



Annual Report 2012

Be inspired by
our {love} story
Invest in the life of a child





Our Founder enjoying a wholesome breakfast with our children in Rawalpindi home

OUR HISTORY AND VISION:

GiveLight Foundation is a result of the hard and long re-examination of life's priorities after the Tsunami hit Indonesia and many other countries in 2004. The founder of this organization, Dian Alyan, lost over 40 members of her family in this disaster. This tragic event awakened in her a deep sense of humanity, and the realization that something had to be done to save those children who had been orphaned in the Tsunami. GiveLight Foundation was initially formed with the goal to save the children of Aceh, Indonesia, Dian's hometown. Today, GiveLight operates in eight countries, including Pakistan/Kashmir, Bangladesh, Haiti, and the Bay Area and supports over 800 orphans.

VISION STATEMENT:

GiveLight is a world recognized humanitarian organization that provides support for orphans in response to natural disasters and extreme conditions (poverty and war).



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The lake in front of our Aceh home, by Ira Renfrew, Boston

Love is the most powerful force in the universe

- Anonymous



*Dian at "A Thousand Rays of Light" event,
which was attended by close to 800
GiveLight's supporters*

At the heart of everything we do at GiveLight, there is one word that fuels us to move forward. That word is LOVE. Love of our Creator, love of His creations, and love of the noble cause of helping the most vulnerable segment of our human race; orphaned children of the world.

In seven years GiveLight has expanded into more countries than we ever imagined and are saving lives of more orphans than we ever dreamt possible. But the magic of love is that it grows when nurtured and it puts our spirit on fire. We have been able to achieve these results using "100% model" where we have no paid staff in the US and all public donations go towards the intended audience: our deserving children.

I'd like to take you back to the early days of GiveLight, when the dream of changing the world was just born. I delivered the speech below on our very first fundraising event in 2006. Every word is still true and I'm more determined than ever to continue on this beautiful journey, with all of you, our amazing supporters.

Enjoy every page and I hope you are inspired by our {LOVE} story.

With my deepest gratitude and prayers,
Dian Alyan
dian@givelight.org

Dian's Speech from GiveLight's First Fundraiser, March, 2006

I begin by saying Bismillahi Rahmannirrahim!

My heart is overflowing with happiness to see all of you today. What an honor to be in the company of righteous people--people who are drawn to the same noble cause. No matter who you are, or where you came from-- the fact that you are here today means only one thing to me-- that at some level, you share my dream of changing the world. Most of you are my friends, but for those I have not met, let me give you a glimpse my life, the paths that I have chosen and the trail I want to leave behind. Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamt of coming to America. That dream was fulfilled in a way I never thought possible. I was sent as the youngest manager from Asia to work in Procter & Gamble Cincinnati to be groomed as one of its future leaders. Destiny later took me to a completely different direction.

I am an engineer by degree, but chose marketing as a profession. I liked how marketing demands the ability to think strategically--to find ways to persuade your audience and communicate your message in a compelling way. These skill sets proved to serve me well, both in business and in life. I had a thriving career, the chance to travel the world and the prestige of managing global brands. Despite all the glitter, two fundamental things were missing in my life:

1. Children
2. Sense of purpose.

After 8 years into my career, I chose to walk away from something I had worked so hard to built my entire adult life. I walked away with a deep conviction that one day I will find the true purpose of my existence-- the reason why God brought me from the hills of Aceh to this beautiful country. My husband and I later moved to California, and I began to do volunteer work. It was then that I realized how much happier I am when my identity is not defined by my title, but by what I am able to give to others. I later joined MCA as its Outreach Director, and shortly after that, my husband and I were blessed with our first son-- Adnan, now 3 and then our second son Zam Zam. 2. My happiness was complete.

Then the tsunami hit. And my life was turned upside down. I began to question the purpose of my life all over again. How should someone who has been blessed all her life react to such a challenge? Prolonged self-analysis and prayers gave me the courage to take the most daring, the most liberating journey of my life-- the journey to find my true self.

For the rest of the speech please visit our website at www.givelight.org





Indonesia

Hand picked
Flowers from Aceh by
Bedr Bakri,
Cupertino



Our first home in Aceh, built with love and fueled by a dream of nurturing fifty tsunami's orphans.

Project Noordeen

This project was inspired by our founder's great grandfather whose name was Haji Noordeen. He was born in Meulaboh, the area that was most severely affected by the 2004 tsunami. He was a man of high integrity who inspired Dian to do something meaningful for humanity.

Launch

The idea to build an orphanage and focus on helping orphans was born two weeks after the tsunami in December 2004.

Timeline

- The idea was born, Jan. 8, 2005
- Dian's family donated the land, Feb. 1, 2005
- Submission of IRS paperwork, Mar. 2005
- Dian and her husband along with their two little boys traveled to Aceh, Mar. 2005
- Non-profit status from IRS, Apr. 2005
- Groundbreaking ceremony, May 2005
- The first home was built, Nov. 2005
- The 50 orphans moved into their new home - 1st Anniversary of Tsunami, Dec. 2005

Nestled in Takengon, a beautiful lake resort town in Aceh, Indonesia is our very first home called "Yayasan Noordeen." Noordeen Foundation is now a sanctuary for 50 boys and girls.

We also sponsor over 100 orphans in an orphanage in Banda Aceh, capital of Aceh and Meulaboh, Western Aceh.



Dian with two of our boys in Aceh, Raj and Iwan who are 9 years old and among the most well behaved kids.



The water park where the kids love to go on weekends.

Progress

Our goal at inception was to build an orphanage that was much more than just a shelter. We firmly believe that a happy home lays the foundation and reflects on your success in the outside world. As such, we put every thought into making it a loving home and a sanctuary for children who have lost everything. Today, 7 years later, we are proud to have our oldest orphan graduate with top honors, e.g., one girl graduated from college with 3.8 GPA and another boy got a scholarship to study science and technology. See our "Top Performers" section for more.

Every morning the children wake up at 5am and pray their dawn prayer together. This allows them to develop camaraderie and the feeling of being a sister or a brother to each other. After getting ready and having breakfast, they go to public schools. We also enroll them in after school programs, computer lessons, English, and Arabic. They are taught daily survival, street smart, and educational skills.

Current Need

The annual operation cost is \$50K for the entire orphanage or \$1000/child/year and includes cost for food, uniforms, shoes, backpack, toiletries, field trips, medical care, pocket money and other living expenses.

The orphans living with their guardians are sponsored at \$360 per year which is \$30/month.

Future Goals

- 100% of our kids finish high school and a high percentage graduate from colleges/universities.
- Continue to nurture them so they grow up with good moral character and become successful and contributing members of society.



We also have a teaching program in place, whereby volunteers from the US travel to the orphanage to teach the children English, math, science and art. The volunteers stay as guests in the orphanage and just their presence lights up the world for the children. They are eager to learn from their visiting teachers and feel so special in their company.

We also support orphans who are living with poor relatives through monthly sponsorships. While the orphanage is a great place to live, no one can replace the love of one's family hence our preference is to keep the children with their relatives if they still have one. Our volunteers do frequent visits and monitor the progress of each child. Every child that we support has his/her own bank account to ensure that no one else uses the funds intended to support them and their education.



Top: At the library where we have 2000 brand new books for the kids.

Above: Our kids are among the best performers. They won trophies in schools in different fields; math, speech and Qur'an competition.

