



Dining for Women

## Program Fact Sheet

**Program: Clinique Monique** Clinique Monique is a clinic dedicated to the life of Monique Dembele, a midwife from a rural village in Mali.

Monique's life is revealed in Kris Holloway's respectful, unsentimental, yet inspiring book, Monique and the Mango Rains. Kris, a young Peace Corps volunteer, worked by Monique's side for two years birthing babies and caring for mothers, in remote, impoverished villages in Mali. She wrote her book following the untimely death of her friend. The book is "a rare tale of friendship that reaches beyond borders to vividly and irrevocably unite another woman's world with our own."

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**Websites:** <http://www.moniquemangorains.com/?page=home> *The book's website offers a description of Kris's involvement with Clinique Monique and her friendship with Monique Dembele. Clinique Monique donations are channeled through **Women's Trust, Inc.** which is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. The section of the Women's Trust website devoted to Clinique Monique can be found at <http://www.womenstrust.org/content/clinique-monique/> Another valuable informative website is recent article in the *International Herald Tribune* titled *Monique's Dream* <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/09/30/opinion/edholloway.php>*

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**Mission:** To support community-based work that promotes health and education, especially for women and children, in the Koutiala region of Mali, West Africa.

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**Geographic area served:** Clinique Monique is located in Kouri, a small town in Mali (West Africa) with a population of roughly 5,000 people on the Burkino Faso border – just east of Koutiala, where Monique was born, and Namossela where Monique worked. More specific information is in *the Country Briefs* section below.

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**Why we love this program:** The genesis of this program is the close, intimate relationship between two women (Monique and Kris) and the love they have for one another. The organization that blossomed from their relationship offers us a very personal way to touch women's lives. The program is pure, with little bureaucracy.

When Marsha read Monique and the Mango Rains a year and a half ago, their cause resonated with her mainly because of her own obstetrical nurse training and but also because she always dreamed of being a nurse midwife.

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**Brief history and how the clinic works:** Kris Holloway worked as a Peace Corp volunteer in Mali from 1980 to 1991. During this time, she developed a deep friendship while working side by side with Monique Dembele, a nurse midwife. After returning to the United States in 1991, Kris continued to correspond with Monique. After Monique and her unborn son died on a birthing table, in October 1998, Kris began work on her book, Monique and the Mango Rains, dedicated to the life of her dear friend. Her untimely death is described in Kris's words, "1 of 12 Malian women will die this way, but I never thought she would." Since the book's publication Kris has donated sales proceeds of more than \$30,000 to Clinique Monique. She has partnered with WomensTrust, Inc. channeling donations for the clinic through their nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

In 2004, Maxime Dembele, a village health worker and Monique's favorite cousin founded the rural health clinic Cabinet de Soins Monique, or "Clinique Monique" in Monique's honor. The purpose of the clinic is to conduct prenatal consultations, perform minor surgeries and provide gynecological and obstetrical care.

At the present time the clinic is operating in a cramped, rented room. A larger, newly built clinic is planned and will open in late 2009. The new facility will serve more than the women and children as it has a maternity ward as well as a health clinic. The clinic side will see sick patients; do small surgeries and some dental work. The maternity ward will provide OB/Gyn services and also do well-baby, and well-mom visits, and, hopefully, become a place where women can gather to talk. The estimated budget for the new clinic is \$50,000.

Specific clinic needs include:

- Land and a building (the clinic is currently operating in a cramped, rented room)
- Medical equipment for operating; operating tables, lights, scalpels and other instruments
- Equipment for prenatal consultations, births and weighing babies, such as scales, obstetrical instruments, chairs and beds for postpartum recovery
- Solar panels to generate electricity to sterilize instruments
- Education of healthcare workers and midwives

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**What our DFW donations will support:** Our *DFW* November donations will directly support purchasing obstetric equipment and supplies and for midwifery training.

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### Country Briefs: Mali (West Africa)



- 24<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world, two size the state of Texas
  - 12.3 million people
  - Landlocked, subtropical to arid climate
  - 5<sup>th</sup> poorest country in the world, according to UN statistics
  - 72% of population lives on \$1/day
  - Infant mortality is 121 per 1,000 births
  - Maternal mortality is 1,200 per 100,000
  - Out of every thousand born alive, 218 do not survive until age 5
  - Life expectancy is 48 for males and 52 for females
  - Fertility rate is 7.3 per woman
  - Capital city is Bamako
- Adult literacy is 19%
  - Primary school enrollment is 50% male and 39% female
  - Consistent access to nutritious food, clean water, safe mosquito proof-housing, education and medical care is often beyond reach
- The landlocked West African country of Mali is one of the world's poorest nations. Since independence from France in 1960, it has suffered droughts, rebellions, a coup and 23 years of military dictatorship. The Sudanese Republic and Senegal became independent of France in 1960 as the Mali Federation. When Senegal withdrew after only a few months, what formerly made up the Sudanese Republic was renamed Mali. Rule by dictatorship was brought to a close in 1991 by a military coup - led by the current president Amadou TOURE - enabling Mali's emergence as one of the strongest democracies on the continent. President Alpha KONARE won Mali's first democratic presidential election in 1992 and was reelected in 1997.

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**Program Fiscal Efficiency:** 100% of Clinique Monique's revenue is directed to programs. There are no administrative expenses.

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**DFW Giving History with Program:** New program

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#### Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>  
[http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/Africa/country\\_profiles/1021454.stm](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/Africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm)  
<http://www.moniquemangorains.com/?page=home>

