and they are successful. In 2017, the number of students in the schools we support grew from 1,632 to 1,920 students – that's a growth rate of 15%. Additionally, 100% of the students passed the national 6th grade exam, which is required in order to matriculate to secondary school. All 137 graduates are now attending middle school, of whom 76 are girls.

As you read this report, you will see that we have a great opportunity to help in Niger and accomplish our mission thanks to our partners. Partners – administrators, teachers, parents and others – who are sacrificing so much to make quality education available to the children in their communities. We have been given an opportunity to reach out, connect and change lives through education.

Whenever we bring supporters from the US to Niger, I enjoy watching them interact with the children and the leaders and teachers at the schools. They are able to see firsthand the loving environments of these schools, the great potential of these students, and the many possibilities that exist. They always return to the United States energized and motivated. My hope is that as you read this report, you too will be proud of what we have accomplished together and will feel inspired by our connections with our partners in Niger.

Kara J. VanderKamp

BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

Children, their families and the government face many obstacles in providing and acquiring a quality education in Niger.



PUBLIC SPENDING & INFRASTRUCTURE

- The majority of schools do not have access to electricity or clean drinking water.
- Immediate needs such as water, food and security divert money away from educational development.

LOCATION & CLIMATE

- Extreme desert heat, wind and dust
- inadequate equipment and ventilation
- 81% live in rural areas without access to schools and health centers



POVERTY & POPULATION GROWTH

- 89% live in poverty
- national fertility rate = 7.6 births per woman.



98% of Nigeriens are subsistent farmers.

HEALTH CARE

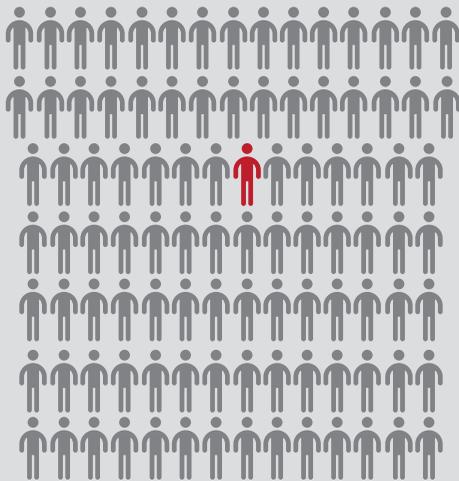
- Diseases are endemic, including diarrheal diseases, malaria, typhoid, and meningitis.

OUTCOMES

Educational barriers create **LOW ATTENDANCE RATES**



1% of children attend pre-primary school



That is roughly 1 out of every 100 children.

38%

of children attend* primary school



That is roughly 1 out of every 3 children.

*indicates the attendance rate vs. the enrollment rate.

Unicef.org

11%

of children attend secondary school



That is roughly 1 out of every 10 children.

<http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Niger>
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NER>

REMEMBER NIGER COALITION

Over 9 years of working with our partners and supporters, we have obtained the following results:



 **9 YEARS**



 **10 SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**



 **1900 STUDENTS**

PROJECT & PROGRAMS Together we are removing BARRIERS

2 
SOLAR
powered
WELLS

Providing sponsorships to the most underserved and vulnerable girls and boys, ages pre-primary-6th grade



