



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ABROAD

The American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Initiative is part of the USAID Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation's Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub (DDI/LFT)

NEWSLETTER - February 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

With this edition of the ASHA Newsletter, we introduce a new feature: ASHA Partner Profiles will tell the stories of the remarkable people who do remarkable work around the world. I never cease to be amazed how through your projects you overcome often forbidding obstacles in order to house, feed, clothe, educate, heal and cure.

The first profile, as you may read, tells the story of the Malian-American founder of A Child for All. In the coming editions, we tell the stories of others whose work embodies their moral and ethical principles as well as American ideals, particularly those exemplified by U.S. public diplomacy.

You may also read in this edition the list of the latest ASHA awards (FY '19) to some 38 partners.

We also look forward to seeing those partners who have registered at the upcoming ASHA Partners Annual Meeting.

As always, we very much like to hear from you.

Best regards,

Gordon W. Weynand
Partnership Initiative Senior Leader for American Schools & Hospitals Abroad (ASHA)

PARTNER PROFILE

Kadiatou Sidibe, Founder of A Child for All



Idée fixe. There's no other way to describe it. Kadiatou Sidibe's curiosity - and concern - about the ragged children begging on the streets of Bamako never left her. And it grew into an *idée fixe* – but it took a few decades before the Malian-American could act on what became an obsession.

She first saw those children – some her age or older or younger – as her father drove Kady and her brother to school on his motorbike. She wanted to know: why weren't those kids going to school, why were they begging? Why were they dirty and ragged and hungry? Why, why, why?

As she grew older, she began to understand that certain conditions had to be in place for a child to attend school. Parents had to be able to afford to send their children to school. School fees were one barrier. But even before that, there had to be a roof over one's head, food on the table, clothes to wear – and most basic: parents to care for you.

Kady says her father was a model of altruism, “He was a teacher and teaching was his passion.” Sometimes, on his own, he taught older children who had never attended school, giving them an education at his own expense. For students who were held back in a class, he would devote summers to teaching them and their school would test them the next academic year before school started. If the students passed they would go to the next level. This prevented numerous vulnerable children from having to stay back a year and retake a class.

A turning point in Kady's life came when she was eleven and her father went overseas to earn a doctorate. In the three years that he was away, Kady and her brother were cared for by an aunt, a woman whose circumstances were very different from what the children had known.

Kady had to hand-wash her own and others' clothes, make six, one-mile trips every morning to fetch water in 8-gallon containers; pound ginger with lemon to make Malian ginger ale and transport it to sell at the market; walk two miles to and from school in 90-degree weather; cook on a wood-burning stove in a smoke-filled kitchen. All of these chores made it impossible for Kady to focus on her schoolwork. The result: she was held back a year in school.

When her father returned, Kady could again focus on her schoolwork and with his guidance, she graduated high school with the highest GPA in the country. And she had learned that in order to thrive, a child must be well-fed and healthy and have time to study. But perhaps the most important lesson was this: "I experienced how the lack of parental love and guidance can be emotionally and mentally detrimental to a child. It has long-lasting impacts that are often carried into adult lives."

A few years later, Kady immigrated to the United States and joined the U.S. Navy. Her goal was to start a non-profit organization after retirement. With that in mind and while still serving in the Navy, she earned an MBA in Non-Profit Management at George Washington University. But thoughts of ragged children begging - under a broiling sun on the streets of Bamako - never left her. And she thought, "I couldn't look into the eyes of a vulnerable child and tell the child to wait for me. Their lives certainly don't wait for my retirement." Thus "A Child for All" (ACFA) was incorporated in 2008, as Kady was in the final year of the MBA program - and still serving in the Navy.

The financial crisis of that year made fund-raising difficult; by January 2010 ACFA had a Board of Directors but less than \$5,000 in the AFCA account - not anywhere near enough to take in children. So Kady turned to her father who agreed to donate his house in Bamako to be used as a home for vulnerable children. He moved to his farm and Kady began renovating the house in town. The house where she had grown up became Bamako Children's Home for ACFA and welcomed 12 children in June 2010. Today those children are in their teens and are thriving and still call the house, "home".

AFCA currently serves 18 vulnerable children and has outgrown the first home. In 2013 ACFA began construction of the Zorokoro Children's Complex which, when finished, will consist of a dormitory for 100 children, a dining facility, a medical clinic, a library/computer lab and a school for children from kindergarten to 9th grade. Today, the first part of the dormitory is open with children ages 3-5 years old living there and the first three classrooms of the school are open for kindergarten classes. The goal is to serve all 100 vulnerable ACFA children while also providing opportunities to children and families in neighboring villages with education, health care, nutrition, and income generating activities.



