



## Thank You from a Father, Husband, and Peanut Farmer

Mamadou Ka is a 50-year-old husband, father, and farmer in the community of Sama Toucouleur (about 2 miles NW of Keur Soce). A recent microloan recipient, Mamadou saw a plentiful harvest which allowed him to expand his farm and repay his loan. This loan will be given to another farmer in another distribution this month. We sat down with Mamadou to learn how he used his loan.

*“When I received the funds, I used it to buy peanut seeds and other inputs to properly prepare for the winter farming season. I harvested 1.6 [metric] tons of peanuts (just over 3,500 pounds)!!”*

*With the sale of the peanuts [\$425 USD] I was able to build two rooms onto my house for my family. We are very comfortable now and sheltered from the heavy and destructive rains.*

*I thank all the team of Andando: technicians who helped here in Sama Toucouleur; Mr. [Boubou] Sy [Andando Senegal Country Director] who selected the farmers to receive microloans; AND the donors in America, thank you!”*

VISIT [ANDANDO.ORG](http://ANDANDO.ORG) FOR MORE



*Mamadou, a recent microloan recipient, used the proceeds from his recent peanut harvest to make improvements to his family’s home.*

THROUGH MICROLOANS WE HAVE BEEN INVESTING IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL SENEGAL FOR OVER 10 YEARS. THESE SMALL LOANS CAN HAVE A HUGE IMPACT, AND THEY ARE ALMOST ALWAYS FULLY REPAID WITH A PAID BACK RATE OF 98%. TO DATE WE HAVE ADMINISTERED OVER 1,000 MICROLOANS.



*Board Member Stephanie (left) with guests at Panera Bread Fundraiser Night for Andando.*

## Dining for a Cause - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who joined us (and brought your friends) to Calapooia Brewing Co., Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Panera Bread’s fundraiser nights last month.

It was great to see friends, new and old, out showing support for sustainable change in Senegal.

An extra thank you to: the staff that served up a special entrée at Calapooia Brewing to make the night exceptionally flavorful, the team at Panera Bread that made us feel welcome, and Chipotle Mexican Grill for hosting benefits on our behalf.

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW PARTNERS. IF YOU HAVE IDEAS, SEND THEM TO [CRYSTAL@ANDANDO.ORG](mailto:CRYSTAL@ANDANDO.ORG).

## From the Director

Andando has experienced much growth over the last several years, which is a reflection of your continued support. This has meant an increase in our programs, our participants, and most importantly, our impact. We are now reaching far more people than we ever have. One thing that makes all of this possible is the excellent staff that we have on the ground in Senegal running these programs on a daily basis.



*Some of our excellent staff that we have on the ground in Senegal.*

From building schools and health posts, to running the 19 community gardens, there is plenty of fieldwork to manage each of these programs and make them successful. In order to do this, we turn to those who are best able to help themselves – the Senegalese. We now have 18 full-time staff, along with dozens of contractors and interns, who diligently put in the work – day in and day out – to build a better future for themselves and their country.

We are very proud of our staff and the commitment they have shown to strengthen our past successes, as well as sustainably build new ones.

On page three of this newsletter, you can read a little more about one of these dedicated staff members, our Podor Area Project Manager Bocar Diack. Later this month, Andando’s Development Director – Crystal Kelley – is traveling to Senegal

to spend time with our staff in training and development. While there, she will take time with each one of them to get to know their stories, which we will bring you over the next several months. We hope you enjoy reading and getting to know them as much as we have over the past few years.

“Jéréjéf!” – Thank You!



Lewis Kiker, Executive Director

## Volunteers Wanted

Do you like parties? Want to make long-term change in Senegal?



We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our silent auction planning team. Responsibilities include: selecting the menu, planning entertainment and decorations, making silent auction packages, and ensuring guests have a great time.

The team gathers monthly for a one-hour meeting. A variety of skills and talents are needed.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
CRYSTAL@ANDANDO.ORG  
(541) 224-7990

## Oasis in the Desert

*The needs are high in the north—it's one of the poorest areas in Senegal, few NGOs work there, and it's extremely dry and affected by climate change. Though Andando has done some sporadic work there for several years, our funding has enabled them to launch a new, holistic program.*

*In November 2017, Marieme Daff, Vibrant Village's Senior Program Officer who's from Senegal herself, traveled to Senegal to conduct an initial assessment of the program area, alongside Andando. She participated in interviews to select a candidate for the Podor Program Manager position and met Bocar Diack, who was eventually hired by Andando.*



*Women of the Mbantou Croissement garden with Bocar Diack, Andando's Podor Program Manager.*

*Bocar is from the Podor region and had been eager to move back to his home. Marieme describes it “like a start-up. Andando basically sent him there with a cellphone, motorbike, and laptop.” Bocar's first months were spent canvassing villages by motorbike to understand the needs and select communities, and as of late 2018, Andando's programs started to be implemented.*

*Marieme visited Podor again in early March of 2019, and she was amazed at what's been accomplished in such a short time.*

*Bocar hasn't done it all alone—Andando's two other Podor staff members, Souleymane Sall (Garden Manager), and Hamedine Thiam (Accountant & Administrator) have been*

*instrumental in getting programs underway. In just a few short months the team has renovated a health post, established 2 women-run community gardens, and renovated 2 schools. The gardens, which are true oases in the desert, have “really taken off,” Lewis, Andando's Executive Director says.*

*These community gardens are solely run by women, and Marieme says she “loved meeting women participants and found their determination inspiring. For these women, their participation in the program leads to greater respect, dignity and status in their communities.”*

*We've all been inspired by Andando's team's work in Podor.*



*The women-run community gardens give participants greater respect, dignity and status in the community.*

TO READ THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY VISIT [VIBRANTVILLAGE.ORG/BLOG](http://VIBRANTVILLAGE.ORG/BLOG)



Save the Date

# Dinner & Silent Auction

5th Annual

OCT  
24

Join us for an  
unforgettable evening  
making long-term  
change in Senegal.

Tickets and Information

[Andando.org/events](https://andando.org/events)