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Africare

A private, nonprofit organization providing
development and emergency assistance to
Africa since 1970

October 29, 2007

Dear Youssoufou Family,

Every so often we are blessed to meet a person with the warmth and compassion of Oumarou Youssoufou. His drive and love for Africa made him an extraordinary ambassador for change on the continent--those imprints will be felt for years to come.

He worked tirelessly, always with a 'can-do' spirit. Very friendly, always upbeat, and never once did he stop reaching for the Africa that he knew 'could be.' That is what makes the loss of a dear friend and brother so difficult.

I am privileged to say I knew such a man. A man whose passion gave birth not only to an organization dedicated to the needs and well being of others, but also to the newfound hopes and dreams of thousands across the African continent.

My fondest memories will always remain with our Sunday afternoons 'chats' with ladies from the first Africare Chapters back in the mid-1970s. It's time for "tea and cookies," he would always say with a large grin on his face. Anywhere he could go, anyone who wanted to know or talk about Africa... Oumarou Youssoufou was there.

Though a great man is no longer with us, Oumarou Youssoufou left behind some of the best parts of himself before he said goodbye: He left us his kindness, his hope, his optimism, his support, his love and his determination to show others how to give.

I am again truly honored to say I knew such a man.

My heart and prayers are with
you in your time of loss.

Joseph C. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Africare Board of Directors