



For Immediate Release

Rain for the Sahel and Sahara Welcomes Tuareg Education Mentor to NH



Mari Jasmin, Niger, 2010

Newmarket, NH, June 7, 2010 - Mari Jasmin Clotaire, a key mentor for the **Rain for the Sahel and Sahara (RAIN)** Girls' Mentoring and Scholarship Program in Niger, West Africa, will be visiting New Hampshire from June 13th - 28th. During her stay, Clotaire will be the special guest for RAIN's 2010 Annual Event, *Daughters of the Desert*, held on June 25th at Three Rivers Farm in Dover. This is a rare and unique opportunity for Seacoast residents to learn firsthand more about the important work Mari and many other women are doing with RAIN to support girls' education in Niger, where the average literacy rate is under 15%.

Mari Jasmin, along with her fellow mentors, work to help Tuareg girls age 9-16 succeed in school, convincing parents and teachers about the importance of their education. The RAIN Mentoring and Scholarship Program pairs girls with community women, most of whom are illiterate. The women volunteers teach the girls traditional crafts and practical skills, counsel them about health and sexuality, and advocate for them with parents and teachers. In turn, the women learn to read and write in adult literacy classes taught by RAIN staff. The mentors become literate and esteemed in their communities as "wise women." In the six years since the program began, more than 500 girls have been performing better and staying in school longer, and more than 80 women have become mentors. It has been a truly touching and productive relationship for both the girls and women.

Mari will be available for interviews and speaking engagements from June 13-28th. She will also be speaking at a special RAIN pre-event reception for donors and press on June 21st. Contact RAIN at 603-371-0676 or info@rain4sahara.org to purchase tickets for *Daughters of the Desert*, or for more information.

ABOUT RAIN

RAIN's mission is to work with nomadic peoples of West Africa to improve their lives through education, water security, agriculture, and income-producing activities. These locally rooted programs promote literacy and empowerment while sustaining nomadic traditions throughout the Sahel and Sahara. For more information, visit: www.rain4sahara.org.

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