

QIDWAI WELFARE PROJECTS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

Welcome Note

Last year was very productive for Qidwai Welfare Projects (QWP). In 2011, we operated nine orphan homes, two schools, constructed thirty-five water-tube-wells, finished the construction of the orphan homes facility and distributed 950 Ramadan food packs.

In 2011, QWP collected \$252,611 in member contributions. \$194,190 was

put towards ongoing projects, \$18,452 was invested in the construction of the new orphan home facility, and the remaining contributions are being held for an upcoming school project.

This newsletter summarizes last year's major projects and activities and shares plans of the upcoming school project in rural Islamabad.

Ramadan

QWP has arranged an annual Ramadan Food Project for the past six years. Last year, we had our largest and most successful Ramadan Food Project. We distributed 950 Family Food Packs and served 3000 cooked meals.

The Family Food Packs were distributed in collaboration with Muslim Aid and under the personal supervision of Mudaser Qidwai, to zakat-eligible, disabled, handicapped, widowed, and needy families. 300 packs were distributed in Mianwali, Punjab, 300 packs in Char-sadda, KPK, 250 in Ziarat Boluchistan, and 100 packs in rural Islamabad.

Each Family Food Pack was worth KD 15 (\$55) and it constituted 50kg of basic stable food ration including rice, flour,

lentils, sugar, cooking, gram flour etc... enough for an average family of 5-6 individuals for an entire month.

The cooked meals were served in collaboration with Almustafa Development Network, Pakistan, to homeless and poor and needy individuals. 1,500 meals were served in Rajanpur, Punjab, and 1,500 were served in Muz-zafarabad, Azzad Jammu Kashmir.

Each meal cost KD 0.500 (\$1.75), and the meals included rice, bread, chicken, meat, vegetables, fruits, samosas, dates, soft drinks and water.

Readers can view a photo slide show of the food distribution at www.qidwaiwelfare.com/ramadan

While accessing the site, viewers may be asked for permission to run an add-on called 'Photodex Presenter ActiveX Control Module'. If that happens, please click 'Run Add-on'.

Published & Edited by
Mudaser Qidwai
mudaser@qidwaiwelfare.com

Editorial Assistance
Misbah Qidwai and Julie Qidwai

**"QWP COLLECTED \$252,611 IN
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS"**



**"DISTRIBUTED 950 FAMILY
PACKS AND SERVED 3000
COOKED MEALS"**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Orphan Homes 2

Orphan Home Construction 3

Schools 3

New School Project 4

Orphan Homes

During 2011, QWP added a new girls' orphan home to its existing eight orphan homes. We now have five homes for boys and four homes for girls, caring for a total of fifty-four orphan children. We have also started work on our tenth home, which we hope to have operational during the next few months.



The vision of our orphan homes is different from most orphan homes/orphanages. The purpose of most orphanages is to provide basic room and board services to orphans with some basic education, either conventional or religious. Most orphanages are usually run like cheap hostels or homeless shelters with hundreds or thousands of kids living together, and eating in messes. In most orphanages, the kids are mere numbers/objects and they don't have access to the love or nurturing of a family. In contrast, the QWP orphan homes are based on a family concept. Each orphan home only has six orphan kids, and each home is appointed a foster couple (foster father and mother) to take of their six orphan kids. Each foster couple and their six orphan kids are provided with their own private home with three separate bedrooms and bathrooms, kitchen, and living room. Each home enjoys a family-like atmosphere with access to most middle-class amenities including, refrigerator, washing machine, home telephone, microwave, and TV. All the orphan kids go to proper full-time schools and have access to a shared vehicle for weekly recreational activities.

The vision of the QWP home goes beyond simply keeping orphans alive; QWP helps orphans from the most vulnerable and poverty-ridden sections of society grow into good practicing Muslims and productive

members of the community. We don't want our orphan kids to grow up to be street vendors, or taxi drivers (of course there is nothing wrong with that) we want our kids to be doctors, engineers, accountants and lawyers. We also want our orphans in the future to be the main bread earners and leaders of both their immediate and extended families.

We at QWP realize that it will not be easy to achieve our vision but we are trying our best and we believe we are slowly and gradually getting there. We have some orphan kids who a few years ago use to be almost illiterate and are now getting top positions in their respective classes and schools. We have kids who earlier wanted to be drivers or mechanic and now have dreams of becoming teachers, doctors and engineers. We realize we have a long way to go and the road is going to be bumpy but we are determined to make a difference in the lives of these orphans.

As an example it is worth considering Abdul Khanans' story. Abdul Khanan joined our orphan home a little over five years ago when he was 12 years old, and had the education level of an 8 or 9 year old. He is now pursuing his second year of pre-engineering, and is top student in his class. He also regularly volunteers as an after-school-tutor and counselor for other orphan kids.



