**DORCAS HOUSE**
**BURKINA FASO**

**A HOME FOR GIRLS AT RISK**

Make checks out to:
The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Memo: “Burkina - Dorcas House”

Mail to:
The C&MA
P.O. Box 35000
Colorado Springs, CO
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www.wix.com/dorcashouse/faso

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WHAT WE ARE DOING:

Among the poorest countries of the world, the small landlocked country of Burkina Faso will only see 15% of its teen girls graduate from high school. There are many obstacles for girls in poor families and even more for girls who find themselves orphaned or abandoned. Women in these circumstances often are at risk of being marginalized by society. By providing young women with opportunities, they are able to see the obstacles removed in front of them and to become change agents in their homes and communities.

A group of women in Burkina Faso in the Association of Alliance Women (UFAC) desired to start a transformative educational center to open up opportunities to empower young women. In partnership with American women who also shared their vision, Dorcas House opened its doors for the first time to 14 young women in 2008. These same young women have now returned to villages empowered to make a difference. Each year since then, an average of 20 young women (ages 17-27) have made Dorcas House their home. By developing a 2 level/2 year program it has been possible to bring 10 new girls each year and graduate 10 girls.

Girls are selected based on need and desire to come. The staff and board of Dorcas House agree together on the selection of girls from all over Burkina. Girls come from orphan and foster situations, as teen moms, and girls in severe poverty. There is no discrimination at Dorcas House based on religion. Dorcas House is openly a faith-based center which follows Biblical Christian principles.

PROGRAM + PARTNERSHIP:

The four-fold program includes:

VOCATIONAL TRAINING: Sewing (by hand and sewing machine), cloth dyeing, clothing construction, soap-making, crocheting and hand crafts.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS: Reading and writing in French, health and hygiene, volleyball.

LIFE SKILLS: Gardening, raising chickens, hogs and hoats, living in community, cooking and cleaning, running a diesel-powered grist mill for grinding grains for the local community.

SPIRITUAL/ETHICAL EDUCATION: Bible based teaching on their value to God, Biblical principles, Bible study, Bible memory, prayer, worship and singing.

As the center continues to strive towards sustainability, girls are involved in helping with chores that have helped to offset the costs of Dorcas House.

The name Dorcas is found in the Bible in Acts 9 where Dorcas is a woman called a disciple of Jesus, who worked with her hands to help the poor and whose life’s testimony was so powerful that at her death everyone mourned. In this text, she is raised from the dead and the power of this testimony goes out in the whole village. Our young women, many of whom are illiterate upon arrival, learn that they are able to grow and become more of who God created them to be, loved by Him and valuable members of society, serving others.

Partners that give financially to Dorcas House help to facilitate the expenses of feeding, housing, health needs, and staffing of the center. Our monthly budget is about US$1000.

Tax-deductible financial gifts can be given through the Christian and Missionary Alliance (clearly designated to Dorcas House).