



**RM** Remember Niger  
Coalition

Annual Report | 2025

# DEEPENING OUR IMPACT



Students in the Remember Niger Coalition sponsorship program make cards for their sponsors. The project this year included a STEAM learning activity.



## OUR MISSION AND STORY

At its core, Remember Niger Coalition exists to ensure that vulnerable children in Niger can access high-quality, inclusive education that equips them to learn, grow, and lead, regardless of poverty, disability, or gender.

For over 16 years, we have worked alongside local schools, churches, and communities in Niger to remove the barriers that keep children from learning. We begin by constructing and strengthening safe, inclusive learning environments. These projects include classrooms, resource centers, and dormitories, which ensure that children have a place where education can take root. Within those spaces, we invest in quality education by integrating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) learning, inclusive teacher training, and mentoring and leadership opportunities for girls, so every child can thrive.

As demand for this work has grown, so has our responsibility to build strong systems (educational, relational, and financial), which allow these efforts not only to exist, but to endure. Our growth is not just about expanding for its own sake, but about deepening what works, ensuring sustainability, and responsibly extending proven models so that more children can learn in environments that are safe, supportive, and hopeful.

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**Remember Niger Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to unifying people and mobilizing resources to expand quality educational opportunities for children in Niger.**

*Pictured: These students are enrolled in the Second Chance program at the ACHA Football Academy, a Remember Niger Coalition partner.*

**Dear Friends,**

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the people and partnerships that make this work possible. In 2025, Remember Niger Coalition remained committed to ensuring that vulnerable children in Niger can access quality, inclusive education that equips them not only to learn, but also to grow, lead, and shape their communities.

This work has always been rooted in long-term partnerships, careful stewardship, and a belief in the potential of every child. Together with our partners in Niger and our supporters around the world, we strengthened classrooms, equipped teachers, and supported students who might otherwise be left behind. Each step forward reflects a shared commitment to sustainability, dignity, and opportunity.

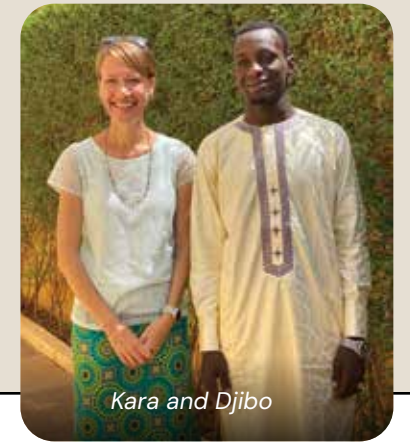
Djibo’s story illustrates well how access to quality education can change the trajectory of a child’s life and the community around him. Djibo began his educational journey as a young student at the Niamey School for the Deaf. Today, he is enrolled in university, studying administration & leadership, with a desire to empower and lead the deaf community in Niger. His commitment to the achievement of other deaf students is already evident through his tireless tutoring and ongoing assistance of secondary students, demonstrating the ripple effect of opportunity when education is sustained over time.

We are grateful for your trust and partnership. Because of you, thousands of children like Djibo are learning in classrooms filled with possibility, teachers are better equipped to serve their students, and communities are building a stronger future together. Thank you for being an essential part of this work and for continuing to walk with us in the year ahead.

With gratitude,

**Kara VanderKamp**

Chief Executive Officer, Remember Niger Coalition



*Kara and Djibo*

**Your generosity made an enormous difference in 2025.**

**Together, we achieved the following:**

- **Provided safe, welcoming learning spaces for more than 120 girls each year through the construction of three new classrooms at the girls’ school.**
- **Expanded learning access for 600+ students by building one new Resource Center and equipping one center with books, computers, and educational materials.**
- **Delivered reliable access to clean water for more than 500 students and members of the surrounding community through the construction of a solar-powered well.**
- **Trained 78 teachers, administrators, and staff in best teaching practices, including hands-on STEAM activities and the integration of Youth Running Clubs.**
- **Expanded Youth Running Clubs, promoting physical health, confidence, teamwork, and leadership among participating students.**

Why This Work Matters

# Niger

The need for quality and inclusive education in Niger remains urgent. The statistics below provide context for the challenges faced by children and communities where Remember Niger Coalition works and underscore why sustained investment matters.



