

Summer 2006

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DIL Builds New Schools in Mansehra

In response to the devastating earthquake that affected almost 1 million school-aged children and destroyed 8,000 schools, DIL has embarked on a new project in Mansehra district, NWFP. This project is being implemented in partnership with Agahi, a Mansehra-based nongovernmental organization. The intent is to establish three nine-room schools in 2006 that will accommodate more than 500 students. DIL plans to expand the project in 2007.

Agahi has conducted an extensive needs assessment survey of the communities around Balakot and Mansehra to identify locations for the prospective schools. Communities were selected based on the need, organizational capacity of community members, number of

children of school-going age, number of existing primary schools and availability of female teachers.

Three earthquake-resistant school

The United Nations Foundation awarded DIL a grant beginning April 2006. The grant money is earmarked for post-earthquake primary school reconstruction in Pakistan. DIL is utilizing the funds for the new Manshera project. DIL has also received a grant from the Irfan Kathwari Foundation to support ongoing DIL programs and to start new initiatives.

buildings will be constructed by October 2006. Meanwhile, students will be housed in tents. Psychosocial support also will be provided to those in need.

Teachers will be hired from within the local community and trained by Agahi

through workshops and day-long seminars held at the Agahi Teacher Training Centre. Agahi has developed lesson plans for all primary school classes, which will also be used in the DIL/Agahi schools.

The classrooms will be equipped with basic educational materials such as blackboards, wall charts, color chalks, tables, desks and project materials. Teachers also will receive educational materials and supplies for activity-based teaching.

DIL is committed to bringing some normalcy to the children's fractured lives by returning them to the familiar environment of a school, which is paramount to their well-being and recovery from the extreme trauma and deep loss they have suffered.

DIL Builds New Schools in Sihala

DIL contacted the National Rural Support Program (NRSP) earlier this year for assistance in identifying schools in the outskirts of Islamabad serving impoverished communities. DIL will run the schools directly, unlike most of its current projects that are implemented in collaboration with local NGOs, and will convert them into model schools imparting quality education.



Teachers receiving training for the schools in Sihala.

After several visits, two schools have been selected in Sihala, which is a 40-minute drive from the DIL office. More schools will be added to the project in the near future.

DIL will add rooms to the existing school and will build a new school, donated by the community, on the premises.

Combined, the schools have 15 teachers and 325 students. New furniture will be provided for all students who are currently without or are making due by sharing broken chairs and desks. A library and a computer lab also will be added to the facilities.

The training session for the teachers is already in progress and will continue throughout

the summer. Some of the best trainers in Islamabad have conducted training in science, geography, English and classroom management.

The returning students are in for a big surprise!

Success Stories

Disabled Girl Overcomes Obstacles

Fouzia, a student at DIL-NOWA School in village Hamid Bhutto, Khairpur, was born with abnormal limbs. "I was shocked when I gave birth to Fouzia and wept incessantly for three months," her mother said. "I even prayed to God to just take her away as I feared for her future."

At the age of 8, Fouzia learned to walk on legs that did not extend beyond the thigh. Slowly she learned to take care of her herself, embroider and sew clothes, scrub the floor and water the yard.

Walking gets painful despite the protective leather tied at the end of her thighs, but that did not stop this brave young girl from pursuing her dream of getting an education. She enrolled at the local DIL school at the age of 13. Older than her classmates, she learns quickly and willingly helps the weaker students. Her teachers say that her cheerful demeanor has made her very popular.

"All my class fellows are very supportive. I tell them jokes and we laugh together. They never say hurtful things or pass mean remarks about my physical condition," Fouzia said. She is also very grateful to her teachers who have facilitated and encouraged her at every step.

Her eyes well up with tears when she speaks of her past life and her uncertain future. Her family is very poor, barely making ends meet. Yet her zest for a normal life keeps her going and has helped her overcome so many of her disabilities. Her



teachers say she has an intelligent, curious mind and is progressing well at school.

A DIL supporter is going to provide her with a wheelchair and pay for all of her school-related expenses.

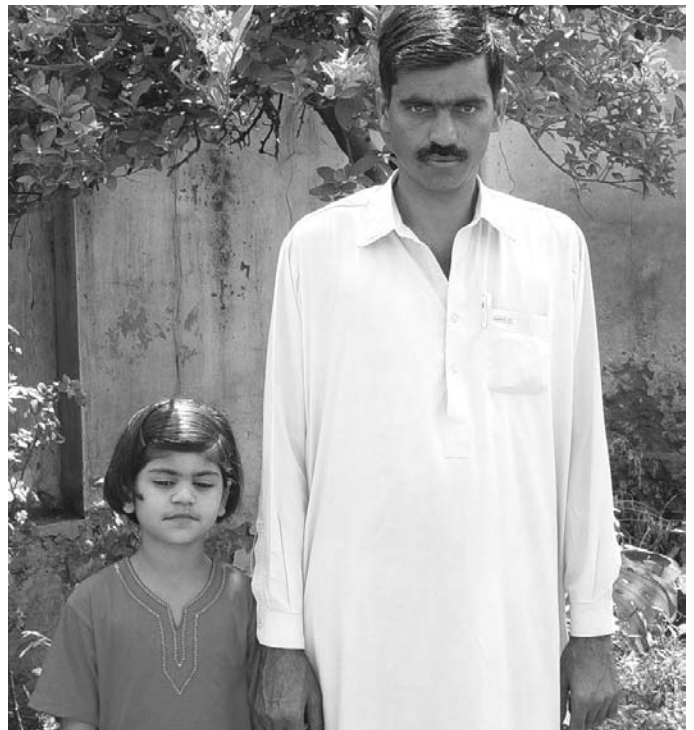
Father Thanks DIL School for Daughter's Success

When Jaweria Khalid, a class 6 student at DIL-ABES school in Village Dhalla, Rawalpindi, obtained very high marks on her final exam, her father encouraged her to sit for the Fauji Foundation Girls' School entrance exam.

