

## ASPIRE

A Quarterly OBAT Helpers Publication

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**New OBAT Information Technology  
Center!**

### OBAT Receives 2015 Top Rated Non-Profit Award!



We have been honored with one of the first Top-Rated Awards of 2015 from GreatNonprofits! Marking the second year in a row that we have earned this award, we appreciate all of your reviews!

[Read our reviews here and add your own.](#)

### Thanks for the Incredible Ramadan Contributions



Towards the end of each Ramadan, OBAT distributes food among the camp residents so that they can celebrate Eid joyfully as well. This year, food items were distributed to 1,709 families in the following cities: Halishaher, Ferozeshah, Rangpur and Khulna. The items included: 5 kg rice, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg polaw rice, 2 kg flour, 1 liter soybean cooking oil and 200 g semolina. Thank you for spreading this joy among the camp residents.

**Qurbani Program Feeds Thousands**



A new OBAT IT center at Mirpur was inaugurated on September 12th by Mr. Husam Ahmad, CEO of Ahmad Foundation New York USA and his friend Mr. Quaizer Hashmi. The objective of the center is to improve the IT expertise of camps' youths. Being well versed with computers will greatly improve their prospects for finding a job in the growing IT sector. Mirpur is a very densely populated area with more than fifty thousand Urdu speakers living in about thirty-nine camps. OBAT already has four pre-existing computer training centers operating in the cities of Dhaka, Rangpur, Syedpur and Khulna.



## Nine New Preschools in Syedpur!



Meat distribution in Syedpur

More than ten thousand families received meat from your Udhiya /Qurbani contributions. Meat was distributed in the following cities: Chittagong, Khulna, Rangpur, Syedpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Gaibandha and Narayan Ganj. Seventy-one cows and one hundred and sixty one goats were slaughtered on Eid-ul-Adha. Thank you for your compassionate contributions!

## Anwar Khan Makes Appearance on Voice of America

Voice of America invited OBAT President, Anwar Khan, to take part on their weekly interview show, Cafe DC hosted by Faiz Rehman. Watch the insightful interview [here](#).



Anwar Khan on Voice of America's Cafe DC

## Team OBAT is Growing!



left: Dr. John Clark; right: Immad Ahmed

Dr. John Clark who has been serving on OBAT's advisory board since 2007 has now joined OBAT as its new Executive Director. OBAT will benefit greatly from his leadership and expertise.

[More about John here.](#)

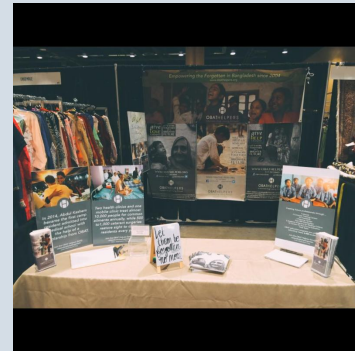
Mr. Immad Ahmed who has served as a board member



for the past year has now joined us as a Chief Operating Officer. [More about Immad here.](#)

We are thankful that OBAT has such great leadership with John and Immad being another wonderful addition to our team. Stay tuned for further updates!

### "Conventionally," speaking....



OBAT's booth at APPNA 2015

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and shared their thoughts with us at the recent APPNA and ISNA conventions. We welcome such opportunities to meet new friends. Email and let us know how if you recommend OBAT getting involved in an upcoming event!

### Training for Rangpur Teachers



A training program was held on 14th August 2015 for the teachers of the Rangpur School. This training was conducted by the Govt. ATEO (Assistant Thana Education Officer), Md Abdul Basar Mahmudunnabi. Some of the topics covered under the training included How to behave with the students and How to address mathematical, grammatical problems. Mr. Md Abdul Basar Mahmudunnabi was pleased with the participation of the teachers and he showed an interest in providing more training for OBAT's teachers.

### OBAT Joins Global Giving U.K.



Nine new OBAT preschools have been established in Syedpur. Another 195 little children will be able to receive the preschool instruction essential for getting them into an elementary school.

