

HARSH WINTERS, A TIME FOR HOPE

Winter is a harsh time in Afghanistan. The bitter cold kills thousands and many more starve as food becomes impossible to deliver. For the children living in the Amin Institute, however, life has never been better. For almost a year now, they have been learning how to read, write, and live a new life of hope.

Recently we were blessed with the addition of two new boys (now 12 total) to our family. Mohammad-din and Wahid are both brothers of boys already living with us and we could not be happier to have them. It is a blessing to report that they are doing well adjusting to their new life. It is hard to imagine what it is like to one day live a harsh life of desperate poverty and the next to be reunited with a beloved sibling and be given the chance to have a future. We've also begun a new program providing unpaid (but intensive) internships to two local college students who have been hired as teachers in English and Computers. We hope that they will take what they learn during their time with us and use it to continue spreading hope throughout Afghanistan.



Our slow but steady expansion is a result of help from you and so many like you who have reached down deep—even in these hard times—to sacrifice and give to these kids you have never even met. For this we can never stop thanking you. Every person who has given to these kids is crucial but every so often, a special

person comes around to whom we can't help but extend an extra amount of gratitude. This winter season that person is an amazing high school student named Sarah Masoud. On January 31, this young woman put together an exceptionally successful fundraiser. Joined by local leaders at Mehran restaurant, she brought the organization's message of peace and hope to many of her community members while raising an astonishing \$17,368, all of which was given directly to us and, like all our donations, is being put 100% towards helping our children. A special thanks also goes out to Mehran and Under the Nile Organic Cotton company who sponsored the event and to Dian Alyan's Give Light Foundation who stunned the crowd by matching the donations collected at the event.

Together with people like Sarah and yourself, we have built something special and are absolutely changing the lives of kids who, not so long ago, were forsaken by the world. But while we are celebrating the accomplishments of the past year, we also realize that it is a dangerous time to begin taking our success for granted. Instead, it is crucial that we use our progress as a foundation for the extensive and permanent change we all want to see. Please help make this a reality today by becoming a monthly sponsor. Even \$10 a month will make an enormous difference. But signing up for \$25 a month or more will give us the ability to begin taking our mission to higher levels than

ever before. We need to add 25 such sponsors before summer time. While we understand that this is a lot to ask, we also are aware that you all believe in this work as much as we do. So we have no doubt you will help make it happen.

To become a sponsor please go to www.omeid.org and click on 'Donate Now'. Our safe and secure system will have you signed up in minutes and for those at the \$25 monthly level or more, you will also get the chance to receive our welcome packet including a photography book highlighting the beauty of Afghanistan during a more peaceful time. This book has been created and donated by Joseph Hoyt who traveled there in the early 1970s. Along with this artful collection you will also receive bios of some of our kids and information about the country itself. Please sign up today as we really do need each and every one of you to support us however you can. We thank you so much and will be in touch soon—hopefully to share more good news as together we move forward in building peace and hope in the world.

Please join us in this effort by donating towards the purchase of winter clothes, heaters and wood.

\$25.00 buys winter clothes for 5 children

\$50.00 is enough for one wood burning heater

\$100.00 provides wood to keep warm for 1 month

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

**GIVE LIGHT FOUNDATION
SPONSORS THE AMIN INSTITUTE**

It is with great honor and gratitude that we accept the kind support of the Give Light Foundation. We give special thanks to GL's founder Sister Dian Alyan for recognizing the needs of our children and taking them under her wing. Thank You.