275 SPONSORSHIPS

16 Latrines

2 PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS 

6 TEACHER TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS 

1 MIDDLE SCHOOL 

 **50 MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS SCHOLARSHIPS**

 **7 Primary Schools**

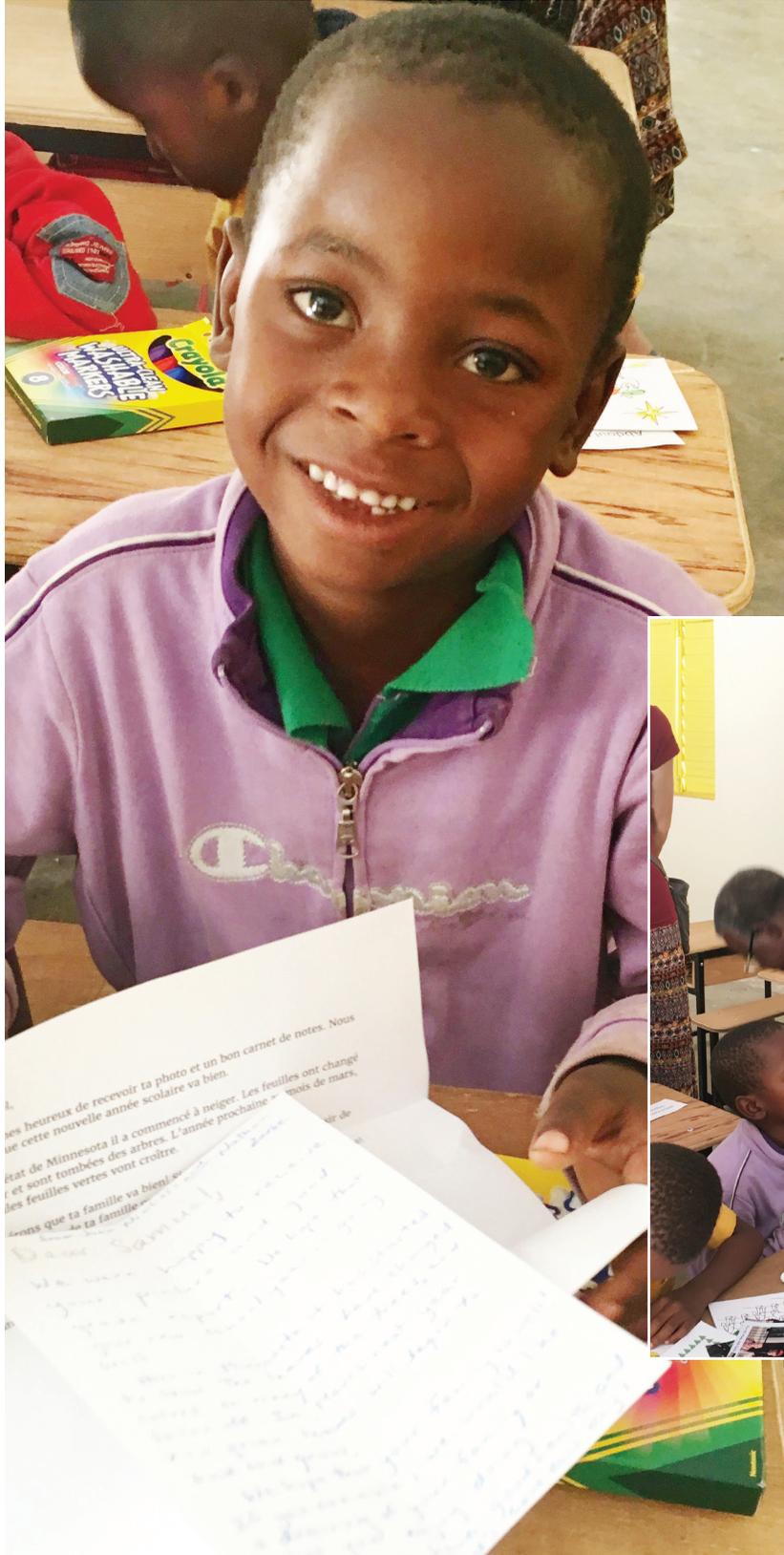
 **1,000'S of daily MEALS**

100% 

100% of students in 2017 passed the national 6th grade exam! Students must pass this exam in order to matriculate to middle school.

 **2 gardens**

How We Work



Remember Niger Coalition is proud to work with Ibrahim Abdou, the director of a Nigerien non-profit organization that shares our values and goals. Ibrahim has assisted with Remember Niger Coalition projects since we were established in 2009. His organization gained official non-profit status in Niger in 2015 in order to create quality education opportunities for all Nigerien children and youth. They assist with monitoring and evaluation of Remember Niger Coalition programs and projects, and they provide valuable insight into cultural norms and help navigate legal and governmental issues.



Ibrahim works closely with the students. Pictured above, he is reading this young boy a letter from his sponsor.

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all your support, Remember Niger Coalition (RNC) was able to carry out a number of projects in five of the eight administrative regions of Niger: Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillaberie, Zinder and the Niamey Capital District. These achievements include infrastructure, sponsorships, scholarships, water conveyance, food, electricity, hygiene, sanitation, and training. All of these were made possible thanks to your financial support. And, the results are very satisfying because the impact of these programs has been recognized by the government of Niger, and especially by the communities that benefit directly from them. At the top of the list are the parents of our students, who are very happy with the different support that the RNC provides toward the quality education of their children. I think especially of the young girls who now have the chance to go to school in safety and in good educational surroundings. Their teachers are paid regularly and the children are in a good setting. We have been able to achieve satisfactory results on every one of the exams, and all of the schools we serve are ranked first in their respective regions.



We encourage our donors to continue to show their confidence in the RNC by supporting us financially so that we can reach our goals. Considering all the different challenges in the educational system in Niger, your support is critical not only to continue our current programs, but also to achieve our goal of working in all seven administrative regions of Niger so we can give the same chance for a quality education to the children who live there. For us, it is truly a pleasure to be able to send our most sincere, best wishes to you, your families and your staffs.

Again, we want to express our joy and our thanks for the great favor that you were kind enough to do for us in granting us significant financing for the projects we're working on throughout Niger through the Remember Niger Coalition. May God in His love and faithfulness help you and enlighten you in the responsibility he has entrusted to you. Please find in these words our gratitude and our sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

Ibrahim Abdou

The Remember Niger Coalition uses a collaborative model of partnership, in which we work side-by-side with Nigerien educational institutions, including churches, associations and non-profit organizations. We are committed to building strong relationships with our partners, which we see as fundamental to achieving our shared goals. The foundation of our partnerships consists of three core values: respect, trust, and a passion for providing quality educational opportunities to all Nigerien children and youth.

Remember Niger Coalition partners with private and public schools in 5 of the 8 administrative regions in Niger. We currently have 10 partners, who are at different stages in the establishment of safe and sustainable school communities.



TILLABERIE REGION

Niamey Capital District

Schools.....	2
Pre-primary Classrooms	2
Pre-Primary Students.....	42
Primary Classrooms.....	11
Primary Students.....	332
Secondary Classrooms	3
Secondary Students	162

536 TOTAL STUDENTS

DOSSO REGION

Schools.....	1
Pre-primary Classrooms	2
Pre-primary Students.....	27
Primary Classrooms.....	2
Primary Students.....	26
Secondary School Girls' Dormitory...	1
Secondary School Girl Students	3

56 TOTAL STUDENTS

TAHOUA REGION

Schools.....	2
Pre-primary Classrooms	3
Pre-primary Students.....	65
Primary Classrooms.....	3
Primary Students.....	104
Girls Education Center	1
Post-Secondary School Scholarships..	10

179 TOTAL STUDENTS



MARADI REGION	
Schools.....	2
Pre-primary Classrooms	2
Pre-primary Students.....	65
Primary Classrooms.....	14
Primary Students.....	758
Secondary School Girls' Dormitory ...	1
Secondary School Girl Students	13
836 TOTAL STUDENTS	

ZINDER REGION	
Schools.....	1
Pre-primary Classrooms	3
Pre-Primary Students.....	102
Primary Classrooms.....	8
Primary Students.....	499
Secondary Classrooms	4
Secondary Students	86
687 TOTAL STUDENTS	

Removing Barriers to Quality Education Through Safe & Sustainable School Communities

The **Remember Niger Coalition** is removing barriers to quality education in Niger by supporting local community partners who are establishing safe and sustainable school communities. A safe and sustainable school community is a place where all children are welcomed, cared for and receive a quality education. Moreover, the school leaders proactively address environmental issues, local concerns and student needs in order to ensure that the school community is safe and resilient. Remember Niger Coalition and its partners have identified the following components that are important for creating safe and sustainable school communities:

School Construction

- Permanent, cement block classrooms
- Campus security wall

Academic Enrichment Programs

- Sponsorships for girls and boys ages pre-primary through 6th grade
- Well-trained teachers
- Library and computer lab

Solar powered installation

- Solar-powered well
- Solar power for access to electricity

Girl Advancement Programs

- Scholarships for middle school girls

Good Health for Students

- School garden
- Nutritional meals for students
- Gender specific latrines
- Hand washing stations

Remember Niger Coalition 2017 Achievements

-  7 new classrooms
-  1 security wall
-  4 food programs
-  1 solar powered well
-  2 gardens
-  225 sponsorships
-  25 girls scholarships
-  1 teacher training scholarship



The gardens at RNC-supported schools help add nutrition to students' daily meals. They also serve as teaching gardens where students learn experientially about growing different fruits and vegetables and about their nutritional value.