Our Project Officer, Mr. Sohail Khan has been out and about, going around the country and visiting various educational projects of OBAT. The city of Syedpur was one of the stops he made during his trek through the country. On the 11th of August, Mr. Sohail Khan organized an entire day of training for the Syedpur Preschool teachers. Some of the topics covered under the training included, child psychology and teaching and letter writing methods. With the twenty-five preschools of OBAT already in operation, the total number of our preschools is now thirty-four! Here's to achieving higher education goals!



### University Coaching Now Offered at Dhaka Tutoring Center





Getting admission in the renowned universities of Bangladesh, such as the University of Dhaka, is extremely tough. Students face much harsher competition in the university admission tests. OBAT is committed to providing all types of assistance to the students in order to successfully build access to a better future. OBAT's Dhaka tutoring center has arranged University admission test coaching for its scholarship students as well as those who attend the tutoring center there. This year, twenty students also took the (HSC) or Higher Secondary School Exam after being prepared by the Dhaka tutoring center.

## OBAT's Paralegal Program Flourishes



OBAT initiated a Paralegal program at Rangpur camp in October 2014. The appointed Paralegal organized seven meetings which were attended by 200 women from Rangpur camps. Paralegals create awareness amongst the camp residents about the importance of birth certificates, death certificates, national ID card, passport issuance and trade licenses. Sixty people received birth certificates and five people received an ID card with the assistance of our paralegal. We are thankful to COM for providing training to our Paralegal.

The seventh meeting of this project was held on 11th June, 2015 at camp no. 3 inside the Tamir-e-Millat primary school. More than 100 camp women of all ages attended as the paralegal brought to their attention that anyone who did not possess the



OBAT's project manager, Mr. Sohail Khan with young preschoolers

Did you know that through "Gift Aid," the UK government matches donations made by British citizens by 25%?

If you are a British citizen, you can now not only donate to OBAT's preschools directly as OBAT is now listed on Global Giving UK too, but also have your donation matched by 25%.

Click here to magnify the impact of your contribution: <http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/donate/8225/obat-helpers-inc/>

Read our latest Global Giving report, "Spreading the light with new preschools," [here](#).

## Time to Join the Upcoming #OBATAnnualTrip!



OBAT wants to invite each one of you to join us in the upcoming annual inspiring trip to visit the camps in Bangladesh. If you are looking to spend a few meaningful days learning the culture and enjoying the hospitality of a new country, then make Bangladesh a part of your travel plans this December. Mr. Anwar Khan will be spending time with the OBAT family from December 15th 2015 to January 9th 2016. Join him for as many days as you can for an enriching, soul-stirring experience. In the past, we have been joined by a diverse array of passionate professionals and students of all ages and backgrounds. Reach us via email if you are interested in making this journey!

## Visitors Light up Lives in the Camps



necessary certificates could contact the OBAT paralegal center to receive assistance with the issuance of these certificates. The women who attended, also inquired about adult education, income generating programs and all types of legal issues.

## New Washroom Built in Rangpur



In Alam Nagar Colony, Rangpur, six restroom chambers were constructed by OBAT- three for men and women each. About fifty families or 250 people will be using this facility. Access to simple sanitation facilities like these is severely restricted for the camp residents and one bathroom, at times, tends to be used by close to 100 or more people.

## Euglena's Nutrition Program for OBAT's Students



Euglena's nutrition program for OBAT's students

The Japanese company, Euglena has now initiated its nutritional biscuits distribution in OBAT's BLS school as well as Mirpur



Mr. Husam Ahmed with scholarship students. In front are the computers gifted by him to the students.

Visitors from all over have been keeping exciting things happening at OBAT. In September, OBAT's long time supporter, Mr. Tanvir Alam visited from Canada. He visited the Working Children School, preschool and the market camp.