"When I saw children of high-ranking officers taking the exam along with my daughter, I thought that my child will never qualify," said Jaweria's father, Khalid Masoud, an active member of the village education committee at his daughter's school. But when the results were announced, Jaweria ranked 7 out of 400 participants.

Although Jaweria took the entrance exam for the 7th grade, she will be enrolled in grade 6 because she is underage. The Fauji Foundation School allowed her to study free of charge.

Her father is extremely pleased with his daughter's results and credits the DIL-ABES School for her success. "If it wasn't for the school, my daughter never would have done so well," he said. "Now I appreciate the teachers, staff and the standard of the DIL school even more."



Success Stories continued

Sisters Determined to Excel at School

Shamshad, an eldest child, has always willingly done extra household chores. She just didn't want to give her mother an excuse to pull her out of school. When Shamshad passed class 3 at the government-run primary school some distance from her village, her family members put a stop to her education. Unfortunately, the only school close by was a boys' school.

A few years passed and her younger sister found herself in the same predicament. Around that time the DIL-IRC schools started to offer transportation to students living within a certain distance. Shamshad and her sister pleaded with their mother to allow them to enroll, especially because this was a school for girls only; much to their delight, their mother agreed.

So Shamshad and her sister began their schooling once again. Both sisters work hard, always excel in their exams and continue to help their mother with housework.

Shamshad has passed class 8 this year and is getting ready

to enroll in high school. She is determined to open a school in her village, specifically for girls who do not have access to education. She hopes that by opening a quality school, she will be able to root out the social obstacles that hindered her education.



2006 DIL Fundraising Events

San Francisco

More than 300 guests attended DIL San Francisco's fifth annual dinner gala in May. The sold-out event raised more than \$75,000.

San Francisco DIL board member Sara Abbasi shared an interesting story from one of her field visits to DIL schools in Baluchistan. "DIL's local partner organization found one of its

to their own village in the hope that such a school will open there too."

Prominent Bay Area businessman and DIL supporter Mr. Saeed Malik, the guest speaker, eloquently described the slum outside of Karachi and the battle for survival there, putting the need to continue DIL's work in perspective. The evening concluded with a stunning fashion show by Hassan Shehryar Yasin.



Hassan Shehryar Yasin flanked by Asma Sheikh, Lubna Sheikh (left), Sara Abbasi and Paru Yusuf (right).

jeeps and school monitoring staff forcibly taken away by armed men. Everyone was concerned about their safety until they showed up later to tell their amazing story. It appeared that these armed men had heard that wherever this jeep visits, a girls' school is opened, so they decided to take the jeep and the team

Houston

The Houston DIL chapter raised \$100,000 at its fourth annual fundraising gala in May. This was in addition to the \$30,000 contributed by DIL donors just a few months earlier after the September 2005 fundraiser was cancelled due to the threat of Hurricane Rita.

The warm and colorful scenes and sounds of Pakistan surrounded guests, who walked around the exquisite bazaar set up with the help of DIL's dedicated volunteers. Handicrafts and art work were abundantly displayed, while bhangra dancers and tabla, dhol and sitar players regaled the onlookers. Stalls served delicious Pakistani snacks and beverages.

About 370 people attended the gala, including many prominent political and community leaders.

After a poetry recitation by Ishrat Afreen, the guests listened to both semi-classical and latest popular Pakistani and Indian songs by Adiba Akhtar and Ali Durrani and his band.

Developments in Literacy News

YOUR DIL Establishes Los Angeles Chapter, Hosts Read-A-Thon

YOUR DIL (Youth Outreach, Developments in Literacy) launched its Los Angeles chapter.

As a first project, the Los Angeles chapter launched a Read-A-Thon, allowing children ages 5 to 12 to gather sponsors who will pay them for each book they read during the summer. This program introduces children to the concept of charity, encourages reading during the summer holiday months and raises money for DIL.

YOUR DIL aims to create a youth network through activity-based fundraisers and events and to lend outreach support to other organizations. Through these events, YOUR DIL hopes to expand awareness of DIL's important message of fighting illiteracy.

For more information on YOUR DIL or the Read-A-Thon, please contact Maliha Fakhri at malihatapal@yahoo.com or (310) 801-2493.



A recent Strings concert brought close to 700 people together and raised almost \$30,000 for the New York chapter of YOUR DIL.

Yes, I want to help DIL to promote literacy.

All donations are tax deductible. Tax ID No. 33-0843213

Contact DIL at (714) 895-5345

I would like to sponsor ____ child/children at \$50 per child per year.
\$_____ to be paid annually for five years.

I would like to sponsor ____ computer lab(s) at \$1,000 per lab.
\$_____ (one-time computer lab donation).

I would like to sponsor ____ classroom(s) at \$1,250 per room.
\$_____ to be paid annually for five years.

I would like to make a donation of \$_____ for the earthquake-affected students' project.

I would like to make a one-time donation of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to DIL:

8001 E. Roper Street, Long Beach, CA 90808

