

The Big Wish

A GIFT OF FAMILIES, FRIENDS & GLOBAL COMMUNITY



2009 IS A BIG YEAR FOR BOTH
EILEEN ROGERS (50) AND DEBBIE HILL (55).
PLEASE JOIN THEM IN CELEBRATING THEIR SPECIAL
BIRTHDAYS IN A SUSTAINABLE AND MEMORABLE WAY.

Our Big Birthday Wish

Over the last six years, long-time community volunteers and social activists Debbie Hill and Eileen Rogers have traveled together and met people all over the world. From Cambodia to Nepal, to many countries across Africa, they have seen and experienced extreme poverty, lack of resources and individual need. To celebrate their BIG birthdays in 2009, they would like to inspire you to share in this passion for helping others by joining together to make a BIG difference.

“The Big Wish” is to build a 90-student, two-classroom, brick and cement school and related projects in the Mali village of Tourari, located approximately 10 miles west of Timbuktu. The 100 families who live there, from the Tuareg and Bela tribes, are anxious for their children to attend school but lack the resources to build one. Our goal is to begin building in September 2009 after the summer rains.

You can be part of our life-changing birthday project with your financial gift, valued advice, or by spreading the word. Building a school, educating 90 children, impacting 100 families, changing even a small part of a country or part of a bigger continent — **now THAT is something to celebrate!**



DEBBIE HILL's “secret” to success is her holistic, humanistic approach to life. She seeks to understand what is happening in other's lives, figures out how she can best contribute, and comes up with creative solutions to complex problems. At a time when many of our world's problems seem insurmountable, Debbie is living proof that one person can really make a difference through dedication, determination and enthusiasm.

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EILEEN ROGERS, like so many of us, has been blessed with the gifts of family, friends, work satisfaction and inspiring life experiences. When she thought about her upcoming “BIG BIRTHDAY,” she decided that her biggest wish is to build something that will leave a lasting legacy on this earth and give back to the global community.

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Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa with a population of almost 12 million. It is the seventh largest country in Africa. In 1991, Mali adopted a new constitution and now is a democratic, multi-party state.

Although it is one of the most politically and socially stable countries in Africa, Mali is also one of the world's poorest. Up to half of all children in Mali die before reaching the age of five, in contrast to the 20 percent child mortality rate in the rest of Africa. The maternal mortality rate is one in 20 women.

The Tuareg tribe or “blue men of the desert” (named for their indigo robes and turbans) are an ancient nomadic tribe still eking out a desert existence. The Bela tribe were originally slaves to the Tuareg until slavery was outlawed in Mali. Now both tribes live and work together freely in villages in Northern Mali.

Funding The Big Wish



Two Brick and Cement Classrooms \$13,000

Where schools even exist, students are educated in rudimentary shelters of old straw mats, with children sitting in the sand, prey to respiratory infections, snakes and scorpions. We want to build a permanent structure and create a healthy learning environment for these kids.

Desks \$3,000

\$100 per desk – Each desk seats three students

Uniforms \$900

\$10 per student for 90 students

School Books and Materials \$900

\$10 per student for 90 students

Two Teachers \$2,400

\$100 per month for one year

Student Meals \$3,600

\$40 per year per student

Repair Existing Water Well \$6,500

The students need clean accessible water to drink and water a school garden. The existing well at Tourari does not produce sufficient water. We need to repair and deepen it.

School Vegetable Garden \$2,000

A school garden is an invaluable asset. It will not only provide the students with healthy vegetables for their meals, but will also teach them excellent survival skills and offer them job training. The proposed garden will be 400 square yards, or approximately one tenth of an acre.

A qualified gardener will be hired for four months to teach students basic gardening skills. Other expenses include gardening tools, wheelbarrows, a donkey cart for hauling water from the nearby well, fertilizer, seeds and soil preparation. The garden will be enclosed with traditional fencing of very densely packed thorny branches to prevent animals from entering.

School Goat Herd \$1,500 (30 goats)

The goat herd has two primary objectives: to provide nourishing goat's milk for the students and to generate occasional income for the school through the sale of male goats. The initial herd of goats will consist of 25 females and five males. The herd, which will need constant supervision, will be cared for by a goat herder.

Latrine \$8,000 (4 Seats)

Without latrines, students are forced to use the bush for their daily needs. Ninety students can create a great sanitary hazard. The absence of latrines also is one of the greatest deterrents to keeping young girls in school. Girls become more modest once they begin to menstruate. Without a latrine they miss school and find it harder to catch up on lessons. Educating girls is especially important because as women enter the workforce, family planning becomes more prevalent and birth rates decline.

