



“Helping Afghan Children Build a Brighter and Better Future”

After more than three decades of conflict, Afghan people have faced unimaginable hardship with devastating consequences including more than hundreds of working street children in Kabul and thousands more around the country. By working on the streets, they become even more vulnerable to exploitation and illegitimate activities.

Aschiana's programs provide children working on the streets and those in the internally displaced person (IDP) camps with basic education, healthcare, socialization, recreational activities and opportunities to grow and develop in a safe environment. Together we can provide these children a place where they can be children and give them hope for a brighter future!

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A Welcome Note From Aschiana's President:

Issue: 1, Fall 2014

Dear Friends of Aschiana!

Welcome to our first newsletter issue!

You will find updates on activities and programs at Aschiana for the first half of 2014, to include our primary fundraising event in March at the House of Sweden, the medical clinic in the Aschiana Children's Center, and a story about the shipment of life saving Mylar blankets. And please don't miss seeing some case stories from Aschiana's students that reflect how their lives have been changed by taking part in Aschiana's programs.

As Afghanistan faces major changes with a new government, we are working diligently to help sustain the life impacting programs begun at Aschiana nearly 20 years ago. We are reassessing current needs and working to ensure that relevant programs continue and that new ones are initiated to meet the changing needs in this environment.

More than 94% of donations we receive go directly to support Aschiana which has been operated by Engineer Mohammed Yousef since 1995 and has earned the trust and respect of the international community. We are most grateful to each of you for your interest and support of Aschiana and its programs that work to change lives and stop the cycle of street children by giving them the gift of education that can't be taken away.

Thank you,
Mary Jo Myers



Special Announcements:

1. **Engineer Yousef**, Founder of Aschiana, is visiting the US in September. During his stay, he will be promoting Aschiana's work.
2. **Mr. Qais Akbar Omar**, author of the internationally acclaimed book "A Fort of Nine Towers," has kindly agreed to become Aschiana's Goodwill Ambassador!
3. **Winter Drive!**
4. **Ms. Palwasha Hassan**, who possesses in-depth experience in establishing organizations in austere and challenging environments, has been visiting Aschiana in Kabul and providing us with monthly reports.
5. **Amazon Smile**, a New and Easy way to raise money for Aschiana while ordering from Amazon (see p.2 for more info)

2014 Annual Fundraising Event: March 11—House of Sweden

THANK YOU—What a successful evening! This success is, without a doubt, a reflection of the dedication of Aschiana's donors and the depth of caring for Afghanistan's youth.

The Mina Group's generous contribution to the evening allowed funds raised to go directly to Aschiana's programs in Afghanistan!



Photo from R-L: Alisa Stack and Mary Jo Myers (co-presidents of Aschiana); Mrs. Sultana Hakimi (wife of the Afghan Ambassador); His Excellency Björn Lyrvall (Ambassador of Sweden); Patricia Silberman (President Emeritus); General Richard Myers (USAF Ret.); and Honorable Carl Levin (Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee)



Measure of Success:

Children integrated to regular schools:

1. A total of 973 Aschiana children (450 girls & 523 boys) were integrated to public schools!
2. A total of 80 children are integrated back to the community and more than 50% are now hired with their new learned skills in carpentry and wood carving

Ways you can help:

- **\$25 sponsor** a child each month
- **\$300 sponsor** a child for a year
- **Winter Drive NEW!**

All donations are welcome and tax-deductible!

- **Amazon Smile**
Instead of using Amazon to make your next purchases, go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-1710829>

0.5% of your purchase will go to Aschiana!

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“Helping Afghan Children Build a Better Future”

Program Updates:

“Operation Silver Lining”: For the second winter, the Aschiana Foundation sent Mylar blankets for distribution in and around Kabul during the harsh winter. A Mylar blanket, made of thin plastic material, is heat reflective, wind and waterproof and designed to reduce body heat loss. It can literally be a lifesaver if used properly. Four Mylar blankets, one bag of rice, beans,



and cooking oil were given to families in the Internally Displaced Persons camps. Mylar blankets, developed by NASA for use in space, have had a dramatic life saving impact on people living in the some of the most basic living conditions on earth

Aschiana’s Medical Clinic: opened last year to meet the needs of Aschiana’s families and those in the nearby community with access to free medical care. Some fees are collected based on ability to pay. Our Foundation has partnered with American Medical Overseas Relief, who also operates Afshar Hospital in Kabul. With the hiring of two female physicians this spring, the clinic has seen a surge in the number of patients, especially in maternal care. More than 1000 people were seen in June for medical treatment, vaccinations and preventive health programs. With healthier children, class attendance has improved.

International Displaced Person Camps: Our Foundation has partnered with Roshan Communications in Afghanistan to provide literacy training and nutrition for children and their families in the IDP camps. While Aschiana provides salary for the teachers, Roshan Communications has provided food during this year-long successful initiative.

According to a recent report by Aschiana Afghanistan, ASCHIANA operates in 4 IDP camps in Kabul, 3 in Herat, 3 in Mazar, and a day care center in Gardez city. In Kabul, in addition to the main center, Aschiana works with more than 1200 children and their families in the IDP camps by providing them educational, recreational, and awareness programs such as children’s right, health awareness, personal hygiene, and health care are also available for the families of the children in the surrounding districts.

Aschiana Case Stories:

1. Jamila

Jamila is a 14 years old girl who attended Aschiana in 2013. Before attending Aschiana, she was working on the street selling gum. After being introduced to Aschiana by a social worker, Jamila and her family agreed to attend Aschiana. After only a year, Jamila, was able to transition to third grade in a formal school. She says she feels much happier, and most importantly, proud of her accomplishment. Thanks to Aschiana, she’s also helping some of her family members to learn and urges everyone to get an education instead of working on the street.

2. Nabila

Nabila is a 15 years old girl who attended Aschiana. Before attending Aschiana, she was collecting pieces of paper and selling shopping bags on the streets. Through Aschiana’s sponsorship program, Nabila was also transitioned to a formal school. At school, she was her school’s bank manager. Later, while she was attending an international children’s conference, due to her knowledge and confidence, she was selected to represent children from all the South Asian countries. She is now representing these countries at an internationally renown network.

3. Aziza

Aziza, a 15 year old girl, went from being an internally displaced person in Kabul to winning an International Peace Award! Before being introduced to Aschiana, she worked to collect paper and wood for her mother to build a cooking fire. After two years at Aschiana’s intensive program, she integrated to a formal public school near her home. With her talent in art, she registered in a competition where she was asked to paint a message of peace. Out of 34 countries, her work was selected as the best! The Peace Award was given to her and to Aschiana. She said, “that was the happiest day of my life when everyone was talking about me.” She’s now working with other girls to educate them and raise awareness about their rights.