Indiana University, SPEA (School of Public and Environmental Affairs) student, Mahbubur Rahman Masum not only visited several projects but also returned to the US with extensive video footage and photographs of the camp residents. We are very grateful to him as he enlisted the help of his professional photographer and videographer friends to make this possible. Masum has graciously donated these pictures and videos to OBAT.

Mr. Husam Ahmed from New York visited the OBAT English School, NLJ High School and also met the scholarship students.

There were forty scholarship students present at the meeting at the Westin Hotel. When Mr. Husam Ahmad learned from the students that their studies were being hampered due to lack of access to computers, he generously gifted a computer to each of the forty students who were present at the meeting.

Mr. Husam's friend, Mr. Qaiser Hashmi who was accompanying him, donated twenty pairs of benches for OBAT's BLS school.

Dr. Shahid Ahmed, founder of [dopeace.org](http://dopeace.org) also visited from the U.S. Upholding the mission of his organization, Dr. Ahmed has also developed some preschools for OBAT and is a constant source of support to the organization. Our heartfelt gratitude to each of these visitors for lightning up the lives of the camp residents.

### Upcoming event:

A Report from Bangladesh: Vulnerability and Empowerment in the 21st Century



Masum, with Dhaka English School

preschool students. The company has already been distributing the biscuits at OBAT's NLJ School since April 2015. Euglena has also carried out a nutrition survey (height and weight measurements) of OBAT English School's students and will begin a biscuit distribution program there from April 2016. Euglena plans to address nutritional deficiencies arising from malnutrition through its nutritional biscuits program. This program is aimed at solving the nutritional crises of disadvantaged children.

## About OBAT

OBAT Helpers is a U.S. based non-profit, 501(c)3 organization committed to providing aid, support, education and economical empowerment to suffering and displaced people. Our immediate focus is the forgotten and ignored Urdu speaking community, commonly known as stranded Pakistanis/Biharis, who have been suffering silently in the many shanty camps across Bangladesh for the past 43 years. OBAT was formed ten years ago to empower the camp residents through its various projects related to health, education and micro finance.

We hope that you will continue your generous support and create hope for these unfortunate and forgotten people. Together, we are making a difference in their lives as we help them fulfill their hopes and dreams.

*Please share this message with your friends and families and invite them to join us on this journey!*

We value and appreciate your support tremendously. For questions and concerns, please email us at [contact@obathelpers.org](mailto:contact@obathelpers.org)

**Spread the word  
&  
*Donate!***

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students.

SPEA student and Bangladeshi native Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Masum spent several weeks this summer documenting and evaluating OBAT's programs in the camps. See images and watch video interviews of his research into:

- \* Micro-loan programs supporting new businesses for women
- \* Schools and tutoring centers
- \* OBAT Think Tank, a remarkable youth-driven leadership initiative
- \* Vocational training programs

Event details: Oct 7th; 7:00-8:30 PM,  
Krannert room of the Indiana Interchurch Center.

Please [RSVP!](#)

## A Greener Future with... Coconut Trees!



Gilatala land was acquired for refugees (Indian Migrants) in 1962. Some refugees were rehabilitated there. At present, it's called, "stranded people camp" as the land was handed over to the camp residents. Last year, OBAT initiated a fish farming project in Gilatala. Recently, the visiting OBAT team planted twenty coconut trees near a pond. This project is a green initiative as well as a future source of income for the camp residents who assisted the OBAT team with the planting of the trees. They have also been entrusted with the care of these trees in the future.

## Can you be our matchmaker?

Do you work for any of these great companies?  
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The above companies are all top matching gifts companies (not a complete list). You can double your donation to us when your employers match your donation. Check with your employer if they have a

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matching gift program and double your impact!

### Shop at Amazon

OBAT is a part of Amazon Smile. You can combine shopping and giving when you shop at Amazon. Amazon will make a donation to OBAT Helpers if you designate it as the charity of your choice.  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0946122>

### How can YOU Help?

[Buy our book, "Forgotten," to support our projects](#)

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