Zinder School Community

The Zinder School Community was established in 2007 with one pre-primary class for 27 students. It is now a thriving complex with pre-primary, primary and middle school classes and 689 students.

Looking to the future:

In 2018, the Zinder School Community will add gender-specific latrines for the middle school students and complete construction on 3 additional primary school classrooms. Construction of a permanent library and computer lab is planned to be built within the next 3 years.

2017 Achievements

-  2 new classrooms
-  120 daily meals
-  1 solar powered well
-  1 garden
-  50 sponsorships
-  30 girls scholarships
-  100% matriculated to middle school

The second floor of the Zinder Middle School, adding two classrooms, opened in October 2017.



Dogondoutchi School Community

The Dogondoutchi School Community was established in 2014 with one pre-primary class and 17 students. The first 3-classroom permanent school structure was completed in September 2017 and opened its doors in October of that year. The school boasts 53 students in pre-primary through 2nd grade.

Looking to the future:

A second 3-classroom school building that will provide space for more than 150 students will be constructed in 2019. The 3-5 year plan includes the construction of gender-specific latrines, a 2-classroom pre-primary school building, and a security wall around the perimeter of the school community.

2017 Achievements

-  3 new primary classrooms
-  30 pre-primary students
-  30 sponsorships
-  3 scholarships



(above) Students and teachers are thrilled with their three new classrooms at the Dogondoutchi Primary School!

(below) Construction was completed on the Dogondoutchi Primary School in early October 2017.



A Grandmother's Love

Salamatou is 55 years old. She earns money by preparing and selling food for snacks to school children at recess. When Salamatou was a child, she was the youngest of seven children. Due to the generosity of her siblings who paid for her schooling, she attended primary school. Her years of dreaming to be a nurse were over when she didn't pass the 6th grade National Exam. As with most girls in Niger, Salamatou was not allowed to repeat her final year of school and test again. Instead, she married at a young age and had six children. Salamatou has maintained a positive attitude throughout her life and has no regrets.

The experience, however changed her life's course drastically. Instead of falling into despair, Salamatou has found a career surrounded by school children and dedicated herself to making sure that each of her children and grandchildren can go further with their education. Due to her determination and persistence, Salamatou is proud to report that one of her daughters is enrolled in nursing school.

Salamatou has not let hardships and disappointments deter her. One of her sons recently passed away. In Niger, fatherless children are considered orphans. Without missing a beat, Salamatou and her husband took them into their home. She is now focused on making sure that each grandchild attends school. She pays for the education from her own income. Salamatou knows first-hand how hard she has had to work for meager wages and how important an education is. With an education you can get a good job, support yourself and help others. This belief in helping others and the importance of education is common in Niger. And, it is Salamatou's hope that she pass along her belief in education and generosity.



Aguie School Community

The Aguie School Community was established in 2007 with 15 students in one pre-primary class. The school has shown consistent growth since that time, and it is now a strong and thriving community with 377 students in pre-primary through 6th grade.

Looking to the future:

The pre-primary school construction is underway, and the permanent 2-classroom building is expected to be complete in March 2018. Additionally, the community's 3-year plan includes the construction of a security wall around the perimeter of the school property.

2017 Achievements

-  2 pre-primary classrooms (under construction)
-  65 students in pre-primary classes
-  50 sponsorships
-  100% matriculated to middle school



Salama School Community

The Salama School Community was established in 2016 with 10 pre-primary students. A second pre-primary class was added in 2017 and there are now 17 students.

Looking to the future:

In 2018, the school community will move from its temporary location to its permanent property when 3-classroom school building is constructed in the summer. Additionally, a security wall is planned to be built around the perimeter of the school property this year.

2017 Achievements



14 pre-primary students



1 solar-powered well & water tower



1 teacher scholarship



(right) A neighborhood father and future students of the Salama school gather water from the well.



Tsibiri School Community

The Tsibiri School Community was established as a boarding school in 1976. In the mid-1980s, day students from the local community were admitted. Today, there are 218 day students and 228 boarding students, for a total of 446 students. The Tsibiri School Community has a reputation as one of the best primary schools in Niger. This is due in large part to the nearly 100% annual pass rate on the 6th grade exam, its computer lab, and the nutritious, daily meals that are served to the majority of students. The meals are supplemented by the produce from the school garden.

Looking to the future:

Our goal in 2018 is to convert the boarding school to solar power. The school will benefit greatly from the consistency and cost savings of solar electricity. Boarding students use electricity to power lights in the evening, for studying and for fans to cool themselves while they sleep. Additionally, the school boasts the first regional computer lab in a primary school, which would benefit from solar power.

The 3-5-year plan includes adding three more primary school classes. The school is extremely popular and students must be turned away annually. Hundreds of more children will have access to a quality education each year with the construction of a 3-classroom building. Additionally, improvements will be made to the dormitories by painting them and adding more bunk beds with mosquito nets. This will provide space for more disadvantaged students from rural villages to receive a high-quality education.



2017 Achievements

-  300+ daily meals
-  70 sponsorships
-  11 scholarships
-  100% matriculated to middle school

Thousands like Abdoul

The Tsibiri Boarding School provides distinct opportunities to each of its' first through sixth grade students. This is a school where children from both rich and poor backgrounds come together to live and learn side by side. Doctors' children, prominent business men's children and even the local governor's children have all attended Tsibiri Board School. This unique integration has had amazing results creating motivation and building empathy in each student. Due to these factors and others, the school boasts a near 100% pass rate on the National sixth grade exam.

12-year-old Abdoul, like 70 other classmates, receives a full sponsorship from the Remember Niger Coalition. Without it he simply would not be attending school. He has stayed in the dormitories for all 6 years. His father is a subsistent farmer and cannot afford any school for Abdoul. With the help of the sponsorship Abdoul has been provided the opportunity to attend not just any school. He attends a quality, private school that nearly guarantees him a secure future. Without the sponsorship. Abdoul would be working alongside his father in a field to help support the family. I asked him what he wants to be when he's older and without hesitation he bellowed out, "A teacher". Privately, the director of the school, Isti, informed me that Abdoul's future holds infinite possibilities and he will be able to pursue any career. He's at the top of his class and is an intelligent hard-working student. Isti believes that as he is exposed to more options, it's likely he will change his mind. The beauty in this story is that whatever path Abdoul chooses his future is in is control. This would not be possible without the sponsorship from RNC.