Above Left: The kids arriving at the water park, all excited about swimming even in a cloudy day.

Left: Sarah Khan with our kids after doing many fun activities together.

A Trip of a Lifetime

by Aysha Shedbalkar and Sarah Khan

Simply put, it was the trip of a lifetime. In the months leading up to our trip, we did our best to be thoroughly prepared. We arrived too early in the morning and fell asleep, only to be awoken by the pitter patter of little hands knocking on our door and singing from sweet little voices. “Sis, Sis, it’s lunch time.” When we opened the door, we were met with a handful of wide-eyed, pint-sized girls and boys who grabbed our hands and led us to the dining hall. This was our first memory of our little friends, our dear brothers and sisters in Takengon. We did not realize then how, in the next four weeks, they would impact our lives in so many ways.



After one of the hikes with Aysha and Sarah, tired but happy

We taught the kids how to play a game called Ninja and we would play each night for a half hour or longer before bedtime. We would watch Bollywood movies since the kids were more obsessed with it than we were. We hosted a chicken dinner – made fried chicken and pasta for the kids – they loved it.

We practiced Arabic letters with the younger kids, and would read Qur’an with the older kids.



Our kids enjoying a World Puzzle Dian brought from the US.

We would play Monopoly, and practice reading, speaking, and English comprehension skills with all the kids. We would help the kids with their homework, speeches, and accompany them when they were in competitions at school. We also took the kids with us to the market to shop and treated them to AFC (American Fried Chicken) and meatballs in a noodle soup.

While we remember so much of our time spent getting to know our friends, what we will remember most is NOT what we did for them, but rather what they did for us. We were reminded of the importance of family from these kids, most of whom had lost one or both parents and much of their family. Despite the hardships, they found the strength to band together to form a beautiful group of brothers and sisters. From our little friends we were reminded of the importance of gratitude. Our friends had lost their homes, and all their possessions but were content with their lives and thanked God in all moments. They were happy and they were loved. Hearing their stories, playing, praying, laughing, singing, and dancing with them, we were reminded of love, brotherhood, and the resilience of the human spirit.

The colorful flowers grown in the gardens of our home, adding beauty to the surrounding





Sh. Ala sitting with our boys in our front yard, which is filled with flowers that bloom through out the year

Visitor's Account

Sheikh Alaeddin Bakri's Visit to our Home in Aceh

On a recent trip abroad, I visited the GiveLight home that is situated in the mountains of Takengon in the region of Banda Aceh, where the tsunami hit worst in 2004. I took my 10-year-old son with me; it was a life-changing experience for both of us.

While on the way there, I had been expecting to encounter hot weather and an old building full of sad orphans living in mediocre conditions. Instead, what I found was the most peaceful place on earth and the happiest children alive. These children could really teach us what true happiness is.

The home is shaped like the letter U with a house out front, where the man who donated the land lives with his wife. The two of them play the role of mother and father to forty children. What is unique is that the whole home functions like a large family. Since "Mom" and "Dad" are semi-advanced in age, the older kids help by taking care of the younger ones.

The children have a daily routine: they wake up early for morning prayers, read the Holy Qur'an, and then eat breakfast and get ready for school. Before they leave, they receive their daily allowance of money. When they are done with school, they come home, change their clothes, eat lunch, take a nap or play, and then do their homework. In the evenings, they have English and computer lesson than they read more Qur'an from Maghrib prayer until Isha prayer, followed by dinner and then they go to sleep.

We took a few field trips with the children, one was to the coffee bean farms and another was to the water park (yes, believe it or not, there is a water park in Takengon). But our best trips by far were the unplanned ones, like the time we visited a fish farm right on the lake and drank the local fish coffee



On one of the hiking trips to the mountain close by our home; our kids favorite week end activity.

drink (it wasn't really made out of fish but it sure tasted like that to me), or the time I asked the children when we could go to the lake and they exchanged confused glances and answered me, "Right now!" I was dumbfounded. We took a five-minute stroll to the lake, where they asked us whether or not we knew how to swim. I responded, "Yes, but first let's get our swimming suits." That didn't translate well and they gave me another confused look that seemed to say, "Do you really want us to wear special clothing just to go in the water?" Then they ran off, so I assumed they were going to get their swimming shorts, but it turned out to be just a warm up because they came running back and jumped in the lake, just like that, fully-clothed and laughing like crazy. I don't know why, but that struck a deep chord inside me. These children are not only happy, but they are also free.

I was told that I was supposed to teach these orphan children something, something special about life and faith. I soon found that I was learning from them. Faith is not a piece of information that one is supposed to learn, but rather a transformation that one must go through. These kids were already transformed, and their characters were contagious – knowing them transformed me and my son also.





Pakistan

Hunza Valley by
Fahad Bhatti
Photographer, Dubai



Our second home in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Project Pakistan/Kashmir

Our second home in Rawalpindi is a sanctuary for 40 orphans of the 2005 Earthquake. The home is truly a state of the art facility with 2 libraries, play ground, computer room, a large dining hall and a roof top balcony. This is a joint project with Saba Trust whose founder Saghir Aslam shares our passion of helping orphans.

We also sponsor 130 additional orphans in Kashmir area. They live with their guardians and we are providing financial help to ensure they have food, shelter and everything they need to pursue good education.

Launch

After that devastating earthquake, we knew something had to be done for the orphans. At that time, our home in Aceh had been in operation for 10 months. Encouraged by the successful working model in place, GiveLight Foundation conceived the idea of establishing a home in Pakistan as well supporting orphans in Kashmir area.

Timeline

- Began monitoring relief efforts in Pakistan and researching legitimate NGOs on the ground to partner with, Dec. 2005
- Saba Trust was introduced to GiveLight Foundation, Dec. 2006
- Agreed to partner on the project, Feb. 2007
- Groundbreaking ceremony, May 2007
- 100 % of funds raised, July 2007
- Dian traveled to Pakistan for the grand opening, Nov. 2008

Not even a year had passed after the 2004 tsunami when a strong earthquake hit Pakistan/Kashmir. I was still recovering from the wound of losing many of my relatives and discovered thousands of helpless orphans in my shattered hometown. At the time, I thought to myself, "How can we help those needy orphans in Pakistan?" Due to the fact that the GiveLight mission is to support orphans who are victims of natural disasters, I was determined to finding a way to help.

Below is an article I wrote in 2008 shortly after we opened our second home in Rawalpindi:

After two years of dedication and hard work to make the GiveLight dream a reality, I am delighted to announce that our second orphanage in Rawalpindi is finally complete. On November 2nd, the opening ceremony attracted 200 fascinated guests including, but not limited to: local scholars, philanthropists, volunteers and the media (consisting of two TV stations and three local newspapers).

The design and construction of the building in Rawalpindi is amazingly beautiful. With its gleaming marble floors, state of the art library, spectacular kitchen, fun playroom and high-tech computer lab, our orphanage feels warm and inviting. On the day of the opening, I anxiously met the orphanage room mother and seven girls ranging between 5-7 years old. They were apprehensive at first, however, after spending some quality time, they felt comfortable and assured.

We shared great moments of bonding as we went shopping for new apparels and shoes, read together and shared meals together. By the end of my trip, all seven of our girls referred to me as "mama". Another one of the girls, Muqaddas, brought tears to my eyes as she tenderly held my face and softly said, "Aap ki Piyari," or "my beloved". During my second day in Pakistan, I traveled to Kashmir to meet 62 of the 130 orphans that we have been blessed to sponsor with the partnership of Helping Hand. The field team took me to the remote areas, passing through the breathtakingly beautiful valleys and mountains of Kashmir.

