

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Memminger Elementary Uses Coin Drive to Send Children in Niger to School



Memminger Elementary
School

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John Cobb
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Principal

Charleston, SC - Memminger Elementary School of Global Studies (MESGS) partnered with the Remember Niger Coalition this winter, with the goal of sending one child in Niger to school. Due to the passion and dedication from the students and staff at Memminger, the downtown elementary school doubled its goal, and raised enough money to send a pair of students to school in the West African nation.

Last fall, Memminger third grader, Jaleiya Westpoint, came to the school counseling office to ask what she could do to put "compassion into action." This idea was inspired by Memminger's year-long campaign, #empathyforall.

During the meeting, Jaleiya started thinking about how she could make a difference in her school, community, state, country, and the world (especially the world, since that directly aligned with the International Baccalaureate program at Memminger). School administrators told Jaleiya about the Remember Niger Coalition, and that group's goal of bringing people together so children in Niger can receive a quality education.

Following Jaleiya's conversation with school staff, representatives from Remember Niger Coalition visited Memminger to speak with students about life, school, and culture in that country. Memminger students learned about what it was like for children to live in one of the poorest countries in the world. The majority of families live on less than one dollar a day, and only three out of 10 children have the opportunity to attend school.

Following the visit from Remember Niger Coalition, Jaleiya asked school administrators if she could start a coin drive to send an 8-year-old girl, Mariama, to school in Niger. MESGS Principal, Dr. Abigail Woods gave the go-ahead, and the goal was set at \$360 (the cost to send Mariama to school for one year).

The school began the drive on January 30, 2017, and the response from MESGS students, parents, staff, and volunteers was impressive. When the drive ended Friday, February 10, 2017, the school had raised \$825. This means MESGS will be sending an 8-year-old boy, Elipass, to school for an entire year as well.

"We are very proud of our students at Memminger for thinking globally and giving their extra coins," said Dr. Woods. "The teachers are diligent in creating a culture where students are caring and principled. As a result, they know they can change the world, one kid at a time."

For more information about Remember Niger Coalition, contact Julie Frye at (843) 514-8749. For information on MESGS's coin drive, call Principal Woods at (843) 724-7778.

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About Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.