Thanks to sponsors like you, Abdoul and 70 of his classmates are in control their own destinies. They have been granted the freedom to work in the classroom instead of the field. The enthusiasm on the faces of the students at Tsibiri is infectious. These kids know that if they weren't learning math and science, they would be in a field, without hope for a future career. When Isti was asked if there are more children like Abdoul, his response was immediate: "There are thousands of them. Thousands just like him. Right here in this area alone." Every year Isti must turn parents and children away because the classes are full, and the demand is so high. The Remember Niger Coalition and its Nigerien partners are committed to creating more opportunities so that every parent who wants to send their child to school can do so.



Removing Barriers to Quality Education For Children with Disabilities

While committed to assisting all Nigeriens in accessing quality educational opportunities, RNC is particularly concerned with helping people who are under-represented in education and leadership roles and have the fewest opportunities in Nigerien society, including children with disabilities.



The Maradi Center for People with Disabilities

Le Centre des Handicapés Locomoteurs de Maradi (CHLM) is a dynamic resource and vocational training center for people with disabilities in Maradi. In addition to vocational training that is provided to adults, the center established a tutoring program for children with disabilities and children whose parents



150 students in tutoring program

have disabilities. RNC provided support for school supplies in 2017 for this program for the second year in a row.

Looking to the future:

The leaders of the Maradi Center for People with Disabilities have a plan to create a safe and sustainable school community for children with disabilities and children whose parents or family members have disabilities. Often, it is the children who become constant “helpers” or “guides” for family members with disabilities and, therefore, are excluded from the formal education system. The envisioned school will recover many of these students. In 2018, Remember Niger Coalition will help the leaders of this community acquire a land grant from the Nigerien government where the school community will be established. The first 3-classroom building will be constructed by 2021.



Niamey School for the Deaf

The Niamey School for the Deaf was officially established in 1980. It found a permanent home in 1982 when the Nigerien government provided land to the Niamey Association for the Deaf. Since that time, the school has operated a primary school that also serves as an informal community center for the deaf community in Niamey. Many former students spend time on the campus and will eat daily meals there. The school is well over capacity with 165 students attending 1st grade – 6th grade. Critical needs include teacher training so that all of the teachers are fluent in American Sign language (ASL), additional teachers so that there are two teachers in every classroom, a consistent food supply for daily meals for students,

teachers, staff and other deaf community members, and a middle school so that students are able to receive a quality education past primary school from ASL trained teachers.

Looking to the future:

2018 goals include transforming the school garden into a thriving, teaching garden that enhances the nutritional value of the student meals and helps create a consistent source of food. When complete there will be a solar-powered well with a water tower, an additional half-acre of productive land, and a part-time instructor and manager. Additionally, it is critical that a middle school is constructed and established by 2021.

	165+ daily meals
	garden enhancement
	9 sponsorships
	1 girls scholarship



Kara VanderKamp and the administration of the Niamey School for the Deaf.

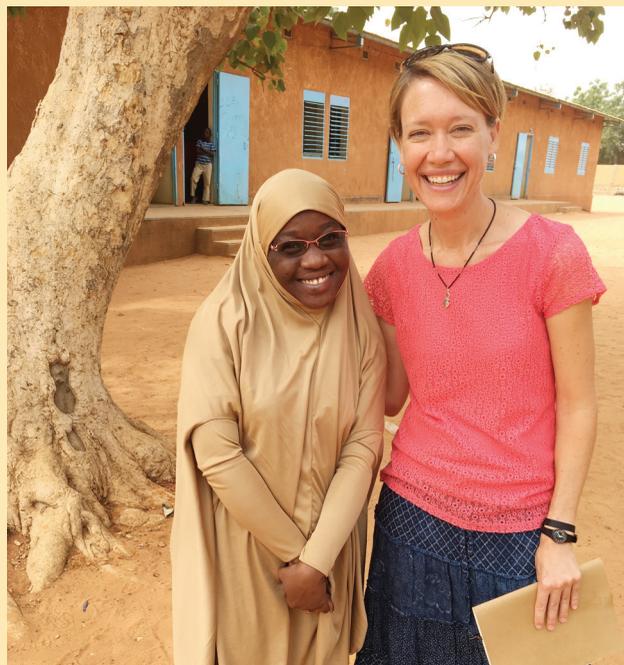
Determination Despite Huge Disappointment

Kara VanderKamp tells the story of this strong young hearing-impaired student

I first met Jamila in March of 2017. She had a small smile and she walked with poise and confidence. Jamila has been deaf since birth and has overcome many obstacles in her short life. Jamila was fortunate to be born into a family that was able to find and provide more resources than the normal Nigerian family. She was in her final few months of Teachers' College and was looking forward to accomplishing her goals and fulfilling her dream of becoming a teacher at the School for the Deaf, the same school she attended in the first through sixth grade.

In Niger, there are very limited resources for students with special needs. The responsibility then falls primarily on the child and the child's family. There is also a lack of understanding and resulting discrimination against those who are deaf.

Catching up with Jamila again in July was an utterly different story. Her once confident posture was burdened with defeat and deep disappointment was visible on her face. How could this be the same young woman I had just met? Her face was puffy from crying and her



eyes shifted back and forth, refusing to make eye contact with me. Her poise and confidence were absent. Jamila had failed the Teachers' School Final Exam. Her dream of returning to the School for the Deaf as a teacher was finished. Her father explained that he didn't think Jamila was willing to try again. It would mean another year of school and then retaking the exact same exam. "Why would she do that? Wasn't she being set up for failure?"

His feelings are not unwarranted. One of the three sections on the Teachers Exam is oral. Since it's certain that any deaf person will get a zero on the oral section, Jamila must be near perfect on the two other sections to pass. Jamila had scored 9.79. A 10 would have been a passing grade. Jamila was .21 from passing; .21 from succeeding; and .21 from fulfilling her dream.