After reading about the orphans and seeing their pictures, it gave me so much happiness to finally meet them in person and distribute the books that Granada Islamic School students and the GiveLight family generously provided. Although I only spent a few nights in Pakistan, the trip was a milestone and a major achievement of the GiveLight projects. Our children are not only always in my mind and heart, but are also in my actions. I feel extremely prepared and motivated to help the children in each of our homes accomplish and achieve the best.



Progress

As we did in Indonesia, we wanted not only to build a shelter, but a beautiful home, a sanctuary for the children who have lost everything. Dian's visit to Pakistan allowed her to meet the kids and get to know them on a personal level.

Just like their friends in Indonesia, they also get to go on regular field trips to parks, eat pizza, and have treats, etc. We also have a teaching program in place, whereby volunteers from the US travel to the orphanage to teach the children English, math, science and art. The girls are eager to learn from their visiting teachers and feel so special in their company.

Current Need

The annual operation cost is \$40K for the entire orphanage or \$1000/child/year and includes cost for food, uniform, shoes, backpack, toiletries, and other living expenses.

The orphans living with guardians are sponsored at \$360 per year, or \$30/month.

Future Goals

Our goal is to be able to send all our kids to high school and eventually College for those who are accomplished.



A Journey to Family by Noshaba Afzal

My journey to my newly found family began back in January 2009, when my three daughters and I were so very blessed to have visited the GiveLight Saba House in Pakistan. It was there that my heart first melted by the beautiful smiles of our orphan girls. We were privileged to spend time with all of the children by sharing stories, playing games, and bonding as if we had known each other all our lives. I still remember our cheeks hurting from smiling so much during our visit. Our girls' smiles were so radiant as their faces lit up and giggles filled the room. It was then that I realized how innately similar all of these amazing girls were, and I then felt that all of them were "my girls." At the end of our trip, all of us had a very difficult time parting. Our day had begun as a special visit, but ended as a journey to a newfound family. Back here in California, my three girls remembered their "sisters" back in Pakistan. We all realized how blessed we were to have had the honor of adding the orphaned girls to our family. Our hearts ached, and we prayed that we would be reunited again someday.

Our prayers were answered in January 2012 when my family and I were again able to visit our girls at the GiveLight Saba House. Tears of joy were streaming from our eyes as we embraced each other and held one another again. Our family had grown since our last visit, from only 12 to nearly 40 girls. I just beam when I remember all my girls in that large room talking a mile a minute, wasting no time catching up – It was like a huge slumber party on steroids! I remember the tenderness I felt when my little Ambish, curled up in my lap as we sang songs together. She is our youngest orphan at 4 years old. Once again, my girls had all bonded by sharing experiences, challenges, and future aspirations. As the time for our departure came, my three daughters and I were torn with the reality of having to part from our family. Our trip ended as it had began, with bear hugs and tears streaming from our eyes. But our story does have a happy ending, because this is one story that is "to be continued" – continued because all my girls still keep in touch, and we look forward to our next visit together, and God willing we will be reunited again someday.

Above: Some of our youngest girls giggling when Noshaba took their picture.

Left: Dian with the first few girls who came to our house. The one in front, Hira, is now one of our top performers





Bangladesh

Girls with Water
Pump by
Fahad Bhatti
Photographer, Dubai



Project Dhaka

Dian visited Bangladesh in April 2008. In her words, "I had never seen more poverty in my life than what I saw in Bangladesh. I went to visit a slum where I came close and personal to the sufferings of the poorest. I was introduced to a local family whose father founded an orphanage in 1965 for 600 boys. But since the father passed away, the orphanage deteriorated and it can only now support 300 boys. During my visit to the orphanage, I learned two hard and cold realities: 1) 300 boys shared only three bathrooms. 2) they ate only two meals a day; breakfast, lunch and NO dinner. I could not bear to go back to my life in Silicon Valley and pretend I never saw the unthinkable sufferings of so many."

Launch

We shared these findings with the community and within less than a month we raised money to: 1) build ten new bathrooms for the boys. 2) feed them healthy dinner so now all of them eat 3 meals a day.

Timeline

- Dian visited the Darus Sunat Orphanage, April 2008
- Fundraising began in California, May 2008
- Children started enjoying an extra meal everyday, June 2008
- 10 new bathrooms built, Oct. 2008
- Two GiveLight volunteers, Arfan and Azfar Qureshi visited Darus Sunat in 2010
- A US based scholar Alaeddin Bakri and his son Badr went to visit the children at Darus Sunat

Rain of mercy; feeding 300 orphans in Darus Sunat. Sh Ala Bakri with the kids during his visit in spring 2012.

An Amazing Experience by Azfar Qureshi, US Volunteer

First and foremost, thank you for allowing me to represent GiveLight during my visit to the Darus Sunat Orphanage outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh. This was a most memorable trip and I experienced excellent hospitality given by the orphanage staff, not the mention the wonderful children.

On Friday January 1, 2010, Brs. Naeem and Naheean picked up Arfan (my brother), Amna (my cousin) and myself from the hotel we were staying at in Dhaka. What a way to start 2010! The setting was wonderful and, upon our entry, we were immediately greeted by beautiful children who lined up along the entire length of the compound. Currently, the orphanage has 280 children, but has a total capacity of 330.

After greeting the children and being showered by beautiful flowers, we were introduced to several of the administration staff who were delighted that we had visited. We were given a tour of the compound and proceeded to inspect the new bathrooms that were constructed with GiveLight donated funds. We then

Progress

Another generous family has donated an acre land for us in Savar, near Dhaka. We have raised 75% of the funds needed to begin construction. We are now waiting for the permit and as soon as we work out the logistics, we will start building. We did the groundbreaking ceremony in 2011.

Current Need

We need donations for the construction cost of the new home. We have raised \$75K and need \$50K by spring 2013 to close the gap.

Future Goals

To create a loving home for 50 orphaned girls in Bangladesh who we will educate and raise to become good human beings. Continue to sponsor one meal a day for 300 orphans who are living in Darus Sunat orphanage in Khaligong.

proceeded to the kitchen and witnessed vegetable curry and rice being prepared for lunch.

The kitchen was as modest as can be with a wood burning fire to heat the large pots required to cook meals. We were told that 85 kg of rice is required for each meal and that food continues to be the single largest need of the orphanage. Although the children are usually fed three meals a day, there are food and financial shortages.

Following lunch, we made our way to the pond where the children bathe. The pond is formed from rainwater and is quite large – about the size of a football field. We then proceeded to inspect the children's rooms, which house 9 beds per room. Some children did not have pillows and the bed sheets appeared quite worn. We were told that in addition to food, clothing and sheets were also a need. I attempted to talk to several kids, however, language was a challenge beyond the basics (i.e., Hello/How are you, etc.).

All in all, the kids appeared very happy and playful. We were able to engage with them in a competitive game of volleyball.

On our way out we presented personal letter from GiveLight's founder to the administration. The letter was read out loud to some of the kids. I also took some presents and chocolates for the administration.

Right: A very warm welcome from the kids and staff at Darussunat for Dian when she visited in 2008

tors to distribute to top performers at the orphanage.

This was certainly an eye-opening experience for all of us. I thank you again for giving us this incredible opportunity and responsibility on behalf of GiveLight Foundation.



