

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



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

**December 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](#)

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### **2016: A Year of Growth!**

The end of 2016 marks twelve years that OBAT has been consistently working for the camp residents! So much good has happened in these last twelve years - it would be hard to count our blessings in this small space. For now, let's focus on what you helped us achieve in 2016:



A student at OBAT's School

- a. Two new tutoring centers were started in the cities of Mirpur and Chandpur with 36 students enrolled.
- b. Fifty students are studying at a new preschool in Mirpur.
- c. Water pump installations in Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensing and Halishaher are providing clean water to over 4,000 people
- d. An Education for Working Children Program has been established in Mirpur with an enrollment of fifty students.
- e. A Safe Maternity program was launched in Syedpur to provide pre and post natal services to the women.
- f. In Rangpur, a dental health program was established to provide dental

treatment to people till this year's end.

g. A new school building is being constructed in SB Nagar and a deep motorized water pump has also been installed on the school compound.

h. A ladies bathroom and a shallow motorized tubewell have been recently completed in Haliha.

i. This year qurbani was extended to the city of Chandpur (where one hundred people received meat). Cataract surgeries of eighty-seven people were also performed there.

j. In Ishwardy, a bathroom, was constructed benefiting 125 people.

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING ALL THIS POSSIBLE!**

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### **Need a (tax) break in 2017?**

We know that your charitable giving is driven by a genuine desire to do good, but getting a tax break from your altruism serves as an added perk. If you need a tax break for next year's tax filing, consider donating to OBAT *before the end of 2016*. Any donations before December 31st can serve as deductions in next year's tax filings. Gain by giving more!

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### **Help OBAT through Facebook**

Facebook's appeal can extend beyond posting selfies and tempting photos of meals. Now you can use the social media site to raise funds for charities as well! Imagine the ginormous impact if all of our donors created a fundraiser for OBAT on their personal Facebook pages and invited their Facebook family to participate!

We promise, it will take not more than five minutes of your time. [Check it out!](#)

*Let's make a difference in the lives of many more camp residents!*

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### **Florida welcomes OBAT!**

It was a privilege and honor for OBAT Helpers and TCF to be introduced in a prestigious event organized by family and friends of Dr.

Iqbal Zafar Hamid, celebrating his success as the new APPNA (Assoc. of Pakistani Physicians of North America) President-Elect



in South Florida. We are very thankful to Dr. Zafar and his spouse Dr. Sheeba, for this invitation and to Najia Khawer for introducing OBAT to the audience. We are grateful to our long-time and new supporters in APPNA and look forward to empowering the forgotten together, with this great group.

L to R: Abdullah Jafri,  
Iqbal Hamid & Anwar  
Khan

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## Digital Media enters Rangpur School

A new LED screen now adorns one of the walls of the Rangpur School. It is a part of a digital media pilot program that will eventually be launched at other educational programs as well. The government of Bangladesh has converted some text books into a digital format. The teachers of grades one and two have participated in training focused on teaching through digital media class. So far, the program has been successful as it has also invited more enthusiasm from the students.



Students watch a lecture

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## Rangpur clinic has eyes on diabetes!

OBAT Health Clinic Rangpur observed the World Diabetes Day. Its slogan was "Eyes on Diabetes." The clinic organized free check up camp for diabetes, an awareness rally and a discussion program. The program was attended by the first future doctor from the camps, Abul Kashem. In Bangladesh, 7.1 million people are living with diabetes.



Abul Kashem, OBAT's scholarship student and future doctor checks the blood sugar of a patient

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## Three hundred and eight students graduate!

PEC (Primary Education Certificate), a public exam (it is essential to be taken by elementary school students to continue their education) was held all over Bangladesh from November 20th. More than three millions students took the exam from throughout the country. This year, a total of 308 students from OBAT's educational projects including schools and tutoring centers took the exam. OBAT held farewell/graduation parties for students graduating from its primary schools.



A PEC student from Halishaher School at her graduation party.

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## Lions Club Partners with Ferozeshah School

In mid November, Lions Club International organized some projects at OBAT's Ferozeshah School. These projects included, an eye exam, an art competition, donation of waste baskets to each class, distribution of school supplies to PSC exam students and plantation of trees in the school compound.



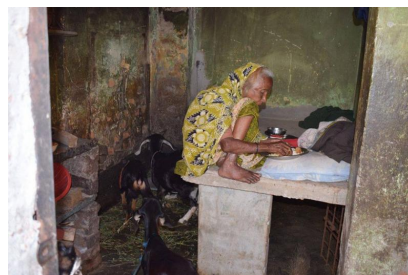
Student undergoing an eye exam

During the eye exams, two hundred and thirty four students underwent vision screening. Ten of these students were referred to Lion Hospital for further treatment. The art competition was an exciting affair for the students as the budding artists among them received prizes for their impressive work. Several officials from Lions Club attended this program and were excited to see the students' physical training program. They visited the class rooms and ensured OBAT staff that they will continue to conduct such programs. So far, they have done so in all three of OBAT's schools in Chittagong. We are extremely grateful to Lion's Club for their support.

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## Untold Stories: Amna Khatun

Amna Khatun is over seventy years old and is a resident of Bansbari in Syedpur camp. She lives in a 8 x 8 ft. room that she shares with three goats. Amna Khatun is raising goats so she can sell them as qurbani animals for Eid-ul-Adha in order to make a profit and use it for her day to day expenses.



Amna Khatun

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## Want to travel with us?

Plan to 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. If you would like to join him during this time, reach out to us at [contact@obathelpers.org](mailto:contact@obathelpers.org) and let's start planning!



Mr. Khan with OBAT's school kids

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*Inspired? Click here to **DONATE** to our projects*

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