In Niger, there are very limited resources for students with special needs. The responsibility then falls primarily on the child and the child's family. There is also a lack of understanding and resulting discrimination against those who are deaf (as apparent with the use of an oral exam for deaf students). Jamila is an intelligent, strong, and kind person. She was more fortunate than most deaf children in Niger as she attended the Niamey School for the Deaf. The direc-



One of the three sections on the Teachers Exam is oral. Since it's certain that any deaf person will get a zero on the oral section, Jamila must be near perfect on the two other sections to pass. Jamila had scored 9.79. A 10 would have been a passing grade.

tor and teachers provided her extra help and tutoring she needed to graduate. No one was surprised when she passed the National Exam and was moved on to middle school. There were abundant challenges in middle school. Niger does not have any Middle Schools specifically for deaf students. Although the Nigerien government is committed to inclusion for special needs students, there are very minimal accommodations made to support them.

Fortunately, Jamila made friends with her desk mate, who took scrupulous lesson notes. After school, Jamila would copy the notes and then her former director from the School for the Deaf would explain anything she did not understand. This method proved successful and Jamila passed the National Exam and gained acceptance into the Teachers' School.

After our visit I haven't been able to forget the image of Jamila's face. I was troubled throughout my travels trying to create a solution to the problems Jamila faces. I could not wait to return to Niger and visit with her. This past December I had the opportunity to visit with Jamila again. I knew instantly as she crossed the room to visit with me that she was back! Jamila crossed the room with a pep in her step and a smile on her face. This however was not even the same Jamila I met the first time in March. There was something new written on her face. Determination.

Jamila has returned to the Teachers' School and she is intent on passing the exam at the end of the year. It was a relief to see her and I shared with her all the encouragement I could muster. Yet, one cannot help but feel anxious. The exam has not changed. Exceptions have not been made for special needs students. She still must be almost perfect on two sections of the exam. Is this even possible? For now, we must believe that Jamila will succeed and forge a path for others to

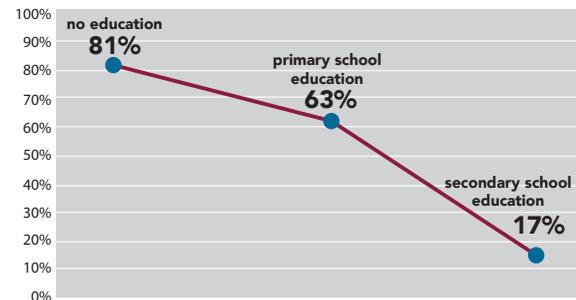
follow. We must do everything we can to support her and her efforts. There is a lot at stake for Jamila and the future of the students that will follow in her footsteps. Until then, there is much work we can accomplish. There must be changes made to the exam format. Testing a deaf individual with an oral exam is simply unacceptable. Furthermore, providing inclusion education without enough accommodations at the Middle School level is also unacceptable. It is our goal to add a Middle School program on to the School for the Deaf. It would be the first such school in Niger and is an immediate need. Partnering together I am confident we can help Jamila and so many students after her fulfill their dreams.



Removing Barriers to Quality Education For Girls and Women

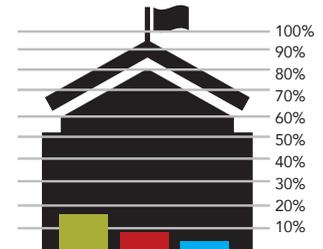
The Remember Niger Coalition is removing barriers to quality education for girls and young women by providing scholarships for secondary school and advanced degrees. There are too many Nigerien women whose dreams have yet to be realized because they were not allowed to continue their education beyond primary school. Instead of becoming teachers, doctors, school directresses, and so on, they were forced to marry at a young age. The Remember Niger Coalition is providing scholarships to girls and young women so they continue their education beyond primary school and realize their dreams and their potential. Critically, the likelihood of an early marriage is reduced significantly for women who are educated beyond primary school.

Education level and the percentage of young women married before the age of 18



Girls' Education

- 15% of women are literate
- 9% of girls attend middle school
- 3% of girls attend high school



Unicef.org

What Success Means to a Young Woman in Niger



Latifa's family. She is pictured on the back row, far right.

June 2017

Dear Sponsors,

Through this letter, I wanted to thank you with all my heart for the support you give me so that I will succeed in my studies and in life. I would like to assure you that I give the best of myself to succeed in my studies.

I am in a family of 10 children and your support is a relief for my parents. I would do anything to succeed and support my parents. I love to study and I love my country and hope that I will later contribute to its development.

In my country women represent more than 50% of the population. I would also demonstrate that girls can succeed in life. Thank you.

Latifa

Providing scholarships through Welcome Centers, Secondary Schools and Higher Education Institutions.

Centre d'Accueil – Welcome Center

Remember Niger Coalition is working with Nigerian organizations in two cities that provide housing for young women from rural villages so that they can attend secondary school. These "Centres d'Accueil", which translates to "Welcome Centers" offer dormitories to young women that are located near quality secondary schools. RNC provides scholarships for room and board, uniforms, supplies and books.

Institut Privé des Nouvelles Technologies de l'Ader (IPNTA)

RNC partners with the Institut Privé des Nouvelles Technologies de l'Ader (IPNTA) in Tahoua, Niger in order to ensure that more young women have the opportunity to obtain professional and advanced degrees. The Institute was established in 2011 and provides advanced educational opportunities in the areas of computer science and business. The majority of women who receive scholarships to attend this school are newly married. The parents of these young women are no longer willing to pay their tuition, and the husbands are not able to take on the extra expense. It is only through a scholarship that they are able to complete their degrees, which gives them access to good jobs in their chosen fields.

Zinder Secondary School

The newly constructed middle school in Zinder hosts 30 scholarship recipients. These young women would not be able to continue their education without scholarships.

