

*We want to support the Arts of Mali!*

I would like to contribute:

- \$1000       \$100
- \$ 500       \$ 50
- \$ 250       \$ \_\_\_\_\_ any amount helps

I would like my contribution to support:

- School Supplies Project
- Student Sponsorship Project
- Free Tutoring at Ko-Falen
- Namatio Diarra Shea Butter Project
- All Ko-Falen Projects & Workshops

Please enclose your check payable to Ko-Falen Cultural Center with this form and send it to 1424 SE Oak, Portland, OR 97214.

Thank you for your tax deductible contribution!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

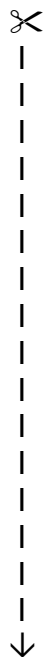
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

[www.ko-falen.org](http://www.ko-falen.org)



Above: Ronna and Wague with Soni Tieni schoolchildren  
 Center Left: Delivering School Supplies to Soni Tieni  
 Center Right: Painter Arvie Smith with Le Vieux at Ko-Falen  
 Far Right: Shea Nuts and Making Shea Butter in Soni Tieni



**1) School Supplies for Soni Tieni**  
**First Year Goal = \$1000**

The village of Soni Tieni, near Bamako, is a unique community maintaining a strong hold in traditional secret societies that continue masked dance ceremonies, while embracing a contemporary education of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The public school in this town has enjoyed a robust attendance. In the past, Ko-Falen has contributed to their building fund and supplied students and teachers with materials they need. Their school has grown from a few rooms and 200 students, to 9 rooms with over 1500 students. By supporting this vital school, youth are not obliged to leave the community to continue their studies. They remain a relevant part of their community, learning and maintaining traditional customs while engaging in a contemporary formal education.

Our goal is to raise \$1000 to buy school supplies and materials for students and teachers. By purchasing needed supplies in Mali, we ensure that we are outfitting students with appropriate materials and supporting the local economy by buying from the merchants that supply these school materials. We would like to grow this program to include other villages and towns that practice vital traditional artforms and have schools.



**2) Student Sponsorship of Artisan Families in Bamako**  
**First Year Goal = \$500**

Through talks with craftsmen in our neighborhood, we have found one of their challenges to be enrolling their children in school due to annual public school fees. By sponsoring these children in school, we support their formal education, while honoring their family's vocation as a valued part of society.

Our goal is to identify 10 children of artisan families in the Ko-Falen Center neighborhood and to pay for their annual school fee. We will guarantee this annual fee in subsequent years for these students, while growing the number of student sponsorships annually.

**3) Free Tutoring at Ko-Falen Cultural Center**  
**First Year Goal = \$1800 + \$200 for materials**

While recognizing the importance of keeping young people in school, we also acknowledge the incredible strain of teacher-to-student ratio in the classroom. Many classrooms in the city of Bamako have 100 students to one teacher. The most successful students are those whose families can augment their classroom education with private tutors.

Our goal is to hire one after-school tutor to hold sessions at the Ko-Falen Center for the Artisan Family Students sponsored by Ko-Falen. These after-school classes would focus on group sessions of grammar and math followed by one-on-one sessions of homework help. The first year would also include building benches and buying materials needed for the program. We would like to grow this program to include a second tutor or assistant, and include more neighborhood youth.



**4) The Namatio Diarra Shea Butter Project**  
**First Year Goal = \$1500**

This project is in memory of Namatio Diarra, our original connection to the village of Soni Tieni. Throughout her life, Namatio Diarra joined in community activities with her fellow women to accomplish projects for the benefit of the entire village. Making shea butter, an ancient social event for women throughout West Africa, was one of those activities. Nothing could revive her goodwill more than a shea butter project between the women of Soni Tieni and the U.S.

Our goal is to fund preparations for making shea butter, including gathering, roasting, and shelling of shea nuts in advance of making the shea butter. A contingency of Americans led by Ko-Falen Cultural Center will participate in a 2½-day workshop joining forces with the Soni Tieni women and the *Pionnières* Girl Guides in the actual making of the butter, which is used in cosmetics, cooking and medicine. An evening ceremony involving music and masked dancing will celebrate the days' activities. We would like to make this exchange an annual event.