## Education Access & Quality

Niger has one of the lowest primary school completion rates globally. Fewer than half of children who start primary school complete the full cycle. Large class sizes, limited materials, and teacher shortages continue to affect learning outcomes, particularly in rural communities.

## Girls' Education

Girls are disproportionately affected by barriers to education. Enrollment and retention rates for girls drop sharply at the secondary level, often due to poverty, household responsibilities, and early marriage. Educating girls has been shown to improve health outcomes, family stability, and economic opportunity across generations.

## Disability and Inclusion


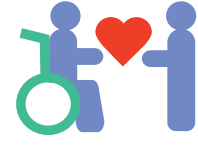
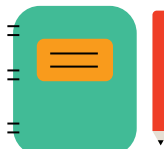



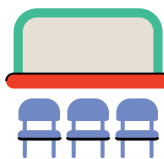
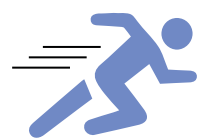
Children with disabilities are among the most excluded from education in Niger. Many never enroll in school due to stigma, lack of accessible infrastructure, and limited trained teachers. Inclusive schools remain rare, making partnerships with specialized institutions essential.

## Access to Clean Water

Access to clean water is directly linked to school attendance and health. In many communities, students spend significant time fetching water, which disproportionately affects girls. Schools without reliable water sources face higher absenteeism and greater health risks.

Together, these realities shape Remember Niger Coalition's approach. Our programs respond not only to immediate needs, but also to the systemic barriers that prevent children from learning and thriving.

## 2025 SNAPSHOT

 <b>78</b> Teachers trained	 <b>250</b> Students with disabilities supported
 <b>76</b> Scholarships	 <b>526</b> Boys and girls sponsored
 <b>18</b> Partner schools	 <b>2</b> Resource centers built or equipped
 <b>3</b> Classrooms constructed	 <b>77</b> Youth Running Clubs active across Niger



# 5,519

## total students

Received a quality education in Remember Niger Coalition partner schools

# How We Create Lasting Change

A holistic approach to inclusive education in Niger



When schools, teachers, and students are supported together, education becomes a pathway to lasting change.



Rooted in **PARTNERSHIP**. Focused on lasting **EDUCATIONAL** impact.

Bold lasting educational change does not happen through one-time projects. It happens when learning environments, educators, and students are strengthened together, over time, in partnership with local communities. Remember Niger Coalition works alongside schools and community leaders to address the interconnected barriers that prevent children from accessing and completing a quality education, especially girls and children with disabilities.

When these elements are addressed together, students are able to learn, grow in confidence, and develop leadership skills that extend beyond the classroom.

### Why this matters

This integrated model leads to stronger schools, improved retention and academic performance, and communities better equipped to break cycles of poverty through education.

### How the circle works:

Our approach recognizes that each part of the education system reinforces the others:

- **Schools** must be safe, equipped, and inclusive
- **Teachers** must be trained, supported, and resourced
- **Students** must be able to attend, stay enrolled, and succeed
- **Inclusion** ensures no child is left behind



# Capital Projects

Schools Must Be Safe, Equipped, and Inclusive

In 2025, Remember Niger Coalition invested in essential school infrastructure to ensure students can learn in environments that are safe, functional, and inclusive. These projects addressed overcrowding, security concerns, access to learning resources, well-trained teachers and clean water, which are core conditions for student success.

Resource Center under construction.



## 2025 Highlights

**Classrooms constructed: 3**

**School safety fences built: 1**

**Solar-powered wells constructed: 1**

**Resource centers constructed and equipped: 2**

**Students benefiting from improved learning environments: 1,040**



## Why **INFRASTRUCTURE** matters in Niger



### OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS

Many classrooms serve 60–80 students, limiting learning and teacher effectiveness.