The plans for our new home located in Savar, outskirts of Dhaka. This will be a boarding school for fifty girls, with construction scheduled to start in spring 2013.







Sri Lanka

Sunset in Galle,
Sri Lanka
by Rana Itani,
Abu Dhabi



The main entrance to our GiveLight home in Sri Lanka, slated to open doors in spring 2013

GiveLight Foundation is in the process of establishing an orphanage that can house 75-100 children in Athullugama, which is near the capital city of Colombo in Sri Lanka. We plan to complete the home by January 2013.

Project Athullugama

The project was launched in June of 2010 when a generous family from Sri Lanka donated a 20,000 square feet land to GiveLight Foundation. The land is located in Athullugama, Panadura, about 1 hour from Colombo. In partnership with AAM Marleen Foundation in Sri Lanka, GiveLight Foundation plans to build a home for 75-100 children. The entire complex will not only have a home for the children but also a school, free medical clinic, vocational training center, community services hall and mosque.

Timeline

- Land was donated by a family, June 2010
- Dian traveled to Sri Lanka to formalize partnership, July 2010
- Land identified and project inaugurated, July 2010
- Raised \$90K of required funds for construction cost, Aug. 2010
- Obtained government permit, Nov., 2010
- Groundbreaking ceremony, Mar. 2011
- Orphanage construction began, Nov. 2011
- Mosque construction began, July 2012
- 80% construction complete, Nov. 2012



*A waterfall, in Kotmale, Sri Lanka
By Anuradha Ratnaweera (kotmale-045 Uploaded
by Ekabhishek) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons*

Progress

The construction team is on target and making great progress towards completion. The roof is almost completed. The Masjid foundation is complete as well as the basement storage and Imam rooms. The first floor slate was completed at the end of November and we have finished almost 80% of Phase One of the GiveLight orphanage. The rooms are being painted and the tiles are being laid. The window and doorframes are being installed and we have already started the design on the bedroom models, kitchen, living room, dining room, and furniture. We are on schedule to open the doors between December 2012 and January 2013. Our orphans selection committee has received 75 applicants who want to be admitted to the orphanage. Interviews will be conducted to select the most eligible and needy children.

Current Need

We need to raise \$50K to complete the orphanage complex.

Future Goals

To ensure that we provide long-term care and education until each child finishes college. The estimated operational cost per year is \$55,000.

About Abdul Ageed Mohamed Marleen

Abdul Mohamed Marleen was born on the November 16, 1938. He was someone who always worked for a cause, never rested, was on the go, and believed that serving the community and country was a chief duty of all mankind. Mr. Marleen was a lawyer by profession and excelled not only in the courts of law in Sri Lanka but also in representing Sri Lanka in foreign policy. He was conferred the title of President's Counsel by Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka on March 12, 2001, a title granted only to those who have reached eminence in their profession and maintained high standards of conduct and professional rectitude.

He cared for the disadvantaged and underprivileged and took great pride and pleasure in representing the weak and poor. He always

stood for what was right and said the right path was not always the easy path but was always the path that led to success. He cared for his country, the men, women, youth and seniors of Sri Lanka.

His sudden demise on 23rd June 2009 was a huge loss not only for his family but also for the whole community. In his honor, the late Mr. A.A.M. Marleen's family, friends and associates decided to continue his dream and legacy and created AAMMF. Counting on GiveLight Foundation's extensive experience in creating successfully ran orphanages, AAMMF decided to partner with GiveLight to launch their first project.

The site of the foundation will comprise of an orphanage home accommodating 75-100 orphans, mosque with a capacity for 1000 people, free healthcare clinic, an educational and vocational institute, community services center, and store front. Through the creation of these resources, the hope is to continue in the legacy of AAM Marleen in promoting social activism, humanitarian projects, and contributions to the nation. The idea is to provide a source of light and pave the path for a new, enriched, and fulfilling way of life for the needy community in Athulugama, Sri Lanka. Every penny that is donated is going directly towards construction. AAMMF, like GiveLight, is 100% volunteer run and the donations are being used to benefit the needy with absolute minimal administrative costs.



The view from the back. In the backyard, the children will have their play ground and their own vegetable garden.





Sponsored Children

Snow Capped
Mountains by
Fahad Bhatti
Photographer, Dubai

Afghanistan



Through partnership with Omeid International, we are sponsoring 17 boys who live and study in this rented home in Kabul.

Project Kabul

Our work in Kabul stemmed from a deeply seated desire to help orphaned children who were victims of the 30 years of war in Afghanistan. We knew we had to start small because of the ongoing conflict and political instability there. But we also understood that there was a tremendous need to help children there who have been victimized by the war. We joined forces with Omeid International, whose Afghani founders share our passion for helping orphans. We began our work by finding orphans to care for and renting a house in Kabul in March 2009.

Timeline

- Partnership with Omeid International, Jan. 2009
- House rented in Kabul, Mar. 2009
- Began feeding and schooling 12 boys, Mar. 2009
- Added 5 new orphan boys, June 2011

Right: Our kids in Kabul enjoying a feast paid for by the donations of our generous US donors.

Progress

We are in discussion with a family who is interested in donating land to build a permanent home in Kabul and possibly Herat.

Current Need

Securing a monthly sponsorship of \$30/child.

Future Goals

Our short-term goal is to be able to support more boys and we hope to have a total of 25 children by spring of 2013.

Longer-term we hope to reach out to 25 more orphans and bring our total to 50 by winter 2013.

We hope to finalize land donation by summer 2013 and begin construction late next year.



Our boys, getting ready for the day of studying. They are all eager to learn and grow.



SF Bay Area

The GiveLight Foundation sponsors 13 orphans who reside in the Bay Area of California. The mission of the local project is to provide our local orphans with solid consistency in their education, and to foster their social, physical, and emotional development by providing a nurturing learning environment. The group of very deserving orphans who are being supported by this program range in age from age 3 to 23.

Project SF Bay Area

This project was launched in October 2010 with 10 orphans.

Through this local project we hope to provide full scholarships for these orphans from kindergarten through high school and/or middle college. The funds for this project will include: providing tuition costs, school materials and supplies, field trips, uniform and shoes, and hot lunches daily during the school year. Since about 58% of a child's day is spent in school, it is imperative to provide our local orphan group with stability during their school years. Research proves consistency in school strengthens self-esteem and confidence of children, results in stronger academic skills, increases bonds and friendships between peers, and even creates a sense of extended family with teachers and within the school community.

Timeline

- Launched project, Oct. 2010
- The mentorship project was launched, Jan. 2011
- 5 Mentors started mentoring 6 orphans, June 2011



Naeem, one of our mentors reading a letter from his mentee who is 11 years old. It was very emotional to hear the words that came from the heart.



Tanal, another mentor reading a thank you letter from her mentee, a 9 year old girl. She had to hold back her tears.

Progress

In addition to the educational support, the local orphan project also includes social development activities and a mentorship program. The mentorship program, currently catering 5 children, provides each orphan with a positive, adult role model to build a relationship with, similar to the Big Brother and Big Sister program. Seeing the positive impact this program has had on the kids, our plan is to extend this service to all local orphans.

Current Need

Raise scholarship for all orphans. It takes \$5000 to sponsor one child's education for a year.

Future Goals

We aim to send all these kids to college.