In addition, hand washing is associated with latrines. Hand washing decreases the incidence of dysentery – one of the three greatest killers of African children – by 30 percent. Latrines are particularly expensive because of the cost of the cement, which represents more than half of the latrine cost.

Community Millet Grain Grinders \$1,700

\$85 each, 20 grinders serve 100 families

Many of the students are teenage girls. For them, as with all other students who have never been to school before, this is their first opportunity to get an education. Traditionally older girls are expected to help their mothers prepare the meals, including the tedious and time-consuming grinding of grain and cooking porridge. A millet grinder permits the grain to be ground quickly, allowing these girls time to do their homework and stay in school. One grinder will serve five families and help numerous girls succeed.

Digital Camera \$300 (Already Gifted) Jiddou, our Mali agent, will document and email photos of the building of our school for us to share!

Fundraising June through September 2009

Our Total Wish for the Village = \$43,800

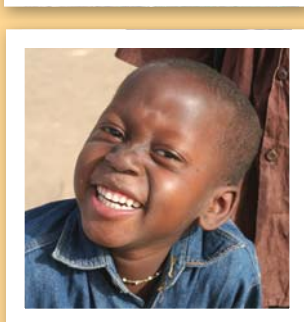


From the beginning of time friendship has been the most important relationship to man.

At the end of the evening friends would gather around the fire to celebrate peace and brotherhood among tribes. They would share their hearts and speak of the good qualities of the other.

It is said that if they shared memories as the embers faded their friendship was sealed, bringing them closer together.

The legend says, if you give a circle of friends to a person you care for, your bonds of friendship will endure forever.



Very special thanks to our friend Jane Gerke at Rubi Studio Visual Communications, for graciously donating both the design of this brochure and the digital camera for our project! www.rubistudio.net

How you can help us...

ONLINE: www.turtlewill.org/donate.php

Please indicate that your donation is for **The Big Birthday Wish**

MAIL: Send this completed form with a check made payable to TurtleWill to:

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Your donation is fully tax deductible.

Fundraising will continue through September 2009. We will announce our results in Mid-October. Email updates will be sent to donors, as well as information about a medical mission to Mali next year that will include a stop at our school.

\$10 \$40 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 —OR—

Your Special Gift of \$ _____

To be used for _____

In honor of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

SPREAD THE WORD!

Help by sharing information about "The Big Wish" with anyone you think may be interested. Include your family, your children's school, or any group special to you! Additional copies of this brochure are available in both printed and email formats.

Please mail _____ brochures. Please email me the PDF file.

Tell us about your plan or idea!

Thank You for being part of "The Big Wish" celebrating our birthdays and our community family! This truly will be a global community school built with lots of love and compassion.



*Please be part of this life-changing birthday project with your financial gift, valued advice, or simply by spreading the word. Building a school, impacting 100 families, changing even a small part of a country or part of a bigger continent — **now THAT is something to celebrate!***



TurtleWill
Helping Traditional Peoples
Retain Their Cultures and
Preserve Their Dignity



TurtleWill is a wonderful nonprofit group located in Cave Creek, Arizona (just north of Phoenix), operated by an amazing and passionate friend, Irma Turtle. Eileen traveled to Mali with Irma on a medical mission in early 2009. After sharing stories and pictures of the trip with Debbie, they decided to take up Irma's mission to help in a BIG way – a sustainable way.

TurtleWill works to preserve communities and lifestyles of peoples in the remote bush areas of Mali, Niger and Ethiopia that have little access to medical, economic or educational aid. Since 1997, TurtleWill has funded more than 34 primary schools enabling nomadic children to get an education.

Jiddou Ag Almoustapha



Jiddou is a Tuareg from the Timbuktu region. Irma first met him in 1987 when she was touring Mali. He struck Irma as a very unusual and sincere young man. Jiddou then started

the TINAIT Association in Timbuktu to help Tuareg refugee communities. TurtleWill has been working with TINAIT since 2000, and Jiddou supervises all of TurtleWill's projects. Jiddou is impeccably honest, hardworking and totally devoted to bettering the lives of his people.

Visit www.TurtleWill.org to make Our Big Wish come true.

The Big Wish

c/o Eileen Rogers & Debbie Hill
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