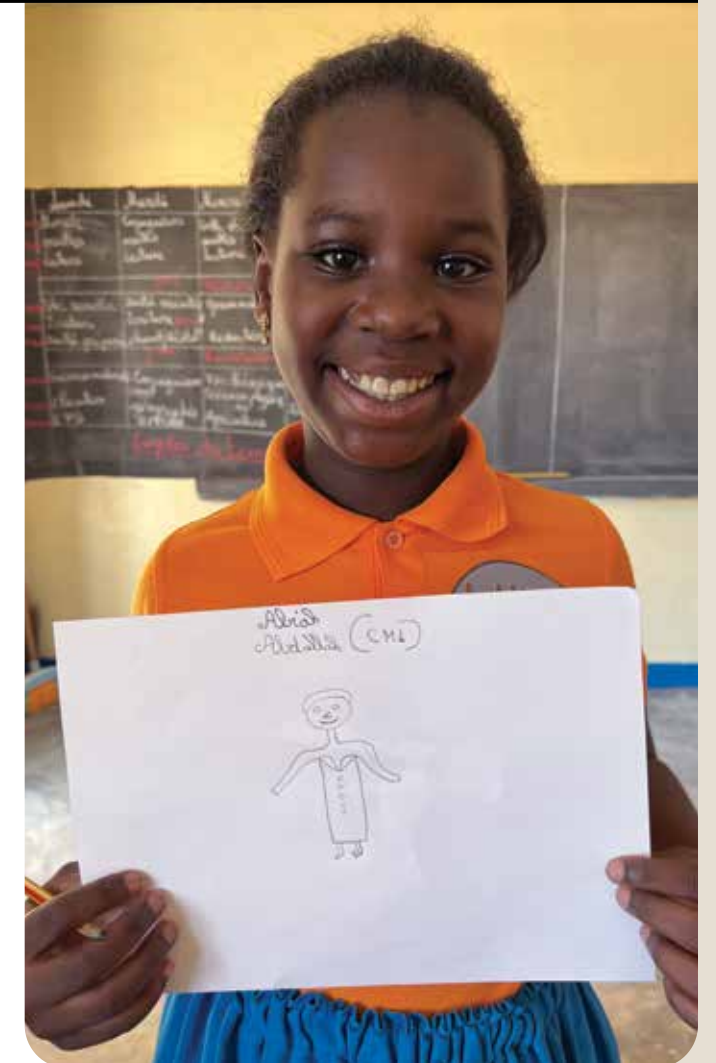
### LIMITED WATER ACCESS

Only 56% of the population has access to basic drinking water. Many rural schools lack on-site water, affecting attendance and hygiene.



### BARRIERS FOR GIRLS

Fewer than 40% of girls transition to lower secondary school. Safety, sanitation, and distance remain major barriers.



*Strong school infrastructure creates the conditions students need to learn and succeed. Safe classrooms, reliable water, secure campuses, and well equipped learning spaces allow teachers to teach effectively and students to focus on their education. At the Kollo Girls' School, these investments have shaped a growing campus that now includes two three-classroom buildings and a resource center, creating a place where girls can learn with confidence and stability.*



# Kollo Girls' School

At the Kollo Girls' School, we completed a major expansion designed to support enrollment growth, improve security and strengthen the quality of education for adolescent girls.

## 2025 Expansion

**Constructed three permanent classrooms**, reducing overcrowding and allowing students to learn in age-appropriate, well-lit spaces

**Built a resource center** that provides access to computers, books, learning materials, and quiet study space

**Constructed a perimeter safety fence**, a critical investment that improves student security and allows the school to operate with greater confidence and stability



Three permanent classrooms



Resource Center



Perimeter safety fence

The Kollo Girls' School was established through a partnership between the Remember Niger Coalition and the Hosanna Institute, a respected Nigerian organization with deep roots in the local community. Together, they created a safe and supportive environment where girls can access quality education and develop the knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills needed for their future. From the beginning, the school has focused on serving girls who face the greatest barriers to education.

Today, the Kollo Girls' School is a growing campus and vibrant center of learning for girls in the region. Continued investment in teachers, learning resources, and school infrastructure is helping expand access to quality education and strengthen opportunities for girls in Kollo.



### Infrastructure Impact Story

# Safi's Story

“ The Kollo School has done more for my daughter and for me than I can fully express. I am deeply thankful for the difference it has made in our family's life.

My name is Safi Djibo. I am the mother of five children and I am a widow.

When my husband passed away, I was left without resources or support. It was a very difficult time for my family.

During that season, I met the leaders of the Girls' School of Kollo.

They welcomed my daughter into the school and provided everything she needed— enrollment, meals, uniforms, and school supplies—at no cost to our family.