Somalia/Haiti

Most children in Somalia live in war and famine stricken areas. In 2011 GiveLight decided to help these children. In order to work effectively GiveLight coordinated with local organizations like Agoon Foundation (AF) and Read Horn Of Africa (RHA).



Our kids in Somalia, are grateful for your generosity

Project Somalia

The project began in November 2010. GiveLight sponsored 50 orphans (25 boys and 25 girls) in Somalia under the care of AF/RHA to whom GiveLight sends quarterly sponsorship. The orphanage is located in Burtinle, which is a small town located in the northeastern part of Somalia. All of the orphans get three meals a day and attend primary school. In addition, they also all have access to primary health care. The orphans are happy and very grateful for the support they are getting from GiveLight.

Progress

The sponsored children are flourishing. In addition to that, last year GiveLight Foundation coordinated Qurbani for the children. The orphans were very pleasantly surprised by this, and are looking forward to a similar Qurbani every year.

Current Need

It takes \$30 to sponsor one child in Somalia for food and education.

Future Goals

We are planning to increase sponsorship from 50 to 100 children by 2013.

In January 2012, a 7.0 earthquake leveled the nation of Haiti. GiveLight Foundation immediately acted on its mission to aid orphans devastated by natural disasters. In the words of Dian Alyan, the founder of GiveLight, "Each time we witness the devastation of a nation and its children, it is a time to reflect on our priorities, call on our humanity and make it our responsibility to rush to their aid."

Project Haiti

We took the responsibility of sponsoring 50 orphans to facilitate health, nutrition, shelter, and water-and-sanitation needs of the children. GiveLight activated its 100% volunteer base to mobilize the Bay Area Muslim community to join in the immediate relief effort, collecting over \$10,000, which was distributed to the children via partnership with UNICEF and Zakat Foundation.

Progress

Today, the relief efforts to sponsor 50 orphaned children continues in partnership with UNICEF and Zakat Foundation, who currently have volunteers in Haiti. These volunteers are in charge of cooking and feeding more than 2,000 children a day. Generous donations are being used to bring daily supplies from the Dominican Republic to the St. Claire camp in Haiti.

Current Need

It takes \$30 to sponsor one child in Haiti for food and education.

Future Goals

Increase sponsorship to 75 children by 2013.



Help us provide long term support for Haitian orphans.

Hira



Hira, who is now in fourth grade, was one of the first four girls who came to our home in 2008. She is quiet but talented and very steadfast in her prayers. All of her teachers love her because she's kind, compassionate, polite and friendly. Despite being quiet, Hira is very talented. She won the "Golden Heart Award" in 2012 to the all-around top student and the "Rising Stars Award" in 2011, which is given to the most well-rounded top student. She was a participant in the Saba Girls Peace Pledge to the World and coordinated efforts to create flood packages in Pakistan.

Nida

Nida, 15, was 10 when she first came to Saba Home. She is a top performing student in her class and school and has won numerous awards including the "Best Self-Discipline Award" and "Most Creative Student Award." At Christmastime she made care packages to distribute to the home's Christian neighbors and was a participant in the Saba Girls Peace Pledge to the World. She also coordinated efforts to create flood packages in Pakistan. Nida is a role model for other students and all of her teachers love her for her kind, compassionate, polite and friendly nature.



Other Top Performers



Our girls are achievers with 17 receiving As and A+ s in school. The rest are B students striving to improve every day,

Top Performers

Rahmat Mico



Rahmat came to our home in Aceh in Dec. 2005. He grew up in our care for six years before moving to Jakarta to pursue a higher education. He was an orphan before the tsunami of 2004 and lived with his aunt and uncle whose lives were lost in the tragedy. The following is his account, written in Indonesian, and translated by our volunteer Dian Harumi.

My name is Rahmat Mico. I was born on March 3, 1993 and am now 18 years old. When I was 20 months old, my father passed away due to complications with diabetes. My brother and I never felt the warmth of a father. It was our destiny to become orphans since we were infants. My mother did not have any education and worked as a coffee picker. Her wage was insufficient to fulfill our most basic needs. My paternal grandfather invited us to stay with his family in a small village about 15 km from the town of Takengon. My grandfather and his family also lived in poverty. When I was 7 years old, my grandfather took us to Banda Aceh to live with my aunt and uncle. This made my mother very sad. She cried everyday because she missed us so much, but she tried to be

strong with the hope that we could continue our education.

In 2004, our journey took an unexpected turn. The tsunami and earthquake in Aceh devastated our lives. After the tsunami, we left Banda Aceh because there was no shelter and we went back to Takengon. As destiny had written, at that time, the Noordeen Orphanage had just been established by Ms. Dian Alyan and Mr. Zaini Wahab. I placed all my hopes with Noordeen Orphanage. The pretty blue lake and the green hill at the back of Nordeen Orphanage were amazing to me. The silky sounds of the waves and graceful pine trees kept my spirits high. I told myself, I would fight for my future no matter what.

After high school, I took an exam and got a scholarship to a college in Jakarta. I felt upset and almost disoriented when I went there. The college had very strict rules and many procedures that were confusing. At the peak of my frustration, God opened a new way for me. When I was talking about my problem to my aunt, I suddenly received a call on my cell phone. It was Mr Zaini Wahab from the orphanage. He said that I could go to Jakarta and pursue my undergraduate studies at any university I wanted. All of my tuition would be covered by GiveLight Foundation. My family shed tears of joy when they heard this news. I went to Jakarta by airplane for the first time in my life. This was a dream come true. My spirit was on fire, as strong as the spirits of all the GiveLight volunteers Bunda Dian sent from the US.

Today I'm studying science and technology with biology major and I won a scholarship from a Japanese Institution, Nagao NEF (Natural Environment Foundation), for 6 semesters. My GPA is 3.6 (the requirement for the scholarship was 2.75) and I'm determined to finish my education on time. My long-term goal is to become a scientist. I will give the best for my lovely Mom and also for Bunda Dian, the angel that God sent into my life. I thank Him for all my blessings and the opportunity to pursue my education.

Samha Salma Wani

From the very beginning, I immediately knew that Samha was a very special child. At the time that we opened our first GiveLight home in Aceh, she was only 6 years old. I could tell from her bright eyes and the intelligent words that this young girl was extremely motivated and hardworking.

During my visit to Aceh this past summer, Samha, who had just turned 13, was already doing wonderful things with her life. She was not only the top student in her class, but had also won different kinds of competitions including, but not limited to, Recitation of Qur'an and Math Olympics. Samha also showed me a thick folder that contained different types of certificates she received over the past few years.

During each of my visits to the homes, I normally hold a speech competition for all of our children. The children have the opportunity to choose the topic as long as it contained a positive message. Although all of the kids did a terrific job, Samha's speech blew me away. Without hesitation, she delivered a speech in fluent English with poise and confidence. In addition to her speech, Samha surprised me by showing me the \$600 that she had saved in her bank account.

Samha constantly sets a great example and motivates others to do better. She recently commented on the private Facebook page created for GiveLight Kids and volunteers who have gone to Aceh.

She quoted the best selling book "La Tahzan," or "Don't be Sad" and stated, "Discipline is the soul of intelligence. With discipline, we can achieve great things in our lives...So my brothers and sisters, let us practice discipline and work hard."

Samha embodies everything we want the GiveLight children to have – intellect, discipline and character. We are extremely proud to call her a "GiveLight Ambassador."