ACFA children at Christmas



ACFA resident does her homework



ACFA staff members and students



Once completed, this school building will house 12 classrooms. Funding for 6 classrooms has been secured. In the meantime, AFCA is working on finding funds for the remaining classrooms. The recent ASHA award will fund the purchase of books, computers, shelving, printers, scanners, tables & chairs, office furniture, WiFi access, and solar panels to power the library.

ASHA INITIATIVE UPDATES

Save the Date **ASHA Partners Meeting 2021**

ASHA's annual Partners Meeting is going virtual! In order to maintain proper health and safety measures, the 2021 ASHA Partners Meeting will be held virtually from February 23-25, and March 8-10, 2021.

ASHA wants to showcase you, our partners!

What better way to do that than by featuring your work. ASHA is calling on you to submit high-resolution photos (with thoughtful captions) to be used in ASHA communications materials. The photos can be candid, group photos, etc. Just be sure to include a detailed caption with each photo. Please submit any photos via this [Google Form](#). Thank you!

ASHA AWARDS - FY19

REGION: AFRICA		
COUNTRY	UNITED STATES PARTNER	OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS
Cameroon	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Congo Basin Institute
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Planet Aid	Humana People to People (HPP-Congo)
Ethiopia	St. Luke's Health Care Foundation	Soddo Christian Hospital
Ethiopia	Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary	MyungSung International Development
Ethiopia	Christian Brothers Major Superiors	Ethiopian Catholic University-La Salle – Higher Learning Institute
Kenya	Women's Global Education Project	Tharaka Women's Welfare Project (TWWP)
Kenya	CURE International, Inc.	AIC-CURE International Hospital
Mali	A Child for All	A Child for All
Niger	CURE International	CURE Hôpital des Enfants au Niger (CURE NIGER)
Uganda	Texas Children's Hospital (TCH)	Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation – Uganda (Baylor-Uganda)
Uganda	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Makerere University School of Public Health
Zambia	Luboto Library Partners (LLP)	Luboto Library Partners Zambia Office (LLPZO)

REGION: ASIA		
COUNTRY	UNITED STATES PARTNER	OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS
Afghanistan	Alliance for Medical Outreach & Relief (AMOR)	AMOR Afghanistan Health Organization (AAHO)
India	Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation, Inc	Christian Medical College Vellore
Kyrgyz Republic	Bard College	American University of Central Asia
Nepal	American Leprosy Missions	The Leprosy Mission Nepal (TLMN)

REGION: EASTERN EUROPE		
COUNTRY	UNITED STATES PARTNER	OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS
Bulgaria	Sofia American Schools, Inc.	American College of Sofia
Greece	The American College of Greece	The American College of Greece

REGION: LATIN & CENTRAL AMERICA		
COUNTRY	UNITED STATES PARTNER	OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS
Bolivia	Hughes Schools	HS INT SRL (dba Hughes Schools)
Costa Rica	EARTH University Foundation	EARTH University Mercedes de Guácimo
El Salvador	Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc.	Asociacion AGAPE de El Salvador
Guatemala	U.S. Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala	Universidad del Valle de Guatemala
Guatemala	Food for the Poor, Inc (FFTP)	Caritas Archdiocese of Guatemala (Caritas) on behalf of the Children’s Hospital
Haiti	The Grant Foundation	Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti (HAS)
Honduras	Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Inc./ Zamorano University	Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Inc./ Zamorano University
Jamaica	Food for the Poor (FFTP), Incl	Mount Alvernia High School
Nicaragua	OneWorld Health	OneWorld Health, Nicaragua
Nicaragua	Foundation for Management Education in Central America (aka FMECA or INCAE Foundation)	INCAE Business School (Instituto Centroamericano de Administración de Empresas)
Nicaragua	Fabretto Children’s Foundation	Fabretto Children’s Foundation
Costa Rica	The Tropics Foundation	Tropical Agricultural Research & Higher Education Center (CATIE)

REGION: MIDDLE EAST & NORTHERN AFRICA		
COUNTRY	UNITED STATES PARTNER	OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS
Israel	American Committee for Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, Inc.	Shaare Zedek Medical Center
Israel	Trustees of the Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Science	Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Science
Israel	Hadassah. The Women’s Zionist Organization of America. Inc	Hadassah Medical Organization (“HMO”) Kiryat Hadassah
Israel	Nazareth Project, Inc	Nazareth Hospital EMMS
Lebanon	American University of Beirut (AUB)	American University of Beirut (AUB)
Lebanon	LAU Health Foundation	Lebanese American Medical Center – Rizk Hospital
Lebanon	Lebanese American University (LAU)	Lebanese American University

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To reach the LEPP team, click [Here](#).

Other Ways to Reach Us:

- For questions about ongoing procurement, email ASHAApplications@USAID.gov
- For general questions about ASHA, including FOIA requests, email ASHAInfo@USAID.gov
- For questions regarding ongoing actions with active awards, email ASHAReports@USAID.gov

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