Remember Niger Coalition Secondary & Professional School Scholarships for young women



Welcome Centers = 17 students



Institut Privé in Tahoua = 10 students



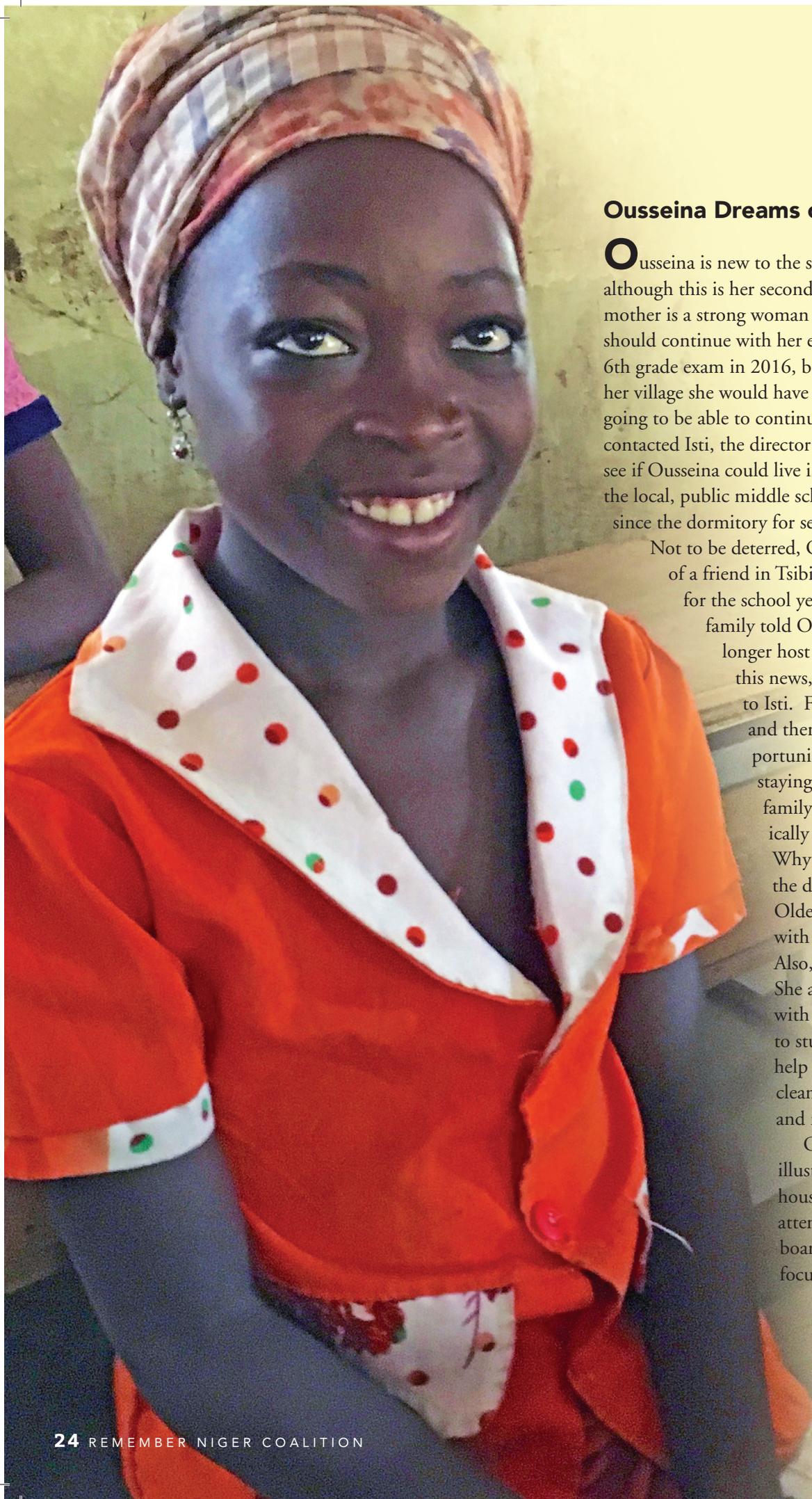
Zinder Secondary School = 30 students



Each of these young women receives a scholarship to attend the Zinder Middle School.



Nana proudly displays a new mosquito net for her bed at the Tsbiri boarding school.



Ousseina Dreams of Becoming a Nurse

Ousseina is new to the scholarship program this year, although this is her second year in secondary school. Her mother is a strong woman who believes that her daughter should continue with her education. Ousseina passed the 6th grade exam in 2016, but without a middle school in her village she would have to stay in a large city if she was going to be able to continue her education. Her mother contacted Isti, the director of the Tsibiri boarding school, to see if Ousseina could live in the dormitory there and attend the local, public middle school. Isti had to turn her away, since the dormitory for secondary school students was full.

Not to be deterred, Ousseina's mother found a friend of a friend in Tsibiri who was willing to take her in for the school year. This year, the father of that family told Ousseina's mom that they could no longer host Ousseina. As soon as she heard this news, Ousseina's mother went to talk to Isti. Fortunately, the timing was right and there was space. I (Kara) had the opportunity to ask Ousseina if she preferred staying at the boarding school or in the family's home, she responded emphatically that she preferred the school. Why? "Because the girls who stay in the dormitories are like a big family. Older girls help the younger students with their studies and they give advice. Also, they can do each other's hair." She also explained that when she lived with the family she had very little time to study since she was expected to help around the house with cooking, cleaning, watching the younger kids and more.

Ousseina, and many girls like her, illustrate the importance of available housing for rural girls who want to attend middle school. Living at the boarding school will allow her to focus on her goal of becoming a nurse.

Hamsa Girls' Education Center

The Hamsa Girls Education Center (Centre Hamsa pour l'Education des Filles "C.H.E.F") under local community leadership will provide safe formal and informal learning spaces for adolescent girls and young women in Niger. The center aims to support more than 125 girls between the ages of 10 and 22 annually.

2017 Achievements



1 classroom



1 solar-powered well & water tower



1 security wall



Through both formal educational opportunities such as tutoring and test support, as well as skills training, the center aims to help break the cycle of multi-dimensional poverty, reduce early marriage rates, and improve the overall quality of life for this generation of young women and generations to come. With scholarships and dormitories, the center offers rural and nomadic girls the option to stay in school beyond primary school.

Not every young woman fits the mold of a traditional student. Many adolescent girls have never stepped into a classroom, are under-educated or have families to care for daily. However, these young women still require literacy, job skills and health education.

Investing in local grassroots programs throughout Niger, like the Hamsa Girls Education Center, will develop strong and resilient young women who will become empowered and fully engaged economic and social catalysts within their families, communities and country.

Georgetown Presbyterian Church travels to Niger!

Thoughts from Chris Chatelaine-Samsen, mission pastor at GPC, after returning from their mission trip to Niger.

