



December 2011

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

With approximately 50,000 children forced to beg in major cities throughout Senegal, the common sight of a malnourished child pleading for a few coins or a scrap of food is heartbreaking. Continuing a collaboration that began in 2006, Tostan partnered with [International Medical Relief](#) last month to provide free health consultation and treatment to 2,000 of these vulnerable children in Thiès, Senegal.

In addition to addressing immediate health issues, Tostan and established [Community Management Committees](#) (CMC) are leading initiatives to protect children at the community level by raising awareness of children's rights, training community members to identify and protect vulnerable children, and creating safe spaces for young people within their communities.

Through these initiatives and our [Community Empowerment Program](#) (CEP), Tostan is working with communities to promote the human rights of all children, women, and men. To read recent news about Tostan's child protection work, [click here](#).

Thank you for your support this holiday season and best wishes for the New Year! For more news from Tostan's international offices, please scroll down.

Happy Holidays,



Twenty-five doctors and dentists gathered in Thiès to provide healthcare services for vulnerable children.

Molly Melching

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Founder and Executive Director

Hip-hop artist and Tostan partner Sister Fa wins Freedom to Create award



Sister Fa and Senegalese musician Baaba Maal perform at the 2011 Freedom to Create Festival in Cape Town, South Africa

[Sister Fa](#), a long-time Tostan partner and human rights advocate, was awarded the [Freedom to Create](#) prize in South Africa last month. The award honors her use of hip-hop music as a

tool to raise awareness and encourage abandonment of harmful traditional practices, specifically [female genital cutting](#) (FGC).

[Click here to read more about Sister Fa's efforts to encourage communities to abandon FGC.](#)

Tostan supports education for all



Continuing a discussion sparked by Tostan's profile on [Goodreads](#), Tostan Director of

Gambian youth lead human rights march to governor's residence



After five days of community visits and presentations, the youth caravan arrived in Basse, The Gambia in Part II of the blog piece "[Gambian youth encourage leaders and communities to](#)

['practice what you know.'](#)" To ensure their voices were heard, participants presented a manifesto on youth rights to local government representatives.

[Click here to read about the youth leading efforts to protect human rights in The Gambia.](#)

Give the gift of empowerment and double your impact



Help us raise \$250,000 so we can reach hundreds of communities in



Administration
Luzon Pahl Kahler
explains that to
promote human

rights and positive social change, all community members, women, men, and children, must have access to education.

[Click here to learn more about Tostan's approach to education.](#)



communities in
Sub-Saharan Africa
in 2012. With all
donations matched
100% by a
generous Tostan

supporter, your gift will go twice as far as it empowers communities with Tostan's trusted and transformative education program. With your help, we can raise **half a million dollars for African communities.**

DONATE NOW

[Send a greeting card to someone special and help a community in the process.](#)



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To find out more about upcoming events and ongoing projects, please visit our [website](#).
Tostan is a US 501(c)(3) nongovernmental organization based in Senegal, West Africa.

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