

Winter 2006

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DIL Partners with Agahi to Aid Quake-Affected Students

When the devastating earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale ripped through parts of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Pakistan-administered Kashmir, killing 20,000 and affecting almost 1 million school-aged children, 8,000 schools were destroyed.

As an immediate response to the tragedy, DIL set up its first camp school at Lake View Motel in Islamabad, where approximately 500 earthquake evacuees from Muzaffarabad and Bagh District were housed. More than 100 primary school students were enrolled, and teachers were hired from within the camp population. The camp school ran successfully for approximately three months, at which point the government decided to move all camps out of Islamabad due to security concerns caused by the unprecedented influx of families from the earthquake-affected areas.

DIL has now embarked on a new effort: to establish a primary school project in Mansehra, NWFP, in partnership with Agahi, a reputable local NGO. Six schools will be set up in 2006 with a



Teachers from within the camp location quickly came to the rescue to return some normalcy to students' lives.

target enrollment of more than 750 students. Teachers will be hired and parents' organizations will be created for each school from within the settlement communities. A needs assessment survey of the communities around Mansehra, where people are relocated in temporary shelters, is already underway.

The earthquake took the lives of more than 20,000 children, and those who survived endured tremendous mental and physical distress. Many are showing signs

of trauma and others will eventually suffer from it; therefore, DIL and Agahi plan to design a program that will also include psychological support for the students. The schools will also be equipped for handicapped students.

DIL is committed to bringing some normalcy to the children's fractured lives by returning them to the familiar environment of a school. Once again, we turn to our donors for their much needed support in this critical time.

Senator Harkin Visits DIL Schools in September 2005

United States Senator Tom Harkin visited Pakistan in September 2005 and met with DIL students from Thallian, Nai Abadi and Shah Jeevan. Harkin spent more than an hour with the children and saw first-hand how DIL schools operate.

"I was impressed by the teachers and students of the DIL schools. It is heartening to see that DIL is stepping in to fill the lack of educational opportunities in the most disadvantaged areas of Pakistan," he said.



Developments in Literacy News

DIL Receives Grants from Levi Strauss and Target/AMC Foundations

The Levi Strauss Foundation awarded DIL a two-year grant beginning January 2006. The purpose of the grant is to support and expand access to education for girls in Khairpur and alleviate poverty in their communities through microcredit and to asset building. This is the third consecutive grant DIL has received from the Foundation in support of the DIL-IRC schools in Khairpur.

DIL also received a grant from the Target/AMC Foundations to establish computer labs in all six government schools it is supporting in partnership with CARE. A computer trainer has been hired and workshops are planned for the teachers to enhance their computer skills. Computer classes will now be added to the weekly class schedule for all the grades.

Baluchistan Project Continues to Succeed

When the DIL team visited the Baluchistan project in October 2005, it was pleased by the quality of teaching and by the communities' increased involvement in girls' education. Despite being very poor, nearly every school community has given land and is building additional rooms to accommodate the increase in enrollment. Considering that not too long ago girls had to fight to go to school, and even now a number of them are secretly attending, this is a major achievement. The DIL team was particularly impressed by the confidence with which the students responded to questions and their eagerness to learn more about a world beyond their own.

According to a recent survey done by the Education Department, DIL is providing education to 12 percent of girls

attending middle school in rural Baluchistan, even though the total enrollment in the 10 DIL schools is only 344. In district Ziarat, DIL schools account for 41 percent of girls attending middle school and in Pishin and Mustong, DIL schools account for 32 percent of girls attending school in the respective districts. The above-mentioned facts highlight the dearth of and urgent need to construct girls' middle schools in the area.

DIL schools in Rademalaza, Pishin, Shara Kawas and Ziarat have the highest enrollment in their district, 73 and 35 respectively, while the DIL school in Karez Noor Muhammad has the second highest enrollment, 50, in District Mustong. The project experienced an increase in enrollment last year after DIL piloted a transportation subsidy program

at three schools.

Recently in Pishin, a school bus full of children was fired at; the driver was killed and a teacher was injured. The perpetrators succeeded in creating panic throughout the district and dissuading students and teachers from attending school. DIL schools also experienced low attendance for a period of two months, but things are back to normal; however, one DIL teacher resigned as a result.

DIL plans to establish computer labs in all the middle schools and add rooms and improve construction of all 10 schools in 2006. DIL is very pleased with the efforts of our partner NGO, Society, which is also working closely with the education district officer to garner additional support for the project.



Two camp school boys gleefully receive shoes and socks. Donations to DIL can be specifically made to help children affected by the earthquake (see donation box at right).

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

2005 DIL Fundraising Events

Toronto

This chic fundraiser took guests on a journey that captured the mystique of the East in a night of fashion and dining at the exclusive Granite Club in November 2005 in Toronto. The event raised \$75,000 (Canadian) for the displaced children of Pakistan who were affected by the Oct. 8 earthquake. The fundraiser not only highlighted DIL's cause, but also shone light on the leading Pakistani designer, Hassan Sheheryar Yasin, who romanced the guests with his seductive Eastern collection.

Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C. DIL fundraiser was held at the Sheraton Premier hotel in Tysons Corner, Virginia in October 2005. The annual show was a huge success, with the final amount of donations received surpassing the totals of the three previous years. The fashion show, which displayed Hassan Sheheryar Yasin's Virassat collection, attracted 300 patrons and was followed by DJ and dance, and by a clothing exhibition at the hotel the following day.

New York

DIL New York held its third annual fundraiser in September at the popular Cipriani 42nd Street. Nearly 500 guests attended the dinner honoring Mr. Farooq Kathwari, chairman and CEO of Ethan Allen, for his leadership and philanthropic activities. Kathwari and his family foundation have been big supporters of DIL, and on this night he announced a \$50,000 grant to support the work of DIL in the Northern areas of Pakistan. Guests included Ambassador Howard Schaffer and his wife Ambassador Teresita Schaffer, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Ambassador and Mrs. Nicholas Platt, and Ambassador Munir Akram. The highlight of the evening was a live auction, where some beautiful paintings by Jamil Naqsh, Eqbal Mehdi and Mashkoor Raza were successfully sold. DIL raised more than \$325,000 at this sold-out event.

San Francisco

The evening was an elegant affair at the Scottish Rite Center in San Jose. Special chunri table runners in vibrant colors were made to order for the event in Karachi as a donation by the sender Saleha Haroon. Centerpieces arrangements were beautiful straw "chakors" from the villages of Pakistan donated by Dr. Shahida Jaffrey, vice chancellor of a women's university in Baluchistan. Board member Asma Shaikh spoke, and guests viewed a DIL video. A jewelry auction raised \$6,000. DIL raised \$75,000, the highest ever by San Francisco.

Also noteworthy from DIL San Francisco:

DIL San Francisco launched its first annual kids read-a-



thon titled "Kids Read with DIL" in July. During the summer, more than 40 Bay Area children aged 5 to 12 participated by soliciting sponsors and reading age-appropriate books. Altogether, the children read more than 200 books and raised more than \$5,300 for DIL schools. The San Francisco DIL team recognized the children's efforts by hosting a picnic celebration in Palo Alto in October. DIL San Francisco looks forward to an equally successful 2006 summer read-a-thon.

Los Angeles

The Los Angeles chapter held yet another successful fundraiser at the LAX Hilton in September, raising \$275,000 in donations and pledges. Tickets were sold out two weeks prior to the event, permitting the organizers to focus their efforts on making the evening unforgettable. During the first hour, guests strolled along the banks of the glorious River Indus, stopping briefly to experience the time-treasured occupations of the natives, indulge their taste buds on authentic regional cuisine or sip on a steaming cup of Kashmiri chai. Next, the audience was escorted into the main hall, where they heard speeches and saw a video presentation underscoring DIL achievements and future goals. The highlight of the evening was designer Hassan Sheheryar's breathtaking Virassat collection.



After weeks of planning and much hard work, Houston, San Diego and Ottawa had to cancel their fundraisers at the last moment due to Hurricane Rita and the earthquake in Pakistan.

Developments in Literacy News

Youth Chapter of DIL Sends Supplies for Quake Relief

YOUR DIL and DIL members in New York City organized a winter clothing, tent and blanket drive, the first of many initiatives they would lead in the New York area on behalf of earthquake relief in Pakistan. At the end of the four-day drive, they had collected more than 2,000 boxes. For the next three weeks, they continued the drive, managing dozens of volunteers and thousands of contributions. Along with some other organizations in the area, they collected and sent more than 150 tons of sweaters, tents, medicines, blankets and coats to Pakistan for distribution. PIA and the Pakistani Embassy are also to be commended for their help in the drive.

After the drive, DIL and YOUR DIL were invited to join saquake.org, a coalition of professional and non-profit organizations dedicated to joining forces to more effectively work on earthquake



The New York City vigil was led by a group of YOUR DIL volunteers; more than 500 people attended.

relief. Saquake.org organized a worldwide vigil on the one-month anniversary of the earthquake in order to raise awareness. DIL San Francisco member Paru Yusuf and YOUR DIL member Samar Shaheryar led the effort, eventually organizing close to 10,000 people in more than 23 cities around the world.

Following a successful 300-person YOUR DIL fundraiser in November for

DIL's camp schools, YOUR DIL and DIL members sold earthquake relief bracelets on behalf of DIL. (*Visit www.saquake2005.org to order these bracelets online*). In December, after getting the green light from the U.S. military, YOUR DIL volunteers in New York and DIL volunteers in San Francisco gathered to handwrite 1,000 holiday cards to the U.S. troops doing earthquake relief in Pakistan.