I was thrilled that Georgetown Presbyterian Church was able to sponsor a trip to Niger through Remember Niger. We've had a long partnership, and it was time to continue to build on that relationship. It was important to me that we grow in depth - we needed to understand not only what Remember Niger does in conjunction with their Nigerian partners, but also, who the Nigerian people are, and to see first-hand the devoted work of teachers, administrators, church leaders, and most importantly, students. It was a wonderful opportunity for a variety of reasons. For many of us at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, it was the first time we'd experienced the hospitality of people who are simultaneously so different and so similar - people who live in a different world, and yet hold to the common hope that our children will inherit and contribute to a better world than the one we now possess. Perhaps most of us expected to find just pressing needs to be addressed. Instead, we found families and teachers who are so committed to education that they're willing to put that goal above everything. We found high-achieving students, as well as teachers and administrators who are hard-working, smart, and resourceful with limited finances.



Robert Bell, RNC board member and GPC member, spends times with the students.



Chris Chatelaine-Samsen and RNC student.

In the time since we've returned, I know that those who were on the trip were moved by the experience and have doubled-down on their commitment to helping Nigeriens access the resources they need to lead and succeed. I also know that our church is even more unquestionably committed to the work that Remember Niger does in partnership with the EERN. We have seen the future up close, and we continue to be inspired.

– Chris Chatelaine-Samsen



GPC member Michele Wilson shares photos of her family with Yahayah, the student she and her family supports.



When volunteers visit RNC supported schools in Niger, playing soccer is a favorite activity for students and adults! Members of Georgetown Presbyterian had a great time playing with the students in March.

Sunrise Ministries sends volunteer to Niger

Last summer, Sunrise Ministries of Hudsonville, Michigan sent volunteer Santo Placencia to Niger. The trip focused on helping to make repairs to the boarding school, but included so much more!



Repairing and building new student desks.



Santo learning the art of carving with local soapstone artists.



Together with new friends in Niger, Santo helps to paint murals on the school walls.

Broadening our reach in the United States through School Partners

Be Connected

We launched our “Be Connected” program in 2016 as a way of building bridges between students in the US and in Niger. The program has received a great response and it has proven beneficial for both students in the U.S. and in Niger.

Remember Niger staff members and volunteers visit local schools and present about “A day in the life of a student in Niger.” The presentation includes pictures, video, and a question and answer session.



Julie Frye, RNC Communications Director, with students from Memminger Elementary School at the School Spirit Run for Niger, part of the national Rally for Niger. Jaleiya Westpoint (far right) accepted the coveted giraffe trophy when Memminger won the first place award. In the spring of 2017, Jaleiya and her classmates held a coin drive at school. They raised over \$800, which was enough to sponsor two students in Niger!



Natalie Smith, a senior at Ashley Hall, has involved her entire school in various RNC projects. They held two "dress down" days, with all proceeds going to Remember Niger Coalition. Natalie and her classmates help translate letters and progress reports in French class. Thank you, Natalie and Ashley Hall!



Kara engages students as she talks to them about “A day in the life of a student in Niger.”

Broadening our reach in the United States through **Rotary Clubs**

The Remember Niger Coalition has had the honor of partnering with U.S. Rotary Clubs since 2012, during which time we have received club, district and Global grants. In 2017, several clubs provided funding for the construction of the security wall at the Hamsa Girls Education Center, including the Montgomery Village Rotary Club, New Brighton / Mounds View Rotary Club, Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Club and Stillwater Rotary Club. Mr. Ray Panczyk, a member of the Montgomery Village Rotary Club, spearheaded this initiative. When asked about their work in Niger, Mr. Panczyk said, “We are pleased to partner with the Remember Niger Coalition to make certain that more girls and young women have the opportunity to continue their education beyond primary school. The Hamsa Girls Center will be a transformative experience for the young women, their families and their communities.”



Digging the well.

We extend our sincere thanks to our 2017 partner Rotary Clubs

- Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation, MD
- Montgomery Village Rotary Club, MD
- N.St.Paul-Mplwd-Oakdale Rotary Club, MN
- New Brighton / Mounds View Rotary Club, MN
- Stillwater Rotary Club, MN
- Stillwater Sunrise Rotary, MN



Ray Panczyk from the Montgomery Village Rotary Club presents Remember Niger Coalition with the money needed to fund the Hamsa Center security wall and well.



Hamsa Center security wall.

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position

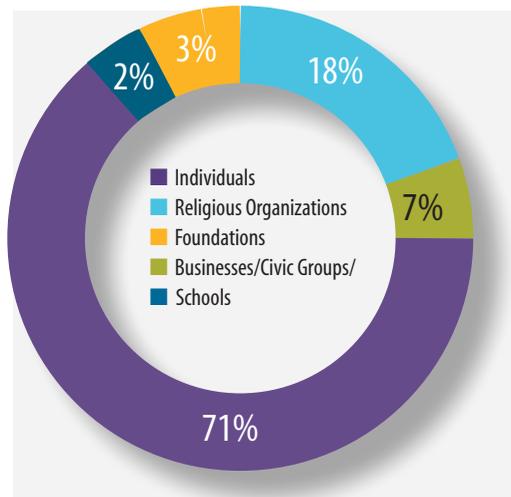
	As of 12/31/16	As of 12/31/17
Assets		
Cash	92,775	74,250
Pledges Receivable	9,001	14,758
Prepaid expenses	3,194	0
Investments	42,571	46,540
Inventory	9,197	0
Fixed Assets (Net of Depreciation)	1,183	837
Total Assets	\$157,921	\$136,385
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Grants/Transfers Payable	0	12,520
Other Current Liabilities	9,478	4,743
Total Liabilities	\$9,478	\$17,263
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	96,722	84,313
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	51,723	34,809
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	0	0
Total Net Assets	\$148,445	\$119,122
Change in Net Assets (Prior Year to Current Year)		-\$29,323*

