



RAIN FOR THE SAHEL AND SAHARA
PO BOX 545
NEWMARKET, NH 03857
(603) 371-0676 PHONE
(603) 397-0681 FAX
WWW.RAIN4SAHARA.ORG
CONTACT: JULIA@RAIN4SAHARA.ORG

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NH'S RAIN FOR THE SAHEL AND SAHARA GIRLS' EDUCATION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE WITH HELP FROM NEWMAN'S OWN FOUNDATION.

“Due to the exchange of information between the mentors and the students my life has changed for the better. Our knowledge is multiplied many times. This is Azara Mohamed. Her friends told her not to go to school. She wanted to follow them but now that she has a mentor Azara attends to her studies very well. She is among the best students in her class.” **Tarbane Ewalwal, Mentor, with Azara Mohamed (See photo below).**



DATELINE— (Niger, West Africa): Rain for the Sahel and Sahara’s scholarship and mentoring program brings education and self-esteem to girls and women alike. The program is designed to encourage girls in Niger, West Africa to attend school and to help them succeed. In the remote regions of RAIN’s work fewer than 10% of women are literate, yet the mentoring program is an outstanding success. Mentors are recruited to teach after-school classes in traditional skills such as leather work, knitting and sewing. These women, who often walk miles weekly to meet the girls, counsel them to stay in school, share

their own life experiences and regrets, and urge them not to marry too early or get pregnant. Introduced to school, sharing with students, and gaining confidence, the women requested literacy classes for themselves. Now they’ve been studying for 18 months. This program has now been extended to boys and men, as well.

The students, from the poorest parts of the community, have surpassed the performance of their peers. The mentors are recognized as community leaders.

As USAID FUNDING for the scholarship and mentoring program draws to a close after five productive years, Rain for the Sahel and Sahara is striving to continue and expand the program. Newman’s Own Foundation has generously donated \$10,000 to that end.

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Rain’s mission is to improve the lives of children and adults in Niger, West Africa, through locally developed programs in education, water resource development and agriculture. These programs promote literacy and economic security while sustaining vital nomadic traditions throughout the Sahel and Sahara. For more information or to contribute, visit www.rain4sahara.org.