

# MADAOUA SCHOOL



**The mission of the Remember Niger Coalition is to unify people and mobilize resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger.**

HI MY NAME IS

Lydia



Hi, my name is Lydia DeYoung and I am 16 years old. I have had a passion for Niger for a long time, since about third grade. I always loved sponsoring a student and writing letters back and forth to them. It made me feel like I had an awesome friend across the world. Although this was so cool I realized that there were more kids like my friend that had a lot less than I did. I mean not just money but a lack of good food and education as well. When I was 10 years old I decided to do a bake sale at my church. I raised just over a thousand dollars for 4 kids to go to school that year. Doing this made me realize that this was a big help to Niger students. My church still has the bake sale every year on Super Bowl Sunday.



In 2018, I went on my first trip to Niger. I absolutely loved it and had so much fun with the kids. It was fun seeing how they learn and playing their favorite break time activities with them. I know not everyone can go to this amazing place. I hope with this yearbook I made, you are able to go on a small adventure through the life of your sponsor student. Thank you for reading about my story. I hope you enjoy your adventure through Niger.

# Remember NIGER Coalition



Remember Niger Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to unifying people and mobilizing resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger, Africa. We partner with and support Nigerien organizations who have a remarkable vision for their country and share our core values. Through a holistic approach and by working side-by-side with our Nigerien partners, who own and operate their schools, we are able to ensure that more children receive a high-quality education in Niger, the least developed country in the world. In the 2019-2020 school year, we partnered with 13 schools and over 2700 students.

# THE COUNTRY OF NIGER

Niger is a country in Western Africa named after the Niger river.

Niger has 3 different seasons

- the hot season is from March to May when some sand storms occur and the temperature is at 104°F or above
- the rainy season is from June to September when the air is wet and humid
- the cool season is from October to February when the temperature averages around 86°F

Niger has one of the highest birth rates in the world, with an average birth rate of seven children per woman and over two-thirds of the population are under 25 years old. The majority of girls marry by the age of 18. Most of families work in subsistence agriculture and access to formal education is limited.

Niger is one of the - if not the poorest - countries in the world, with only 50% of children enrolled in primary school. The number of students who continue to secondary school is much lower at a rate of just 20%. Only about 11% of girls go to secondary school. The Remember Niger Coalition is working to address Niger's educational infrastructure by supporting Nigerien partners in their endeavor to transform their society by expanding educational opportunities. By sponsoring a student, you are making a significant contribution – one that will positively impact the life of your student and his/her family for generations.



# MADAOUA school



The Madaoua school was established in 2015 with 1 classroom of kindergarten students. In the fall of 2014, the Madaoua church leaders indicated to Remember Niger that they would like to partner with us to start a school. When we explained the process to them, they took the pastor's sons' bedroom and converted it into a classroom with a separate entrance. The Kindergarten class started with 19 students. Once the Kindergarten started, we went ahead and began looking for funds to build the first set of classrooms, which was constructed in 2016.



The Madaoua School now has the 2nd set of 3 classrooms which allows them to have enough room for 1st grade through 6th grade. The school currently has over 200 students in grades Preschool through 5th grade. It's been really fun and interesting to watch the ways in which this school has grown. It also has been nice to see the way in which our partnership with the school committee and with the school has grown. In 2018, we connected an organization and a church (Sunrise Ministries) with the Madaoua school. Sunrise Ministries did raised the funds in 2018 through various fundraising projects to build this school. Then the year ended with a group from the church visiting Madaoua and having an opportunity to visit the school and to meet with the leaders of the school.

# MADAOUA school



The Madaoua school is located in Southern Niger. With around 250 students in grades preschool through 5th Grade. The school has latrines (which are their bathrooms), a wall/ gate, (which is security for the kids), and a playground, (that kids enjoy at break).



# MADAOUA SCHOOL

## Staff



The Madaoua School has amazing teachers for their students! The school finds their teachers through their church. Every summer they send their teachers to a teacher training held by the Cornerstone Nonprofit Organization. Remeber Niger gives scholarships for this teacher training to ensure good teachers for the students at the school.

