

*Here's how your support makes OBAT special!*



## **ASPIRE- Your Monthly News & Updates**

**July 2016**

*Lots of good stuff is happening at OBAT and you are behind it! Aspire is now being released monthly to keep you informed of the never-ending good news and the changes you are creating.*

[Visit Our Website](#)

### **We are overwhelmed by your support!**

This year's Ramadan, Charity and Spirit campaign has been a resounding success, thanks to your generous and compassionate spirit. Our goal of \$300,000 has been met by 81% so far! With days left to the month of Ramadan coming to a close, we need your support more than ever.



Guests at the OBAT's annual iftar

A part of our support was also derived from our annual iftar and fundraiser at ISNA headquarters in Plainfield, Indiana. Special guests and speakers included, Dr. John Clark, Mr. Rizwan Samad, Fatima Hussain and Hannah Croucher. The event was well attended by close to 250 people.

**Ramadan charity distribution provides food to**

**3,351 families**

To share the blessings of Ramadan with the camp residents, OBAT distributes food packages so they can enjoy a fulfilling Ramadan like everyone else. The food packages consist of rice, vermicelli, lentils, sugar, chick peas, oil and flour. OBAT volunteers and project managers have worked hard to distribute these food packets. The food packages were distributed in the cities of Chittagong, Dhaka, Rangpur, Syedpur and Khulna,.



Food distribution in Rangpur

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### **Orphan students at NLJ School receive Eid clothes**

To help the destitute students studying at NLJ School celebrate a happy Eid, the OBAT team of staff and volunteers bought and distributed Eid clothes for all those kids who are orphans. Forty-two such students received Eid clothes.



Students receiving clothes

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### **OBAT's first interfaith Iftar- an affair to remember**

On June 7, the Indiana Interchurch Center in Indianapolis, was scene for one of the most engaging interfaith events seen in Central Indiana. Three things came together to make this event possible. [Read more here.](#)



Guests at the interfaith iftar

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### **Self-empowerment project creates a source of livelihood**

During the December 2015 visit of Mr. Anwar Khan to Khulna Gilatala camp, ten goats were distributed among widows under a pilot self empowerment project. This year, in May, a follow up was done to gauge the



A goat with its kid

progress of the project. Two of the goats have given birth to kids.

The families who received the goats will give the first kid to another family. Gradually the goats will be given to other deserving families. This project will ultimately help to reduce the poverty faced by the widows by providing them with an income generating opportunity.

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### **Arabic education program makes good progress**

An Arabic education program was started in Khulna in 2005. At present, 72 students are learning Qaida and Quran from this program. A total of 205 students have learned to read the Quran so far, from this center.



Students taking Arabic lessons

Another Arabic Education program in Syedpur was started in the year 2000 and run by the local community initially. In 2011, OBAT took over this center. Seventy-six students are studying there at present and 404 students have finished reading the Quran from this center.

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### **Chittagong tutoring center is going strong!**

The Chittagong tutoring Center has been very successful in improving the quality of education received by students. Initially, it was found that the camp students' results were very poor. At present, 161 students from grade six to ten are receiving coaching from this center and gradually their results are improving. Most of the students were from commerce or humanities group, but now a good number of students belong to the science group. OBAT is running seven tutoring centers presently at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rangpur, Syedpur and Mymensingh. In all, 646 students are receiving educational support from those centers.



Students at the Chittagong tutoring center

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### **See us in New York on July 24th!**

Join us on July 24th, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. for an OBAT awareness program at the Haveli Restaurant (11633 Queens Blvd, Forest Hills, NY 11375).

Please R.S.V.P. by July 15th to:

Rosaline Gibbons at 212-747-1997 ext. 519 or at [Rgibbons@haks.net](mailto:Rgibbons@haks.net).

We will be grateful if you can share this information with your friends in NY.

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## Join OBAT's President on his annual trip to Bangladesh.

Mr. Anwar Khan, OBAT's founder and president visits the camps every year in December to tour, monitor and evaluate projects as well as to train the staff. Several supporters from the US join him for an inspiring and informative experience. This year, he will be in Bangladesh from December 12th 2016 to January 6th 2017. Reach us at [contact@obathelpers.org](mailto:contact@obathelpers.org) if you can join him during this time. We will assist with coordinating the visit.



Mr. Khan with OBAT's school kids

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