*College funds are also being set up for all of our children. If you are interested in being a part of this amazing legacy, please email us at info@givelight.org.





Cambodia

Angkor Wat by
Quentin Chow,
Hongkong

“Dreams do come true, fantasy may turn into reality, when they are all destined by God”

by Mariya Ly Vaešna

The festival of Eid this year was a historical moment for Toulsoombo Village in the Kampong Champ Province of Cambodia. Besides the slaughter of three cows and qurban from Muslims in California, USA, there was also the groundbreaking for a new orphanage, “Noordeen Home.” We decided to call it Noordeen Home because we were inspired by the legacy of a merchant in Aceh who's progeny, Dian Alyan, started GiveLight Foundation with the mission of supporting orphans globally.

The preparation went smoothly and everything was flowing gracefully like the Mekong River. There wasn't a single obstacle or any difficulty.

Our story began at the beginning of 2012, when our hotel (Mariya Hotel), a hotel located in front of the Mekong River in Kampong Cham, was visited by an Indonesian visitor, Father Zaini Wahab. He traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia to do some assessment on local needs and to look for opportunities to save orphans. He was drawn to Cambodia and Vietnam because of the history of “Khmer Rouge” who massacred millions of innocent people. He talked about his difficulties in finding a trustworthy partner who had the rights and ability to operate as a legal, non-profit organization.

He started sharing the mission of GiveLight Foundation in the USA to care for needy orphans around the world.

That was the beginning of our simultaneous conversation to build the orphanage. My husband and I started to talk about the possibility of donating our land to the project. We thought about how wonderful it would be to share what God had blessed us with to help the needy orphans of Cambodia. After months of planning, Weasnamariya Economic Development To Poverty Organization (WEDO) a non-profit organization was officially formed.

I wondered why Father Zaini, an elderly man, came from Indonesia to do something for Cambodian children. Why do I, who has been given abundant prosperity, by God the most

merciful, only watch while Cambodian Champa children live on their own without certainty of the future?

Inspired by Sister Dian Alyan's efforts in saving orphans globally, I asked myself, “why can't I contribute to my own country of Cambodia?” I have been dreaming to become a woman strong in my faith and do something meaningful for others. This work could be a means for me to conduct the ultimate fight for the sake of the Creator. My dream may soon bloom as the flowers of the springtime.



Flowers of Cambodia by Anita Zarina Zaidi, Singapore.

We still remember, when Father Zaini called us from Jakarta at the end of the Ramadan celebration in 2012. We also had a lovely phone talk with Sister Dian who was taking a summer vacation in Indonesia to visit her orphaned children in Aceh.

In early September 2012, we got another phone call from Father Zaini, just a hello. It was then that we informed him that the Cambodia government, Ministry of Interior, had issued permission for Weasnamariya Economic Development To Poverty Organization (WEDO) to develop an orphanage. He was thrilled with joy.

In a week's time, we were notified that GiveLight Foundation was ready to support WEDO under the following pre-requisites :

- a. The land was donated
- b. We registered as a non-profit organization
- c. We found needy orphans

We donated our land for the orphanage right after the notification. The land is 2-hectares of rubber plantations. We feel so blessed to be able to embark on this amazing journey to help the neediest and brightest orphans in Cambodia.

Best Wishes,

Kampong Cham, November 8, 2012

Mr. Ly Veasna
President Of WEDO

Mrs. Man Mariyan
Treasury Director of WEDO



Ten workers were hired to begin construction of our Cambodia home. The land donated by Mariya and her generous family.



*Royal Palace, Phnom Penh Cambodia By Hanay
This file is licensed under the Creative Commons
Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0
Generic and 1.0 Generic license.*

*Left: Bayon Angkor in Cambodia
Photo by Yosemite
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Morocco

Marakkesh
by Peter
Gould. Australia
www.peter-gould.com



*A beautiful piece of land donated to GiveLight, 15 minutes from Casablanca.
Construction will start once we are able to raise \$50K.*

The Unveiling of Our First Home in Africa

I used to walk by an orphanage every day going to school. The big, towering door was always shut and very intriguing to me. I always wondered what went on behind those doors. The stern look on the caregivers' faces was very intimidating and I sometimes caught a glimpse of the girls entering or leaving. In my college years, I started practicing my deen and learning the true meaning of giving. A few years later, I became a mom and learned the value of caring for your own child.

Four years ago, we lost a child of our own. Being parents in the face of such incredible sorrow made us think again about the children who have lost their parents. GiveLight was one foundation dear to my heart. It was a cause that touched me. God promised immense reward for caressing an orphan's head. Last year, while visiting my beautiful home country of Morocco

and spending time with my cousin who had just lost her 24 year old daughter unexpectedly, we got on the subject of philanthropy, and I mentioned the great work of GiveLight and how my dear friend Dian would love to build an orphanage in Morocco. Without a blink, my cousin (May God reward her and bless her daughter's soul) offered to donate the land for the orphanage. That's when the idea came to life. Morocco is a beautiful place but it's not exempt from poverty, suffering, and darkness. I've seen kids eat from the trash cans and I've seen them sleep on the bare floor. Let's all get together to ease their suffering one child at a time, one light at a time.

Much love,

Houda Myal and Isa Shaw



Of all of my father's qualities, the most salient is his sensitivity to the poor. When I was a child, he was a schoolteacher who bore witness daily to the hardships experienced by the poor in Morocco. These people were not some distant strangers; they included his neighbors and their children. He had students who came to school with torn sandals because their parents did not have enough to eat, let alone buy them proper shoes. We went shopping every week for these children, and my father would buy school supplies for one, clothes for another, and a pair of shoes for a third. Yet, the students he expressed the most compassion for were the orphans that he taught. Nothing he could buy them could fill the dark void that only the presence of a parent can fill.

When he retired, he was determined to help orphans in a more lasting way than his weekly shopping. So, he founded, in our hometown of Oujda, "ABP Orphelin," an association designed to provide financial



assistance to orphans in the city. The association provides food and clothes and takes care of the orphans' medical and educational needs. It also aims to improve the orphans' basic living conditions. For example, one family was living with metal sheets in lieu of a roof and ABPO built them a proper roof this past Ramadan. Other households had no running water and no electricity until ABPO helped finance both. One of the things that our beloved Prophet (SAW) taught us is to lead by example, and it is through my father's example that I decided to support GiveLight. This wonderful association embodies everything my father stood for and I have been a supporter since its initial creation. So, when my father needed help with ABPO I could not think of a better fit than a partnership with GiveLight, as they have the same mission and have worked hand-in-hand to protect our orphans.

The volunteer team at ABPO has the drive and dedication to do more but there is only so much they can do with limited resources. This is why the partnership ABPO has formed with GiveLight is a crucial and beneficial one. GiveLight can, with your help, provide the funds that ABPO needs.

Helping orphans is my father's and GiveLight's legacy but it can also be yours and that of your children. Be to your children the example that my father has been for me. Sponsor an orphan or donate to GiveLight today.

Abdelhakim Bouamama

*Above: Minaret, Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca (www.farmansyed.com)
Left: Lamp Shop, Tent Market, Marrakesh (www.farmansyed.com)*



Walkathon



GiveLight has held 3 walkathons so far. They have been extremely popular with our local community. Our walkathons have also helped us tremendously in raising awareness about our organization and our work. Each walkathon attracted about 400 participants. The last walkathon was special because we managed to conduct an informal fundraiser at the end of the event and were able to raise \$20,000!

