

News from Afghanistan for Friends of Khorasan

UK Registered Charity No. 1081438

Issue No. 2 – Winter 2004

- **Founded in 1999 and initially funded personally by Seema Ghani, who lived and worked in London for 12 years**
- **Seema returned to Afghanistan in May 2002 to assist in the reconstruction of her country**
- **Some of the most needy children from Jalozei Refugee camp in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan have been cared for by Khorasan**
- **Sixteen children currently live at Khorasan House who all think of Seema as ‘mother’**
- **Khorasan relocated to Kabul from Pakistan in the summer of 2002**



‘Happy Mealtimes’

THANK YOU! – Friends of Khorasan!! Your generosity in sending regular donations allows the children to live in a secure environment.

At the moment, Khorasan is asking for funds to meet some specific needs. The old generator that provided electricity when the city power is not working has broken down. And the vehicle that is crucial for getting the children to school needs constant repairs to keep it going. To buy a reliable generator and car will cost a lot of money in addition to the daily care of the children. It is estimated that a generator with the capacity to heat water, give light and heating for the children and their carers will cost around £6,000. A mini-bus would be more suitable and safer than a car and an estimate for this is around £5,000 to £10,000 depending on its age and reliability.

PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE AT LEAST £15,000 TO HELP THE CHILDREN STAY WARM THIS WINTER AND TO GET SAFELY TO SCHOOL!

Friends of Khorasan – this is how you helped the children

Sporting Life



‘Nervous Anticipation’

Sport figures highly in the life of Khorasan’s children and there have been some spectacular achievements. Three of the children qualified to participate in the International Youth Sports Games in Lucknow, India from 29th October to 3rd November.

Congratulations to Haroon and Raihona for winning silver medals when they came second in their divisions in competition with several hundred participants from four countries.

The same week, the children participated in a three nation tournament in New Delhi and Freshta achieved GOLD! A fantastic achievement whilst Haroon and Raihona repeated their success by being presented with more silver medals.

Educational Achievements

Since 2002 after the fall of the Taleban, the Back to School campaign re-opened schools and 1.5 million children were back at school by the end of March that year. By September, 3 million children had returned to school and about 30% of these were girls. Despite this achievement however, there is much to be done and the educational system is in an embryonic stage. Children often have to go to school in ‘shifts’ as the staff and schools are still in short

supply. This and the security situation which is still serious even in Kabul, means that a vehicle to take the children back and forth to school is essential. Children usually have about three hours at school, going home and making room for the next group who take their turn in the classroom; three or four ‘shifts’ of classes take place in school each day.

Despite these difficulties, Khorasan’s children are making great progress, having extra lessons at home to make up for lack of school time. Freshta and Lina came first in their class at mid-term and are revising hard for their end of term exams. Lina is hoping to pass grade four and will study for grade five during the winter break. This is impressive for any student but is particularly outstanding in this case because one and a half years ago Lina could not read and write.



‘Sports Competitors Relax at the Taj!’

All the children are doing reasonably well at school but Khorasan expects most of them to achieve ‘excellent’ in their next year’s reports. Khorasan ensures there is plenty of time for fun as well as study and some of the children were able to visit their aunts, uncles or other relatives for Eid festivities. Those staying at home celebrated by playing games together in the garden and cooking festive meals.

Afghanistan Today

The children live in an oasis of security in a country that is still generally insecure. Despite international peace keeping forces and the recent elections Afghanistan is still a dangerous place. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of the many armed militia is not happening as quickly or efficiently as had been hoped by the Afghan Government. Poppy growing has increased again leading to fears that Afghanistan will become a narco-mafia state. People of goodwill around the world are assisting the fledgling democracy to create an environment in which children can be educated properly, have jobs or create businesses. It is an enormous challenge when it is estimated that 8,000 children live in orphanages today. They are in desperate need of our care to help them have access to things that children in developed countries take for granted:- security, food, a comfortable home, warmth, education and love.

The children of Khorasan have the chance to live a normal family life despite the traumatic experiences they have suffered. And some of them need special care to gently help them overcome problems like the loss of their loved ones.



'Haroon practising with his new friend from Uzbekistan'



In Action!

Please Help Khorasan's children

Please help Khorasan's children by assisting those who look after them. At this time of year when we are buying our Christmas presents, please remember the children who have to rely on the generosity of donors to survive. It is people like you who can make a positive difference to Afghanistan's children. We hope you can give us a donation and assure you that it will be appreciated, however small. It will help to bring some happiness into the lives of children who have suffered more than most of us can imagine. Please help us.

Donations can be made to:-

Khorasan, National Westminster Bank
520 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex
HA9 7BZ

Charity Name Khorasan
Account Number 77550366
Sort Code: 60-23-08

For enquiries and more information on Khorasan and Afghanistan please

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Khorasan is a registered UK Charity - No. 1081438 and a Member of the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group – (BAAG)

www.baag.org.uk

Khorasan's website is currently under construction and will be on-line shortly at www.khorasan.org.uk

Khorasan's Objectives are

- **To relieve need and sickness amongst Afghan refugees – mainly women and children**
- **To provide health advice**
- **To provide accommodation and education for orphans resulting from the Afghan war years**



Khorasan – a children's home – not an institution