Today, I am filled with gratitude as I watch my daughter learn, grow, and gain an education that is shaping her future. The school has brought stability, hope, and opportunity into our lives at a time when we had very little.”



*Amandou plants a seedling in the school garden, made possible by the solar powered well. In Niger, where most families depend on subsistence farming, gardens like this help students connect classroom learning with everyday life in their communities.*

# Tahoua Primary School

At the Tahoua Primary School, we constructed a solar-powered well, providing reliable access to clean water for students, teachers, and the surrounding community.

## Solar-Powered Well Impact

**Reduced time spent fetching water,** especially for girls

**Improved hygiene and sanitation** conditions at the school

### Gardens & Nutrition

**Increased resilience** during the dry season when water scarcity is most acute

Clean water is essential not only for health, but for keeping children—particularly girls—in school. These improvements directly support girls who are continuing their education in a context where secondary school access remains limited, and where safety concerns are a common barrier to attendance.



# Teacher Training and STEAM Learning

Teachers are trained, supported and resourced.



At the heart of Remember Niger Coalition’s work is the belief that every child deserves a safe, well-equipped classroom and teachers who are supported in their work. In 2025, we continued to invest in learning environments that foster curiosity, critical thinking, and long-term academic success.

High-quality education depends on well-trained educators. In 2025, Remember Niger Coalition trained 78 teachers, school staff, and administrators, strengthening instructional quality and school leadership across our partner schools. A highlight of the year was our three-day Partner School Leaders’ Retreat in Niamey, which aligned school leaders around shared goals and introduced new instructional approaches.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education was a focus of this work. Through the retreat and follow-up school-based trainings, educators gained practical, low-cost strategies they could immediately integrate into daily lessons. These hands-on approaches increase student engagement, support problem-solving and collaboration, and help create more interactive classrooms. This foundation positions our partner schools for expanded STEAM implementation in 2026.

## 2025 Highlights

Teachers trained: **78**

Resource Centers equipped: **2**



**“When students learn by doing, they participate more and understand lessons more deeply—even in large classrooms.”**  
 — Partner School Teacher, Azzel, Niger



*Pictured here: Hands-on STEAM learning strengthens instruction and helps students build creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills.*

**2025 Highlights**

Students supported with disabilities: **250**

Scholarships provided to students with disabilities: **30**

Partner schools for children with disabilities: **2**



# Disabilities and Inclusion

Inclusion ensures that no child is left behind.

Inclusive education is not a separate initiative. It is a core part of who we are and how our partner schools welcome and serve every child. In Niger, children with disabilities are often excluded from educational opportunities. Remember Niger Coalition works alongside schools, churches, and families to ensure that these children are seen, valued, and supported.

Our work includes long-standing partnerships with the School of Hope for Children with Disabilities in Maradi and the School for the Deaf in Niamey, where students who are deaf or hard of hearing receive high quality education in environments designed for communication, belonging, and dignity. Across these schools, we invest in accessibility, teacher support, scholarships, and inclusive programming so that students with disabilities are able to learn, thrive, and fully participate in their communities.

This work also extends into inclusive Youth Running Clubs and strong community and church partnerships that reinforce the value and potential of every child.

*Pictured at top of page: Ibrahim is a student at the School of Hope. After losing his leg in a childhood accident, he now attends school each day with determination and hope for the future.*



## Disabilities & Inclusion Impact Story

# Djibo's Story

Djibo became deaf after a serious fall when he was just six years old. Following the loss of his hearing, he began attending the Niamey School for the Deaf, where he quickly learned sign language and began to thrive. His teachers recognized his potential early on and encouraged him to continue his education beyond primary school.

Djibo went on to attend a public middle school, where most of his teachers did not know sign language. Undeterred, he built strong friendships with hearing classmates who were eager to learn sign language and support his learning. His friends shared their notes, and his family arranged additional tutoring to help him succeed. Through grit, determination, and consistent support, Djibo passed the middle school exam and continued on to high school.

He exceeded expectations once again when he graduated from high school and became the first deaf student to pass the national baccalaureate exam. Today, Djibo is enrolled in university, studying administration & leadership, with a clear desire to empower the deaf community in Niger. His commitment to the achievement of other deaf students is already evident through his tireless tutoring and ongoing assistance of secondary students, as well as his active involvement with the Deaf Association in Niger. Djibo's journey reflects the power of sustained opportunity and the lasting impact of education that equips students not only to succeed, but to lead.



