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NEW MICRO-CREDIT GROUPS

Since we started operations in 2006, we have never experienced the high demand for our services as we do now. Since the beginning of 2013, we have received demands to join our programs from over 1,000 underprivileged Senegalese women who desperately seek to improve their lives and those of their families. Most of them come from the economically depressed suburbs of Dakar, Senegal's capital.

Like some of you know, we do not turn deserving women away with a negative response to their demand to enroll in our programs. We keep their contact information on file and invite them as we receive more funding. So we have over 40 women's groups consisting of over 1,000 women on our waiting list.

However, out of this huge number, we have been able to admit 15 new groups comprising 235 women since January 2013. Most of them come from a suburb of Dakar called Guediawaye.

Among these new groups is a group of 25 women selected from an

Association of over 1,000 women. Selection became necessary as we cannot financially support the entire Association.

Ligueye Jarinou as the group is called in the local Wolof language which means 'women working hard to provide the needs for survival', processes local cereal as a micro-business.

API is supporting the group's collective local cereal processing project with a loan of 1.700.000F CFA (\$2,315).

The loan presentation ceremony took place on August 30, 2013. Attending the ceremony, apart from the members of the group and API's staff, were leaders of the community.



The photo shows the executive Director of API, Sebastine Ujereh presenting working capital to Absa Mboye, the President of the group Ligueye Jarinou.

PROMOTING ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVE (API)

This year, like last year, API participated at the projects promotion section of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The event took place last June at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

In addition to distributing materials, we displayed items produced by women in our programs which included necklaces and earrings.

We were fortunate to meet Ms Cheryl Howard, a health educator and Parish nurse. On learning about API's Preventive Health Education Program (PHEP), Cheryl became interested in our work and offered to donate materials to our health program.

She donated 8 units of blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring kits. We should also mention that Plainfield United Methodist Church, Plainfield, Indiana donated a blood pressure monitoring kit to our program.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM (PHED): AN UPDATE

We continue to develop our Preventive Health Program which we launched in 2012.

We have organized and held preventive health classes for 4 of API's micro-credit groups. They learned about blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, stress, their measurements and strategies for maintaining healthy levels.

We are now working to reach out to more women with the program.

Two nurses linked to API's groups are resource persons in our health education classes.



Our goal is to provide each group with these health monitoring kits for use during their regular meetings.