The QWP orphan home project is an open-ended project in which donors can participate at any time by contributing for the establishment and operation of a dedicated orphan home. The establishment cost of each orphan home is KD 1,000 (\$3,500), and the

monthly operating cost is KD 200 (\$700). Interested donors can contact Mudaser Qidwai at mudaser@qidwaiwelfare.com

"QWP HELPS ORPHANS FROM THE MOST VULNERABLE AND POVERTY RIDDEN SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY"

Orphan Homes Construction

A safe, clean, and stable home with a nurturing family is the ideal and sadly missing catalyst in the lives of many orphans. Bridging this gap in a third world country is not always easy, especially with tight financial constraints and budgets. The generosity of our contributors has made it possible for QWP provide this for our orphans.

When QWP started operating orphan homes seven years ago, initially we opted for rented homes in rural communities and later we moved to lower-middle class urban neighborhoods in Rawalpindi. However, over time we grew uncomfortable with this setup because of security risks, especially for girls. As a result, a little over, three years ago we decided to construct our own orphan home facility. QWP purchased two 500 yard plots adjacent to one another in a new suburb of Islamabad, designated for retired Navy officers. We started construction on our custom orphan home facility in mid-2010, and finished in December 2011.

We built two quadplex style structures, with four apartments and a finished basement in each quadplex. Each apartment measures

~1300ft², has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a kitchen and a living room. The homes are finished with marble floors, aluminum frame windows, marble countertops, and built-in wooden closets in each room. The construction of the orphan homes facility cost approximately KD 115,000 (\$400,000), and it has been our largest project since we started doing philanthropic work in 2003.

In December 2011, Mudaser Qidwai's family visited Pakistan for a week, for the inauguration of the new QWP Orphan homes quadplex facility. Four homes for the girls and three homes for the boys were relocated from Rawalpindi to the new quadplexes. Two homes for the older boys were purposely not relocated and will for now remain in rented homes in Rawalpindi.

Readers can view a photo slide show of the new Orphan Homes at www.qidwaiwelfare.com/homes2011



"THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ORPHAN HOMES FACILITY COST APPROXIMATELY KD 115,000 (\$400,000)"



"EACH APARTMENT MEASURES ~1300FT² AND HAS THREE BEDROOMS, THREE BATHROOMS, A KITCHEN AND LIVING ROOM"





QIDWAI WELFARE PROJECTS

Schools

During 2011, QWP continued supporting the two QWP-funded schools in rural Islamabad and Sehnsa, AJK (Azad Jammu Kashmir). The



Rural Islamabad School now has approximately 175 students in grades ranging from nursery to seven, while the Sehnsa School has approximately 335 students in grades ranging from nursery to nine (with some classes having multiple sections).

The Rural Islamabad School has a staff of 10 teachers and 1 professional administrative employee. It has 47 students who are either orphaned or below the

poverty line. The school uses a mixed curriculum from Oxford and the Federal Board of Pakistan. The school is divided into three sections with two preschool classes, five primary school classes and three middle school classes.

The Sehnsa, AJK School has a staff of 20 teachers and 4 professional administrative employees. It has 98 students who are either orphaned or below the poverty line. The school uses a mixed curriculum from Oxford and the Punjab Board of Pakistan. This school is also divided into three sections with two preschool classes, five primary school classes and three middle school classes.

In 2011, QWP supported the Rural Islamabad School with approximately \$2,400 and the Sehnsa, AJK School with approximately \$5,000.

New School Project

The design for our new school evolved significantly during 2011. We were not able to start construction on this project because of the delay in finishing the construction of the orphan home quadplexes.

The new school will be constructed in multiple phases, and will include multiple structures; a building for the boys section, a building for the girls section, and a multipurpose hall/ auditorium. During the first phase which we plan to start in 2012, we will construct the first school building with a covered area of approximately 9500 sq feet. The building will have twelve classrooms, a science lab, a computer lab / library, and two administrative rooms. The projected budget for the first phase is KD 50,000 (\$180,000).

We have identified a new partner to help construct and operate the school on our behalf; READ Foundation. READ Foundation is a not-for-profit organization and it runs a network of

340 schools with a student body of 72,000-plus children (including 8,000 orphans who get free education) with 3,850 teachers.

The school will address both conventional and Islamic education with emphasis on learning Arabic and comprehending the Holy Quran. The school will implement the curriculum developed by an organization called AFAQ (Association For Academic Quality). AFAQ is an independent, not-for-profit organization working in the education sector to improve the literacy rate in Pakistan. The basic purpose of AFAQ is to develop an education system which meets the requirements of a modern, scientific, and dynamic world in accordance with Islamic ideology.

QWP is currently collecting funds for the construction of the first phase of the new school. Interested donors can contact Mudaser Qidwai at mudaser@qidwaiwelfare.com.

**"THE PROJECTED BUDGET FOR
THE FIRST PHASE IS KD 50,000
(\$180,000)"**