*Djibo is pictured with his friends and his family.*



**2025 Highlights**

Girls sponsored or receiving scholarships: **351**

Girls' Schools: **2**

Girls retained in school through the year: **94%**

## Girls' Education and Leadership

When a girl stays in school, the impact multiplies.

Remember Niger Coalition partners with schools and communities in Niger to expand access to quality education, with a strong focus on supporting girls to succeed and lead. We invest in safe classrooms, gender specific facilities, student sponsorships, scholarships, and mentoring initiatives that help girls remain in school through adolescence. In 2025, we supported two girls' schools and continued strengthening the Kollo Girls' School through improved infrastructure and targeted financial support for vulnerable students.

This work matters because girls' enrollment and retention drop sharply at the secondary level due to poverty, household responsibilities, early marriage, and safety concerns. When a girl leaves school, her opportunities narrow. When she remains, the impact multiplies. Educated girls are more likely to delay marriage, contribute economically to their families, and advocate for the education of the next generation.

Beyond access, we are cultivating leadership. Through mentoring and leadership development, girls are building confidence, setting academic goals, and envisioning futures as teachers, health professionals, and community leaders. By keeping girls in school, we are strengthening families and investing in the long term flourishing of their communities.

## Girls' Education Impact Story

# Hougé's Story

Hougé was the first student in the Remember Niger Coalition Scholarship Program and serves as an excellent example of what a young person can achieve when given the opportunity. When she was in the fifth grade, her father passed away and she needed financial assistance to continue her education. Fortunately, Remember Niger Coalition was able to extend a scholarship to her. Hougé scored the highest score in the region on the national sixth grade exam and was given the opportunity to go to middle school. She graduated from high school in 2020 and is attending the university in Niger where she is pursuing a medical degree.

She plans to be a doctor so that she can help others in her community. She also talks passionately about encouraging girls in her family and community to stay in school! Only 9% of Nigerien girls attend middle school and that number goes down to less than 5% for high school.



*Hougé in 5th grade*

# Youth Running Clubs

Structured physical education programs improve attendance, confidence, and retention for students at risk of dropping out.



The Youth Running Clubs provide a structured, supportive space where students build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging through physical activity. Using a simple, age-appropriate curriculum, schools integrate the running club model directly into their physical education classes. This approach ensures broad student participation while allowing schools to implement the program within existing schedules and staffing structures.

Through regular training, instruction, and teamwork, students develop positive self-esteem and learn skills such as goal setting, perseverance, and cooperation. The curriculum emphasizes incremental progress, encouragement, and personal growth, helping students experience success regardless of athletic ability.

In Niger, where children often face significant social and economic challenges, the running clubs offer an important opportunity for youth development. The program supports the emergence of young leaders, provides healthy outlets for stress and trauma, and fosters positive peer relationships. By embedding the program within physical education classes, schools also promote healthy habits and long-term well-being in a consistent and sustainable way.

## 2025 Highlights

Students participating in running clubs: **2,300**

Youth running clubs active in Niger: **77**

Schools and communities engaged: **12**



"I was very happy to be in the running club. The running club helped me deal with trauma caused by anger and helped me improve my athletic abilities. In my club, I learned about loving one's neighbor and several other life lessons."

