

2018



Sophie with her two-year-old son, Thierry.

We financed Sophie through three years of nursing school in Ouagadougou, where she lived with an uncle. Her father died when she was young; her mother, half-blind, farms to feed her family. Although her secondary school grades were poor, in nursing school she blossomed. She got consistently high grades and then on the first try passed the government test for state employment. She is now a midwife in a clinic in Bakata, 80 miles south of the capital. She married Donald, an English professor, whom she met in secondary school. In Bakata, she works alone, delivering an average of 30 babies a month for a salary of 100,000 f CFA (\$182) a month.



In the delivery room in Bakata.

2017

Despite a poor showing in secondary school, Sophie had three very strong years in nursing school with yearly averages of over 16/20. She passed the national competitive exam for public service in 2015 for the city of her choice, Koudougou, and now is employed as a mid-wife. (Solidarité)

2016

Sophie Sondo thanks us for the supplementary funding that we gave her for her internship in the Bush. She took her final nursing exam last June and passed. She took her nursing certification exam and passed that too. Then she took the test for Government Service. There were 32 candidates for Koudougou, and only 10 vacancies. Sophie finished 6th out of 32—she got the job she wanted!

She was to be assigned at the end of February. There will be no salary at first, although she will be given housing and uniforms. Mom doesn't live far—she will give Sophie some food. But eventually she will get paid. What will she do with the money? Help her Mom and her three younger brothers, all of whom are in school.



2015

Sophie grew up in a rural village that we visited this year.



Sophie's home in Imasgo.

She had difficulty getting her secondary school certification, passing after three tries with a minimum 10/20. But in nursing school, she has had over 16/20 in each of the three years. She wants to be a midwife. While she's been studying in Ouagadougou, she's been living with an uncle. There is currently a shortage of midwives in Burkina.



Sophie, left, in Ouagadougou with her uncle and members of his family.

2014



We like to call Sophie our Miracle Girl. It took her three tries to pass her secondary school diploma. And when she succeeded on the third try, it was with the minimum —10/20. You would have assumed that she wasn't very bright. But she has fight. Three times she rode her bicycle 50 km (35 miles) to come meet with us. She consistently said that she wanted to be a midwife. And she got into nursing school in the capital. Her first year's grades averaged over 16/20—an extraordinary achievement. She's now studying what she wants and what she likes. It's easy. She's now in her second year and her professor of endocrinology told us she's doing well. She will have her nursing degree in 2015.



We shared a joke with Sophie; her professor of endocrinology was between us.