



ASPIRE

A quarterly publication of OBAT Helpers Inc.

April 2013

Shujaat Wasty

OBAT Board of Advisor

Trade Commissioner, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

Dear friends,

I have visited the camps in Bangladesh a few times over the past five years, including my most recent trip this past February.

On each of these trips, I have consistently come upon two striking conclusions: (i) I can never get used to seeing the miserable social and living conditions of the camp inhabitants or fathom living in it for even a few minutes, much less forty-two years and counting; and (ii) over time, the tangible transformation and difference that I have witnessed OBAT Helpers making in the lives of inhabitants. [Read More.](#)

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"For as long as there is a dream, there is hope." Thank you for making a mother's dream come true.



Irfan Khan and

Irfan Khan was born in one of the dilapidated huts in Geneva camp, Dhaka. Currently in his twenties, Irfan is the youngest among his two siblings. His father passed away when he was only three years old and as a result, his mother, Nasrin Begum, raised her three

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Spreading Warmth in Winter



Elderly woman accepts blanket

The OBAT family assistance program distributed winter blankets to needy families in the camps. This project was done in partnership with the new youth organization named *United Brothers Sports and Marketing* from Mohammadpur, Dhaka. One hundred blankets were distributed in Geneva camp, Market camp, Commit Center camp, and CRO camp; all located in Mohammadpur.

The Results are In!

Nasreen Begum children alone. Nasrin Begum was illiterate and her life never came without challenges; she had to work extremely hard for her survival and that of her children. She began making paper bags and sold them for a small income. When Irfan reached school age, she got him admitted in an elementary school in Geneva camp. Always enthusiastic about studying, Irfan later got the chance to attend a Government school in grade five. He passed his Middle School Exam with good grades. In spite of all her hardship, Irfan's brave mother continued her support as Irfan gained admission into college. [Read More](#)



The PSC (Primary School Certificate) exam results for 2012 were announced recently. 2.6 million grade 5 students from all over the country take the exam to graduate into middle school. 137 students from OBAT's four primary/elementary schools took this exam, and we are very pleased to announce that 60% of these students received an A or B grade.

The SSC (Secondary School Certificate exam that students graduating from high school, need to take) exam was also held in February. 93 students from OBAT's tutorial centers and scholarship program took the exam and are currently awaiting results.

Blessed by more visitors



Shujaat Wasty and Hanna Adcock at OBAT's sewing center

In February of 2013, Mr. Azher Khan, one of OBAT's advisors and a prominent personality in Indianapolis, visited the Dhaka English School accompanied by his friend, Mr. Rezwan. The gentlemen met with the parents of the schools' students. They also met with the students who received scholarships from OBAT and completed their BBA degree, as well as those who are on their way to this accomplishment. Mr. Khan extended valuable advice regarding job opportunities to the recent graduates and also promised to help them with their efforts to find employment. The OBAT staff are very thankful to them for their visit and for their suggestions and ideas for improving OBAT's operations.

Joanna Casey, who is a Human Rights Photographer and lives in London, United Kingdom also visited the camps in Dhaka after learning about the plight of the people through her friend. She visited the Geneva camp, the tubewell location and the OBAT Computer training center, towards the end of January.

OBAT's advisor and the key force behind OBAT's cataract program, Mr. Shujaat Wasty also visited the camps with Hanna Adcoc. Hanna is a photo journalist with experience in documentary films as well. Currently, she is associated with the Zuma Press. Hanna reached out to Shujaat after she read about the camp conditions and expressed a desire to visit them.

Thank you for each one of our visitors, whose insight and support continue to inspire OBAT Helpers.

Mark your Calenders and Don't Forget to Join Us!

To Catch a Dollar- Mohammad Yunus Banks on America.

To raise awareness for micro-finance as a means to end poverty, we are hosting a screening of the documentary movie, "To Catch a Dollar." This documentary by Gayle Ferraro follows Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Yunus as he brings his revolutionary microfinance program to the U.S. It also tells the compelling stories of women who were the first borrowers, how they became successful and what were the challenges they faced.

This event is being held in partnership with RESULTS ("A nonprofit, grassroots citizen's lobby working to create the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty.")

You are welcomed to join us for some light refreshments and an

Scholars in the Making



On their way to Northern University

Nine students who received scholarships from OBAT received admission to the BBA program at Northern University in Dhaka. One student admitted in the LLB program is the only female student from the camps who is studying for a law degree!

enlightening documentary on **April 22nd, 2013** from **5:30 - 7:30 pm** at the **Indiana Interchurch Center's Krannert Hall** (1100 W. 42nd. st., Indianapolis 46280).

Bringing Back from Oblivion- A Visual Sojourn Into the Lives of the Forgotten:

Join us at the **Harrison Arts Center** (1505 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis, 46202 to witness extraordinary photography by Human Rights photo journalist, Katie Basbagill. Experience the lives of the forgotten camp people through her captivating and soul piercing photos captured during her visit to the camps in December 2012. Enjoy coffee and h'orderves and hear her talk about her experience from **5:00 - 7:00 pm** on **June 1st, 2013**.

About us

OBAT Helpers is a US based non-profit, 501(C)3 organization committed to providing aid, support, education and economical empowerment to the suffering and displaced people. Our immediate focus is the most forgotten and ignored Urdu speaking people, commonly known as stranded Pakistanis/Biharis, who have been suffering silently in the many shanty camps across Bangladesh for the past 40 years.

Please help us by passing on this message to others who can also join us on this journey.

We hope that you will continue your generous support to provide help to these unfortunate and forgotten people. We are the only hope for them, as they don't have any help and support from anywhere else around the world. Together we are making a difference in their lives as we help them fulfill their hopes and dreams.

Thank you for sponsoring our educational projects. Currently our needs encompass the following areas:

Health Clinic Rangpur: \$14,500/yr
Health Clinic Syedpur: \$23,600/yr
Computer Training Center Rangpur: \$3,500/yr
Computer Training Center Dhaka: \$3,500/yr
Cataract surgery: \$15,000 (Total 1000 cataract patients will be served. Total cost \$35000 @ \$35/person- \$20,000 donated by HCI Canada)
Economic Empowerment: \$250-\$900/project
Family Assistance program: \$300-\$600/yr
Educational scholarship: \$200-\$500/yr
Clean water infrastructure: \$6000 motorized deep tube well
Non-Formal Schools for working children: \$13,100/yr for 10 Schools
Community latrines and Drainage system \$10300

We value and appreciate your support tremendously. For questions and concerns, please email us at contact@obathelpers.org

Northern University is a private university and waives 50% of the fee for students sponsored by OBAT.

Learning to Teach Better, Teach Smarter

Twenty-five teachers from OBAT's Hali Shaher, Ferozeshah and SB Nagar Schools attended a workshop in February, regarding useful information of newly issued English textbooks. These books were recently implemented by the Board of Education and are geared towards 5th grade. Since each lesson of the book is different and warrants a distinct teaching approach, every lesson was discussed individually through a participatory approach. All teachers were involved and were asked to demonstrate the usage of the teaching method either individually or by working in groups. Similar workshops will also be organized for Khulna and Rangpur Schools in the near future. The teachers gave positive feedback and said that the workshop benefited them greatly to improve their teaching methods.

Please send and make your donations payable to:

OBAT Helpers Inc.
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Ste. 125 A, Indianapolis,
IN 46208.
Visit
www.obathelpers.org for more details.

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