



Friday June 26, 2015

Afghanistan June 2015 Trip Report

Dear Board Members,

On June 3, 2015 I arrived in Afghanistan and stayed there till June 24, 2015. The purpose of this trip was to review our schools, The Children of War humanitarian projects and especially our Ramadan program.

During my trip, I had a great time meeting with all the students, teachers and staff in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the living situation in Afghanistan is not going very well. You may be aware that Taliban attacks are on the rise, including in Kabul. A few days ago, they attacked the Afghan parliament. There are reports that the Taliban have been willing to negotiate, but not with the Afghan government. Unsubstantiated rumors also allege they are negotiating with the Afghan government, which neither have been confirmed or denied.

Overall cost of living is increasing, unemployment is very high, and the rate of crime, theft and kidnaping are rising. Thousands of students from public schools are staying home due to teachers striking. I witnessed many young people on the streets begging for food and also other young boys and girls using drugs on the streets. This was very heartbreaking for me, but the good news for us is that our Children of War students are doing well physically and emotionally and the teachers and staff are happy. Since I was in Kabul during the first week of Ramadan, I saw many poor families seeking help. Fortunately, we were able to help most of these families during this holy month due to some of our donors sending in their Zakat donations earlier this month. Thank you.

Below are some highlights of my activities during this June 2015 trip:

Ramadan Programs:

Our Ramadan program included cash (Zakat) and food distribution to the needy families. Over hundreds of families received a minimum of \$100 and up to \$300 depending on their living situations. We also distributed food such as 50 kilos of flour, 25 kilos of rice, 5 kilos of cooking oil, 7 kilos of beans, 7 kilos of sugar, 1 kilo of tea and 1 box of dates to hundreds of families in Kabul, Paghman, Barikab, Maidan and Kohistan.





Students Uniforms:

We purchased student uniforms for all the boys this summer. The girls' uniforms are on hold due to the Ministry of Education implementing a change of color for the uniforms. This may take one more month to finalize. We also ordered our logo patches for all the uniforms, which will be sewn on.

School Supplies for Students:

Every 6 months we purchase books, note books , pens, etc. for all our students. During this trip, all these supplies were delivered.



Paghman Nilab Tailoring Graduation:

This self-sufficiency training center helps many women in the community. We had 14 students graduate from this training center and most will be able to support their families now. To date we have over 120 students pass this program.



Sajida Literacy Training Center:

This center is currently being run by one of our college graduates. The program has been very successful so far with a total of 120 graduates. This time around, we had 31 students graduate who now have the basic skills of reading and writing. The demand for this school is very high and many individuals are requesting we open similar schools for tailoring and embroidery.



Family Sponsorship Program:

I visited many families who are covered under our Family Sponsorship Program. Because of the Ramadan aid program, I was able to give them more money to purchase food for Ramadan.



Teachers & Staff Ramadan Bonus:

All of our teachers and staff received some cash (an average of \$50) to cover purchases for food during Ramadan. In addition, some of our low-income personnel received food items during food distributions.

Qurbani (select donors):

Some of our donors sent in money to TCOW to conduct Qurbani and distribute to the poor during the month of Ramadan. We completed this task and all the meat was distributed to Bagh-e Daoud refugee camp in Kabul, which includes over 100 families.



Student Health Check-up:

I visited Afshar Hospital and meet with Dr. Ghulam Farouq head of Amo Relief. We were able to schedule all students to be check at this hospital as a group of 12 on Mondays and Wednesdays every week. Dr. Rajab from the children of war will be leading this program and he will update us. Last week the 1st group been checked at the hospital and this task will continue. Unfortunately for Maidan Wardak students due to road hazard and safety of our students we won't be able to do this health screening at this time.



Meet Students and Teachers for academic evaluations:

Our students in Kabul and Paghman doing very well. I saw much improvement on their skills and studies. Base on comparison with the public school our students understanding and grade skill are on very high level. I was unable to visit Maidan School due to some safety issue on the road blocking by Taliban. But I meet with the Maidan Staff, Teachers and some students from Maidan tailoring training center. I also meet with our students who study at different colleges.

Once a year I always take students for a field trip, but on this trip due to safety of students and some responsibility unable to take them. Hope by end of this year and peace in Afghanistan I should be able to make their wish come true. All our students from different schools want to get together and have some fun.





Clean Drinking Water Well for Maidan:

The Maidan school district headquarters requested our organization to support their efforts in getting water well. This project has now started and should be done soon. I named this water well after our founder, Najib Aziz. The cost for this was \$1000 and it has been paid for.



The Children of War School & Project Status:

TOTAL STUDENTS	TOTAL TEACHERS	TOTAL STAFF	FAMILY SUPPORT	#OF PROJECT
682	34	19	88	8

NAME OF SCHOOL	# OF STUDENTS	# OF TEACHERS	# OF STAFF
KABUL MAIN SCHOOL	107	5	4
DIWAN BEGHI SCHOOL	110	8	5
PAGHMAN SCHOOL	130	8	6
MAIDAN SCHOOL	279	11	4
PAGHMAN NILAB TRAINING CENTER	25	1	
SAJIDA LITERACY TRAINING CENTER	31	1	

This concludes my brief report on my activities during this recent trip. I'm currently working on my video clips for the fundraising program this Sunday, June 28th on Ariana Afghanistan TV.

Thank you all for your support and donations to The Children of War. Without your help, none of these successes would have been possible.

Thank you,

Tarin Bayan