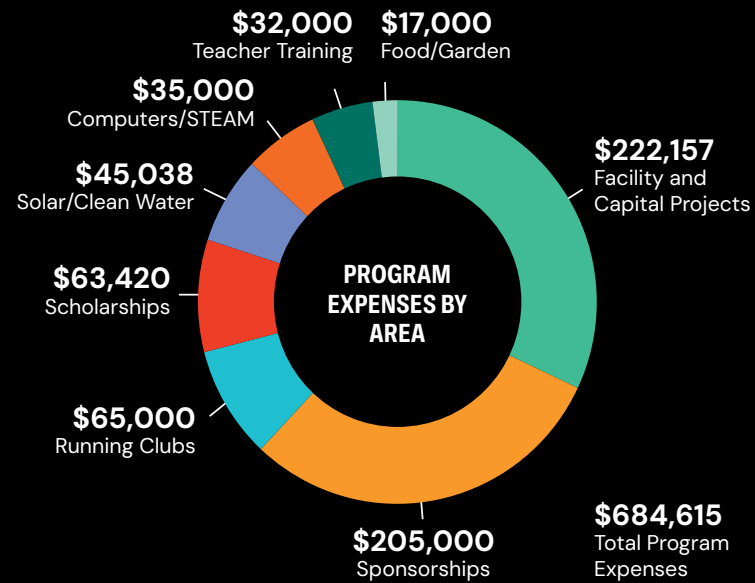
— Sa'ad, Student pictured at right



# Financial Stewardship & Accountability

In 2025, Remember Niger Coalition remained deeply committed to responsible stewardship of every dollar entrusted to us.

This section provides a clear overview of our revenue sources and how funds were allocated across programs, administration, and fundraising. It reflects our ongoing commitment to financial accountability, long-term sustainability, and thoughtful decision-making that ensures resources are used effectively to advance our mission and maximize impact.

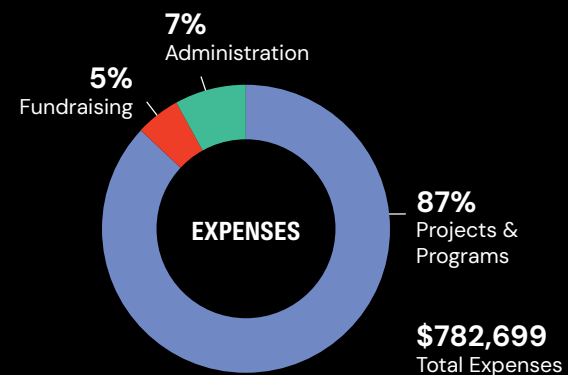
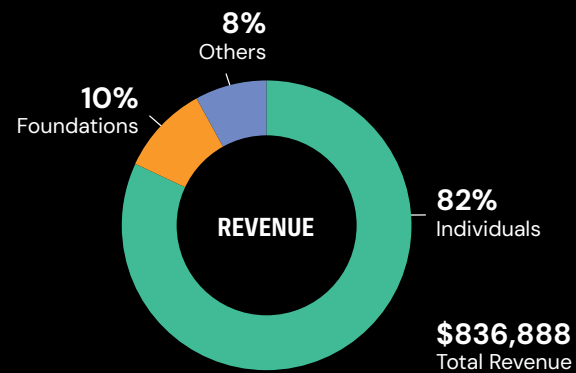


## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue	
Foundations	\$82,894
Individuals	\$687,043
Religious Orgs/Businesses/ Civic Groups/Schools	\$66,951
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$836,888</b>

Expenses	
Projects & Programs	\$684,615
Fundraising	\$41,984
Administration	\$56,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$782,699</b>



Remember Niger Coalition's financial statements, presented above, will be reviewed by Dolinka, VanNoord & Company, PLLP CPA's in June 2026. They will be available upon request.