Statement of Activity

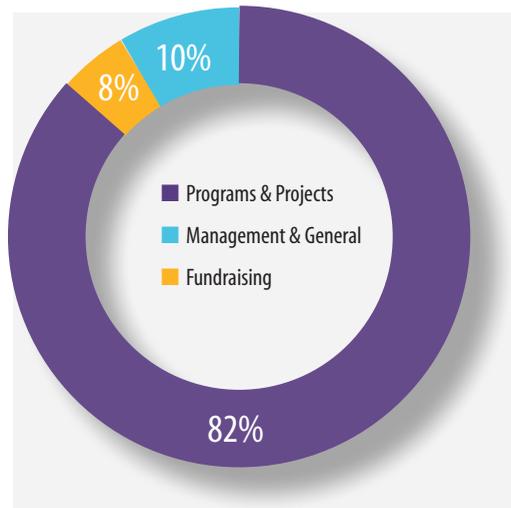
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and Revenue			
Contributions (Cash and In-Kind)	105,198	230,714	335,912
Other Revenue			
Fundraiser Ticket Sales	4,872		4,872
Investment Income & Other Revenue	4,204		4,204
Total Net Assets Released from Restrictions	247,628	-247,628	0
Total Other Revenue	256,704	-247,628	9,076
Total Support and Revenue	\$361,902	-\$16,914	\$344,988
Expenses			
Program (supporting projects for Niger)	304,062		304,062
Costs of Direct Benefits to Donors	3,279		3,279
Management & General	35,565		35,565
Fundraising	31,405		31,405
Total Expenses	\$374,311	\$0	\$374,311
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	-\$12,409	-\$16,914	-\$29,323*

*Use of Net Assets that carried over from 2016

Income Total: \$344,988



Expense Total: \$374,311



**Growth in Revenue
2014-2017**



**Remember Niger Coalition
Board of Directors**

**Kara VanderKamp, President and
Executive Director**
Rockford, MI

Anne Davis, Vice President
Washington, DC

Cathy Hickman, Treasurer
Minneapolis, MN

Karen Pepin, Secretary
Lake Elmo, MI

Heather Anderson
Charleston, SC

Robert Bell
Washington, DC

Chris Chatelaine-Samsen
Washington, DC

Paul Colton
St. Paul, MN

Ty DeWitte
Kalamazoo, MI

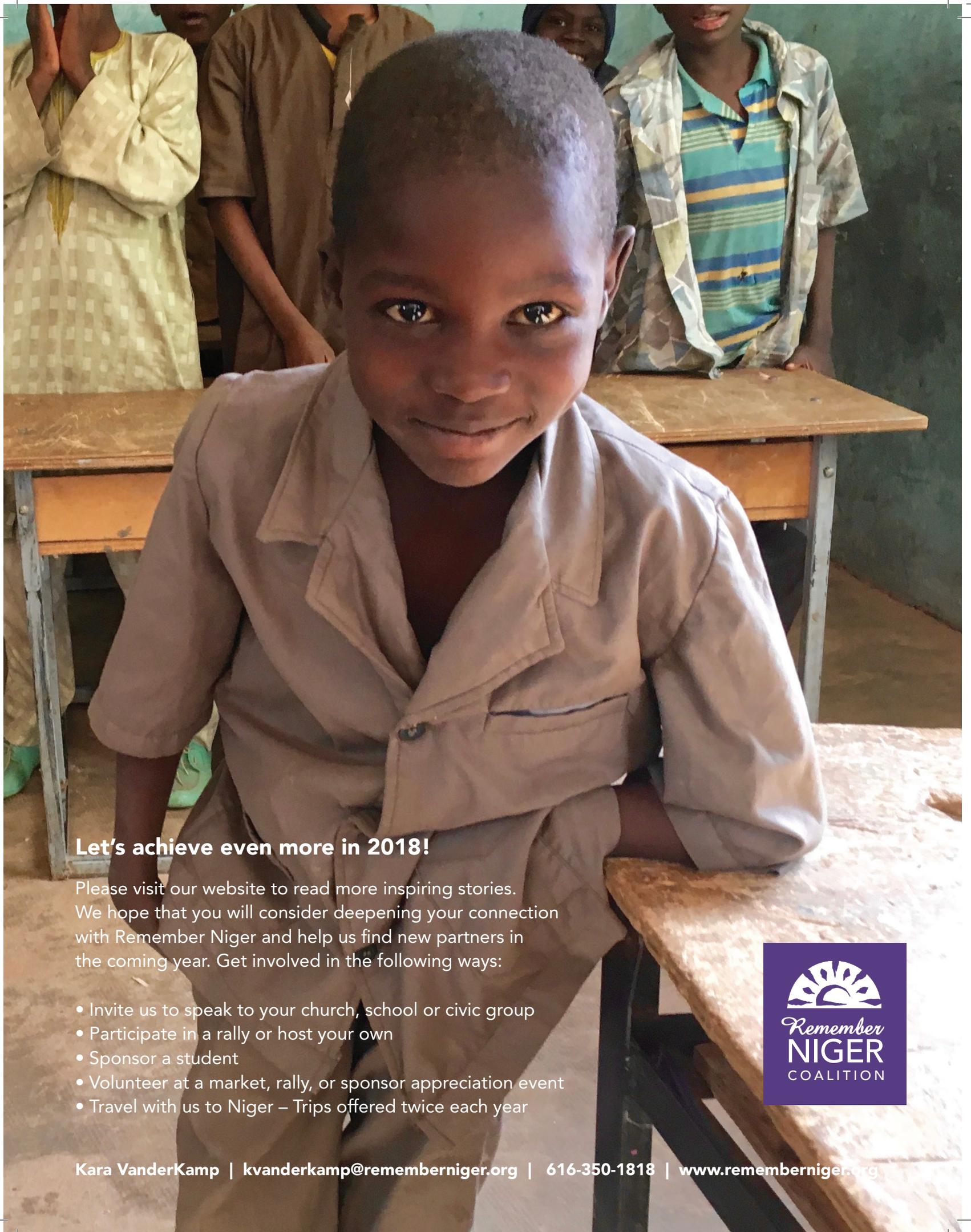
Lee De Young
Grand Rapids, MI

Michele Wilson
Arlington, VA

Remember Niger Coalition Staff

Julie Frye
Director of Communications

Amy Brown
Sponsorship Coordinator



Let's achieve even more in 2018!

Please visit our website to read more inspiring stories. We hope that you will consider deepening your connection with Remember Niger and help us find new partners in the coming year. Get involved in the following ways:

- Invite us to speak to your church, school or civic group
- Participate in a rally or host your own
- Sponsor a student
- Volunteer at a market, rally, or sponsor appreciation event
- Travel with us to Niger – Trips offered twice each year



Kara VanderKamp | kvanderkamp@rememberniger.org | 616-350-1818 | www.rememberniger.org