



October 2011

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

Coming off an exciting week with the release of the New York Times article (see below) featuring Tostan and the FGC abandonment movement in Africa, I want to share with you another story which highlights how increased community dialogue can result in improvements in the health of women, girls, and their families.



Community Empowerment Program (CEP) classes in Kantora Diassé, Senegal

In partnership with the [Nike Foundation](#), additional [Community Empowerment Program](#) (CEP) classes on health and hygiene sparked community-wide dialogue about birth spacing in Kantora Diassé, Senegal. As women, men, CEP facilitators, and traditional and religious leaders engaged in dialogue, they came to collectively support the use of contraception to space births. From that point on, the community saw a positive shift in overall maternal health and child mortality outcomes.

Such transformation highlights the role of *all* community members in raising awareness about birth spacing and creating positive change throughout the community.

[To read the full story of Kantora Diassé's progression to better health in the article entitled "Birth Spacing Makes Inroads in Senegal," click here.](#)

Thank you for your support and please scroll down for more news from Tostan's offices.

Warm wishes,

Molly Melching,
Executive Director, Tostan

Tostan on front page of New York Times **Charity Navigator's new evaluation still gives Tostan highest rating**

On October

16, Tostan was featured on the front page of the Sunday [New York Times](#). The article and accompanying photo album and video discuss the challenging realities associated with [female genital cutting](#) (FGC) and the ever-growing movement to abandon the practice in Africa, Senegal specifically.



[Charity Navigator](#), a well-respected independent charity evaluator, just launched its new, in-depth rating system that evaluates an organization's financial health, accountability, and transparency. Even with the complex evaluation criteria, Tostan still maintained its 4-star rating, the highest rating given by Charity Navigator.



[Click here to learn more about the article, photo album, and video highlighted in the Times.](#)

[Click here to learn more about Charity Navigator's evaluation of Tostan so that you can be a more informed supporter.](#)

Couple donates wedding registry to Tostan

For their wedding, long-time Tostan supporters Krista and Serge wanted to do something that would make an impact in Serge's native Senegal. In lieu of giving gifts, the newlyweds asked their wedding guests to donate to Tostan. Thanks to the couple's unique request and the generosity of their friends and family, their gifts will help support community-led change in Africa.



[Click here to read what led Krista and Serge to each other and to Tostan.](#)

Tostan is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign

Starting this year, Tostan is participating in the [Combined Federal Campaign](#) (CFC), the world's largest workplace-giving program. Using Tostan's **CFC # 23328** until December 15th, federal, military, and postal employees can choose to give a one-time gift, or they can pledge to make a donation to Tostan during each payroll period in the coming year.

[Click here to learn more about how you can donate to Tostan right from your workplace.](#)



You can also stay up-to-date on Tostan's work by following us on [Blogger](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), and [YouTube](#).

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To find out more about upcoming events and ongoing projects, please visit our [website](#).

Tostan is a US 501(c)(3) nongovernmental organization based in Senegal, West Africa.

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