The events were very well organized. There were registration booths, food stalls, and both

water and energy drink tables. Each participant received a GiveLight t-shirt and a nice goody bag with small gifts and vouchers from our wonderful sponsors. Our sponsors included Sports Basement, Roadrunner Sports, Club One Fitness, Hobeys, Psycho Donuts, Pop Chips, and many others. Here are some testimonials from a few participants and supporters:

"I came to the walkathon with a modest goal of "trying" to do my first 5K with my family. Looking at Dian and the group of tireless volunteers putting the walkathon together inspired me to venture outside my comfort zone and that's how I finished the 10K. Grateful for a great day serving a greater cause!" ~ Houda Myal

"Thanks GiveLight for organizing such an amazing event! The walk transcended social, physical, spiritual and emotional fulfillment, and helped raise awareness for a great cause, while I spent time with my family, exercised, enjoyed nature, and connected with friends. We can't wait till next year's walk!" ~Malalai Mohideen

Soul to Sole



This amazing idea was inspired by Dian's visit to Rawalpindi, Pakistan, when she took all 25 of the orphan girls from Saba Homes shoe shopping! Most of the orphans are used to and seem more than happy with "hand-me-down" shoes. This experience was amazing because the girls got to pick a brand new pair of shoes of their own choice from the shoe store. This idea had to be replicated in our homes around the world. And this is what initiated the "Soul to Sole Campaign". This campaign received such a great response from our supporters, young and old.

We suggested a \$20 donation for a pair of shoes. The results were amazing!

1. A family from North Carolina donated \$1,000. This was enough to buy shoes for all our kids in Aceh and more.
2. Averroes Institute and Minaret Institute held a movie night for us, generating \$1400+ and \$450+ respectively.
3. Ponderosa School in Sunnyvale did a school wide campaign and raised \$400+.
4. A Girl Scout Troop from Santa Clara donated 50% of their proceeds from their cookie sales to the campaign, and the amount was enough to buy 16 pairs of shoes.
5. Close to 100 supporters joined this campaign, allowing us to buy shoes for 500 children globally.



Sadaqa/Giving Jar



This has proven to be great idea to engage young children by getting them involved in the effort to help orphans in the general act of giving, thus allowing them to form a special connection with our beloved Prophet (SAW). GiveLight organizes workshops at different schools to help students build their own personal sadaqa jar as part of an Islamic Studies and art project.

Students take the jar home and use it as their home bank. They save money over a period of time (at least 2 months). At the end of the period, they (and their parents) decide how much to give for orphans or other noble cause.

We introduce the idea to different schools and each school decides if this is a project they want to participate in. The school coordinates internally on which grades they want to participate. A volunteer from GiveLight works with the teachers to decide what art supplies are needed. Teachers send a note home asking parents to send an empty pasta jar that the kids can decorate. A volunteer from GiveLight attends the workshop and gives an overview about why it is important to give, not only in the time of crisis, but every day of our lives. GiveLight then arranges an event to collect the jars and find appropriate ways to reward the kids for their generosity.

Game/Dessert Night

The objective of this event is to bring people together through a common interest (eg. playing fun games, eating) while supporting the worthy cause of helping orphans. Anyone who enjoys good company, good food, and playing games can host the event at their place. The host takes the responsibility of feeding and entertaining the guests so GiveLight does not have to spend a penny on organizing. It is suggested that guests make a donation of \$20 to GiveLight Foundation. Preferred method of payment is check, especially if guests want a donation receipt. GiveLight sends all receipts to donors by Jan. 30th the following year, which is the standard practice for most non-profit organizations. Cash is fine too. With this simple and fun idea, GiveLight has raised somewhere between \$300-\$1500 per game night.



Innovative Ideas

Global Bistro

by Zohra Majid

On any given Saturday afternoon, the courtyard in front of Silicon Valley Academy is quiet and deserted. However, on Saturday, December 8, the square courtyard on Dunford Ave. in Sunnyvale, was bustling with activity and laughter. Families were gathered here for the GiveLight Global Bistro event. It was the perfect place to taste foods from around the world, meet friends and gather children for unique and fun activities. The best part of all was that every penny raised was for a good cause: to benefit the orphans of GiveLight Foundation.

Each side of the square courtyard welcomed you with a culinary experience from a different continent – Asia, Africa, North America and Europe. Volunteers and sponsors donated their best creations. The many offerings from Asia included seekh kebabs from the Middle East, samosas from India, creamy ras malai from Pakistan and pitha (fried dough with banana and coconut flakes) from Bangladesh. Europe presented an array of lavish desserts including German chocolate cake, tiramisu from Italy and trifle from England. Africa's diverse tables sold many original items including organic baklava from Egypt, beignets from Cameroon and bread from Somalia. America's tables boasted original and traditional desserts like red velvet cake, pumpkin cheesecake and chocolate chip cookies.

As children enjoyed activities like face painting, henna, and various crafts, families and friends savored the food with tea and coffee at the tables provided under the decorated canopies in the center. Throughout the afternoon, there were opportunities

to attend a short seminar about GiveLight and how the organization changes orphans' lives around the world. The volunteers put their heart and soul in creating and presenting the food. They smiled and explained every item – ingredients, origins and traditional stories about the foods. Dian Alyan, the founder of GiveLight, was like a butterfly and never paused in a place for too long. She made sure to greet and thank everyone personally—sponsors, volunteers and visitors. Like other GiveLight events, people left with a warm feeling of donating to a worthy cause and with a memory of a great time.



Future Events

We are looking forward to reconnecting with all of you at our major upcoming events:



Fourth Annual Walkathon

Date: March 30th, 2013

Location: Bayland Park

"Light a Life" Fundraiser

Date: April 20th, 2013

Location: Rolling Meadows, IL

Main Speaker: Suhaib Webb

Unveiling of our Next Home

Date: May 11, 2013

Theme: "Dreams of Africa"

Goal: To bring 1,000 people together to support the building our first home in Africa

Location: TBD, South Bay

Be The Light

by Amina Siddiqui

Wonderful company, an amazing cause, and inspiring stories, made GiveLight Foundation's women's gala a magical and wonderfully executed event. With the impeccable ambiance at the exclusive Four Seasons Hotel, the event brought women of various backgrounds, nationalities, careers, and ages together in the united desire to help and serve the world's orphans. There was a successful silent auction. The event, however, did not focus on fundraising, per se, but on strategies by which women raised funds within their social circles. Towards the end of the event, Dian shared wonderful news that land had been donated by two of the attendees for orphanages in Africa and Bangladesh.

During the gala, all guests were asked to share their ideas on how GiveLight could expand their scope and impact, an activity that made the attendees feel empowered and an important part of GiveLight. Additionally, before the gala each attendee was asked to raise money within their circles, a novel fundraising idea. Among the inventive ideas were a hijab styling party and retreat to Tahoe or the beach, both of which would have a cover charge that would be donated to GiveLight. An additional highlight of the gala was that each guest got their portrait taken by photographer Hala Hyatt. She donated her services and each guest received their picture as a gift to remember the day.

