

## **Galle Nanondiral--Senegal**

Galle Nanondiral, or the "house of mutual understanding," was first opened in 1986, as an outreach to the primarily Muslim population of Yeumbeul. It was in this underdeveloped area outside of the nation's capital that the government advised us to establish this project.

The purpose of the center is: to serve and love "our neighbors as ourselves" by offering much-needed facilities and programs; and to provide the basis on which solid relationships with our Muslim neighbors can be built, in order to increase the possibility of dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

To this end, Galle Nanondiral offers:

1. A 6,000-resource library.
2. A sports and leisure area, including a small basketball court (we currently coach three teams), two ping-pong tables, two foosball tables, and games (such as Scrabble and checkers).
3. A large multi-purpose room used for training sessions (in literacy, health education, etc.), conferences, and television programs (news, sports, etc.) and movies, etc.
4. Sewing programs for young women in the following areas: crochet, embroidery, and hand- and machine-sewing.
5. CM2 academic course (This course prepares students for the high school entrance exam; it is especially geared toward those who have already failed the exam once, to offer them another opportunity.)
6. With partners, we offer:
  - a) local language literacy courses for women (funded via the World Bank), and
  - b) reproductive health classes for adolescents (with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee)

The library at Galle Nanondiral should be constantly and continuously updated to respond to the practical needs of students who use the library and also to keep users apprised of international developments, important new discoveries and ideas, etc. As former director Rev. Steve Nelson stated, "Our library provides the purest form of development, allowing people to develop themselves," that is, their own capacity for learning and thinking critically.

This library is extremely important here, as the vast majority of students have literally no other means of finding books that are required for their classes. Even if students do have the resources to purchase books (which is rare), these books are usually unavailable in sufficient quantities in local book-stores, and even the university library is at pains to keep up with the students' demand for books!

This project would allow the library to purchase much-needed books, not only in response to the practical demands of students, but even more importantly, those resources that would truly facilitate the "pure development" we strive to promote.