

# Mahadaga Miracles

## Our Core Values:

- ♦ **Holistic development** of each person
- ♦ Working closely with **families and communities**
- ♦ **Defending** the cause of disabled people in our society
- ♦ **God's Word** is at the center of our work and motivation

## Site snaps



Our young apprentices



Amina making her living



Sandrine and Tadjoa—blind and in high school

## What Must It Be Like?

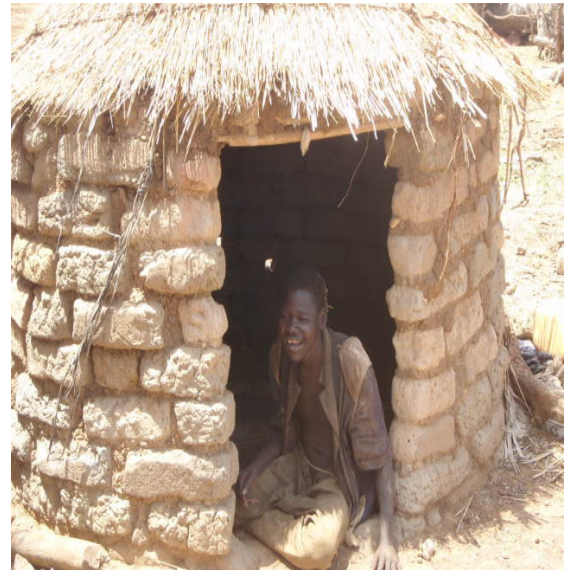
This young man may not have been in such rough shape now if his parents had treated him as soon as he had his first epileptic seizures. Instead, his parents hid him from public, worrying about shame and family curses.

If epilepsy is not treated correctly and in time, more severe problems can follow. Today, Nadiagou has reduced mental capacity and he lives an isolated life, alone in his hut...without affection and loving assurance from his family.

The family is not really sure that it's worth taking care of Nadiagou anymore. He can't help them with any of the work. And what if his disability is contagious, they wonder?

Families in rural Burkina Faso have a big need for education. We must raise

awareness that epilepsy is treatable. If we cannot change the community's understanding of this and other problems, even small medical problems and slight disabilities will continue to have dreadful consequences.



## Can Blind Students Go to the Next Level?

Can we squeeze four vision-impaired students into a high school class with over 80 other students?

Denise Yonli, Tani Tindano, Sandrine Tankoano and Tadjoa Lompo were up to the challenge.

Because of their disability, their families weren't even going to send them to first grade, believing that they couldn't learn anything.

As the CAH's first group of vision-impaired students to go to high school, the transition was not easy. But with some tenacity, these four students showed us that it's possible.

At first, there were many doubters,

including the students' classmates and parents. Now, the doubts are being put to rest.

Two of the four students are among the top 5 in the class. The other two are in the top 15! Yes, they have now earned the respect of their classmates and teachers. They are so thankful for this chance to prove themselves.



*Because God loves all people without exception, the Centre for the Advancement of the Handicapped seeks to demonstrate this love to disabled persons by providing them a chance to find their full potential in their families and communities. In order to work towards an autonomous lifestyle, we work with each person through the means of physical rehabilitation, intellectual development, social integration and Christian discipleship.*

### Prayer Points

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support. As our work has continued to grow, we have also had to increase our dependence on the Lord and His wisdom. Pray that our entire team would remain close to the Lord in our daily walk.

- ♦ We thank God for helping us to choose a pastor for the work at the Centre. Even though he only works part-time, he's already quite busy visiting families and encouraging those who come to the Centre.
- ♦ We also thank God for many answered prayers, such as safety for our team. Our CBR team safely traveled over 54,000 kilometers in 2011!
- ♦ In December of 2012, we plan to have a big 25th anniversary celebration (25 years since the beginning of the ministry for people with disabilities). Please pray for our planning team as we organize this big event.

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\*For gifts, please write "Projet Handicapés en Avant - Mahadaga" or "Project 93279" in the memo line. Thanks!

### Working Towards an Autonomous Lifestyle

We have over 40 friends with disabilities in trade apprenticeship programs like tailoring, wood-working, weaving, soap-making and dye-dieing. They are scattered



throughout villages in our province. Thanks to these trade-skills, our friends will have more autonomy, value and respect as part of their communities.

### "Now I Am Respected"



Adiza had a pretty miserable life...always stuck in her hut, living in the dirt, and everyone thought that it was just her fate. All of that changed when Adiza found the CAH. Now, she gets around on a tricycle, and she actually earns her own living by raising sheep loaned to her by the Centre. Adiza has even gotten married.

Help us save paper! Sign up to receive our newsletter electronically by emailing us at CHAmahadaga@simbf.org

### God Loves Us All



Bapouguini suffers from myopathy (ALS). His muscles continue to get weaker, and he lives in almost constant pain. He spends all day sitting alone in his wheelchair...at night, he lies alone on his mat. Our ministry to him is one of encouragement. He is already a brother in Christ. We provided him with a radio and Christian praise and worship music. We visit him as often as we can to encourage him in his faith, and we're thankful for the time we have yet with Bapouguini.

### Rejected by his Mom...

Kpaguili was rejected by his mom when he was born. He was born without a left hand, and with small deformations in his right fingers. His mother wouldn't breast-feed him, and instead of carrying him on her back, as is the habit of mothers here in Burkina, she chose to carry his older brother, leaving Kpaguili alone and hungry. She told us "I've never seen a child like this." She was just waiting for his death. With our encouragement, she has finally accepted Kpaguili, but she has a lot yet to learn.