I have known Dian for many years now but have not been able to be as involved with GiveLight as I would have liked; starting a family and a move across the country prevented it. Dian has always impressed me with her professionalism and unique approach to problem solving. After the devastating heartache she experienced when she lost 40 members of her family in the tsunami that hit her homeland of Aceh in 2004, she dedicated her life to supporting the most vulnerable segment of our global society, orphans. After becoming a mother, I saw and experienced firsthand how precious, innocent, and completely reliant children are on their parents and caregivers. It is so important to support the integral work of GiveLight in giving orphans love, shelter, and opportunities to become successful adults. Our Beloved Prophet (SAW) was an orphan showered by the generosity of key members of his family.



These women did their own personal campaigns for GiveLight and collectively raised \$34,000.

Major Events

Thousand Rays of Light

by Siddiq Islam



Students from Silicon Valley Academy (SVA) singing "Love in Any Language." Many of our local orphans go to school at SVA.

After months of intense preparation and a tireless marketing campaign, our five-year anniversary event is now a page in history. "One Thousand Rays of Light," hosted by GiveLight on August 29th at the Santa Clara Marriott, was a humbling success which exceeded our expectations. Seven hundred supporters of different backgrounds and faiths filled the grand ballroom. With their generosity, our fundraising goal of building two new orphanages was achieved, setting the stage for us to realize our vision of providing for one thousand orphans globally.

It was truly an "all-star" line up of speakers. Our host, Shafath, was engaging, articulate and kept the program punctual. We had a young Qur'an reciter, Nour Zahzah, 5, who kicked things off with a chapter from the Qur'an that talks about the importance of helping orphans (Ad Dhuha, "The glorious morning Light"). Then Matthew Mengerink, who has been with GiveLight since its inception, provided the hard data and numbers that demonstrated our responsible use of funds and intense growth plans. The Vice President of Technology from Cisco, Mike Quinn, was there to receive the "Light a Life" award from GiveLight for the generosity of Cisco and its employees through its matching program.

Founder Dian Alyan's speech and slideshow of the orphans reminded us why we were all gathered. Her passion and sincerity was inspiring as she expressed that the joy her work has brought to her life. Then Laura Ava-Tesimale from One Global Family shared her

amazing story of meeting Dian overseas and expressed her heartfelt sentiments on how she knew from the beginning that her organization was completely in line with GiveLight's vision to serve the less fortunate. A young teenage girl, Tasneem Labib, celebrated her 13th birthday with us by sharing her thoughts on sponsoring orphans. A GiveLight sponsor since the age of seven, she inspired the adults and children with the story about her journey with the organization. Also, the distinguished guests and scholars - Suhaib Webb, Aladdin Al-Bakri, and Zaid Shakir - honored us with their presence. They showered us with a spiritual perspective on caring for orphans just as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) instructed Muslims, and as is practiced by all faiths and denominations. As expected, Imam Al-Bakri worked the audience with his skillful fundraising abilities.

On the lighter side of the evening, Barakah Blue spiced things up with a poem about the Prophet (pbuh). Last but not least, a group of children performed a song called "Love In Any Language" and brought the house down. The spirit of giving was definitely in the air. All that action was topped off with an amazing Iftar dinner which received a lot of compliments.



Mike Quinn, Vice President of Cisco, getting ready to accept the "Light a Life Award." Cisco Foundation and its employees donated over \$200,000 to GiveLight over the past 5 years.

Our Financial Report

Operational Income	2011	2010	2009
Individual Donations	\$273,766	\$117,001	\$102,045
Grants and Corporate Matching	\$185,268	\$528,987	\$232,978
Total Income	\$459,034	\$645,988	\$334,843

List of expenses

Program Services	\$285,803	\$280,293	\$138,020
Salary for US Employee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Events & Projects	\$8,323	\$28,628*	\$2,660
Accounting Fees**	\$1,459	\$890	\$890
Other Expenses	\$5,473	\$7,137	\$4,009
Sales Expenses of Assets Sold	\$4,769	\$0	\$0
Other expenses as % of income***	1%	1%	1%
Expenses	\$305,827	\$316,948	\$145,579

*Two major fundraising events in 2010 attended by 1,200 supporters. All costs were more than recuperated by ticket sales and generated \$250,000 in donations and pledges.

** Our monthly book keeping is done by a pro-bono accountant saving us at least \$2500/year. However, to prepare for annual IRS tax return we decide to use a licensed CPA to ensure we file everything correctly.

*** All GiveLight's Board of Directors, Advisors and Volunteers are also donors and collectively their donation represents at least 20% of GiveLight's income.



Financial Report

Our Advisors



Aamir Rehman, MBA

Aamir is an expert in global corporate strategy. During his career he has advised several Fortune 500 companies and held positions of Global Head of Strategy for at HSBC Amanah, unit of the world's 3rd largest bank, and consultant at Boston Consulting Group.

An author of Dubai & Co. Global Strategies for Doing Business in the Gulf States, Aamir holds an MBA and MS Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard Business School and Harvard University and a BS from Harvard College. A native of Staten Island, New York, Aamir lives in New York City.



John Bowen, PhD

John currently teaches at Washington University in St. Louis, where he is the Dunbar - Van Cleve Professor and formerly taught at Harvard University. He has taught courses in social theory, religion, legal, society, anthropology, and religious pluralism. Currently he leads the University's program in Social Thought & Analysis, and also a project in International Initiative in Pluralism, Politics, and Religion.

He is a prolific writer with many published books including: Law and Equality in Indonesia: An Anthropology of Public Reasoning and a textbook on Religions in practice (Allyn & Bacon).

John holds a BA from Stanford University, a Doctorate from University of Chicago.



Farhan Syed, MBA

Farhan is Director of Global Sales Operations at LinkedIn. In his capacity he provides advice to LinkedIn leadership and works on building global infrastructure to support sales efforts. His prior work and philanthropic engagements include Bain & Company, Accenture, Qubestone, ING, Zaytuna College, the MCA dawah committee, and the Stanford Islamic school.

Farhan holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley in MCB and Economics, an MA from the University of Pennsylvania in International Studies with a focus on the Middle East and Arabic, and an MBA from The Wharton School.



Dr. Martin Nuechtern

Martin is a native Austrian who spent his entire career with Procter&Gamble, 11 years of it in Asia, and later led P&G's business in the ASEAN countries, India and Australia/New Zealand. He also lived and worked in Saudi Arabia, the USA and the UK from where he ran one of the companies five Global Business Units. Martin is currently on the board of the Mast-Jaegermeister SE in Germany. He has volunteered in several leadership positions for churches in the USA, Singapore and England and has been a supporter of GiveLight from its early years.

Martin holds a Master and Doctorate degree from the Economy University in Vienna and a M.S.A. from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.



Imam Zaid Shakir

Imam Zaid is a public figure, visionary leader, and amongst the most influential Muslim scholars in the west. Born in Berkeley, CA, he accepted Islam in 1977 while serving in US Air Force. He holds a BA in International Relations at American University, an MA in Political Science at Rutgers University, studies in Cairo. He lectured at many top universities, including Stanford and U.C Berkeley, and is a frequent speaker at Muslim events.

He has served his life in activism and started several initiatives and founded several mosques. In 2003, he moved to Hayward, CA with his family to serve as a scholar-in-residence and lecturer at Zaytuna Institute.



Basil Hashem

Basil is currently Senior Director of Mobile Products at VMware, Inc. He has held leadership roles at several Silicon Valley technology startups including some where he was the founder. He has also had a wide mix of product and strategy roles at Admob, Mozilla, Yahoo, Netscape and KPMG. He started his career as a software engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

He holds an MBA from the University of Southern California and a BS in Computer Science from UCLA.

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