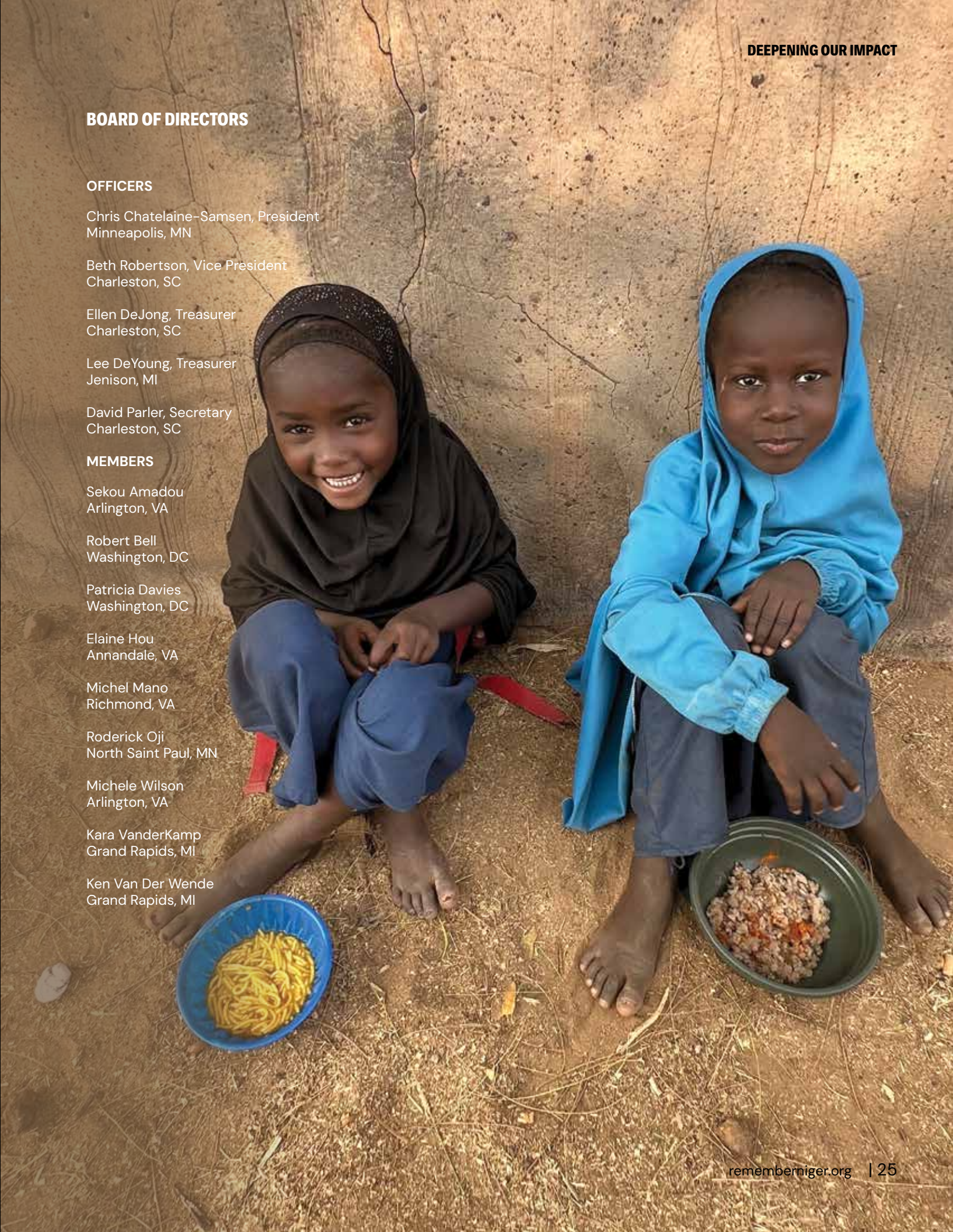
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Kara VanderKamp  
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Grand Rapids, MI





## Strategic Giving for Sustainable Growth

We are deeply grateful for the generosity that has strengthened schools, expanded access to education, and positioned Remember Niger Coalition for continued growth. As we build capacity for continued growth, we welcome the opportunity to speak with you about structured or long-term philanthropic strategies.

### LEADERSHIP GIVING

#### Monthly Leadership Support

Consistent monthly support provides the operational stability that allows us to advance construction and program expansion without delay.

#### Multi-Year Commitments

Three- to five-year commitments enable responsible scaling and long-term planning.

#### Matching & Challenge Gifts

Strategic matching gifts can accelerate growth initiatives and broaden donor participation.

### FLEXIBLE & TAX-EFFICIENT GIVING

#### Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)

Recommend a grant through your DAF to support continued educational expansion.

#### Gifts of Appreciated Stock or Assets

May allow you to maximize impact while minimizing capital gains exposure.

#### IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions

For donors age 70½ or older, direct IRA gifts may satisfy Required Minimum Distributions while advancing access to education.

### LEGACY & ENDURING IMPACT

#### Gifts in Your Will or Estate Plan

Establish a lasting commitment to educational opportunity.

#### Named Giving Opportunities

Underwrite a classroom, Resource Center, or expansion phase to create permanent, visible impact.

**To discuss structured, multi-year, or legacy giving options, please contact:**

**Kara VanderKamp  
Founder and CEO**

**[KVanderKamp@rememberniger.org](mailto:KVanderKamp@rememberniger.org)**



# Our Partner Schools

When Remember Niger Coalition was founded in 2009, we partnered with three schools and 400 students. In 2025, we partnered with 19 schools and more than 5,200 students.