# MADAOUA SCHOOL students



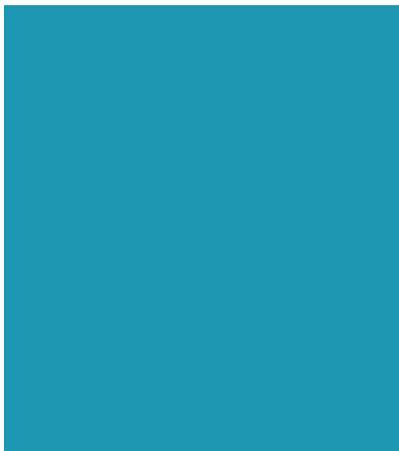
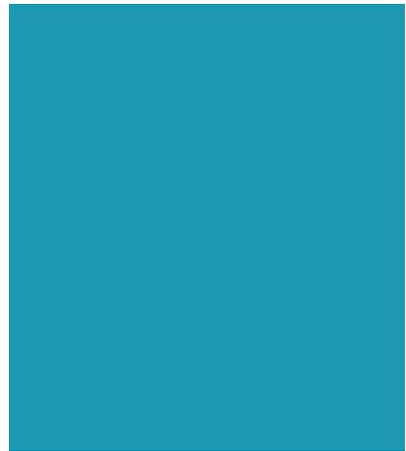
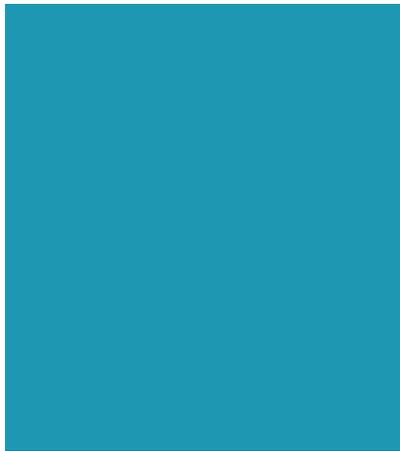
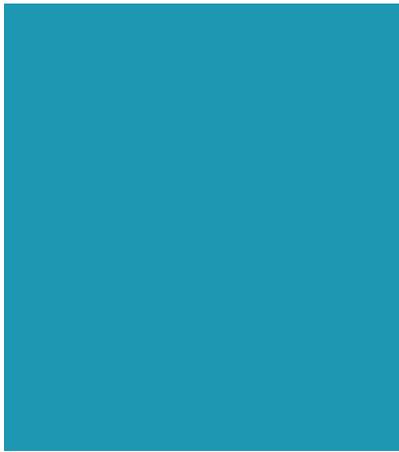
## Surprised by Etoniel

By Kara VanderKamp, Executive Director

I was surprised when Etoniel, a new sponsorship recipient thanked me after I took his photo for his profile. That was the FIRST time a student had thanked me for taking his photo. The school director explained to me that Etoniel has been asking to return to the Madaoua Christian school for over a year. He was in one of the first classes at the school. However, his mom removed him from the school because he had asthma and she felt that the long walk to school every day was making it worse. Etoniel cried a lot and begged his mom to let him return to the school. He even asked the pastor of the church several times to talk to his mom on his behalf. He loved his teachers and was happy to be at such a good school. When the church offered Etoniel a sponsorship, his mother decided he could return. Etoniel is older now, and his asthma does not seem to be as severe. Hence, the reason why he thanked me after I took his picture."



# MADAOUA SCHOOL STUDENTS



# MADAOUA SCHOOL students



The Madaoua School has about 250 students ranging from preschool through fifth grade.



# BREAK TIME Activites



At the Madaoua School the kids love to play at break time! Some of the kids like to play soccer and others play on the swing set.

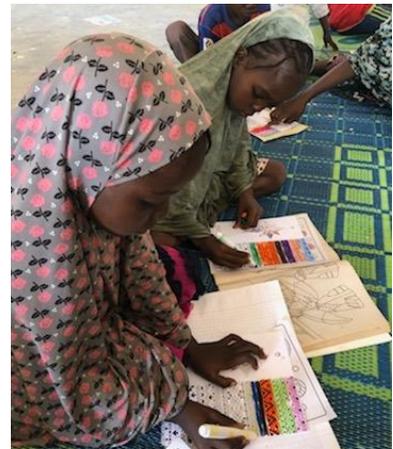


# HOW CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE MADE

BY KAREN PEPIN,  
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

Each year before the fall trip to Niger, we plan a holiday art project which the students make for their sponsors. Since the classrooms are usually filled to overflowing with students, it's important that each card we bring along is labeled with the sponsorship student's name and grade beforehand. That way we can account for everyone and ensure they take part in the project. As I distribute the cards, the students often smile and laugh at my difficulty in pronouncing their names. However, they're also eager to help with the process, and it ends up being a fun time together. This year the students made bookmarks that were to include a self-portrait. After the students at the first school completed their drawings, we discovered that many of them had instead drawn a picture of the person who was giving the instructions! There were more than a few portraits of Ibrahim, our Nigerian colleague and Ann, our volunteer from Charleston.

Sometimes we forget how easy it is for things to get "lost in the translation" when French is a second language for both the students and us! Observing the students work on their projects is always a lot of fun. Like children everywhere, some are slow and methodical, while others finish quickly and are ready to move on. Many are checking to see what their neighbor is doing, or negotiating the sharing of markers and crayons. The classroom buzzes with activity. For some students, drawing is a skill they have not had much opportunity to develop. Others display an amazing amount of artistic ability. Regardless, it's always a joy to watch them embrace the opportunity to create a gift for their sponsors. At the end of our trip I gather up all the finished cards and bring them back home, where the next step will be to match them up with each student's photo in preparation for the holiday mailing.





*Thank you*

SO MUCH FOR SPONSORING YOUR  
NIGER STUDENT, THEY REALLY  
APPRECIATE THE OPPERTUNITY YOU  
GIVE THEM!