

ASPIRE

A Quarterly Publication of OBAT Helpers

Expressions of the Secretary

The Benefits of Working as an OBAT Helper

Dear Friends,

OBAT Helpers provides opportunity; the opportunity to work with compassionate people, to make a monumental difference for families, and an opportunity to share personal gifts for the greater good. It seems every day we hear more and more discouraging news about a struggling economy, personal indiscretions, political infighting, international strife, and unbelievable natural disasters.

OBAT Helpers is the good news. The mission of OBAT provides us with an opportunity to build hope in this challenging environment. OBAT also offer us an incredible opportunity to work together across ethnic, religious and nationalistic barriers to build trust and understanding.

I was fortunate to be asked to join the OBAT Board of Directors several months ago by founder and president Anwar Khan. Anwar, his wife Afshan, and their three daughters are a source of inspiration through the dedication they exhibit to the mission of OBAT Helpers. Staff members Rania Hattab and Saima Hassan continue to make solid progress in moving the organization forward as they implement innovative ideas to further the goals of the organization by seeking new sponsors and developing strategic partnerships with like minded organizations working in Bangladesh.

As a Board member I look forward to the work ahead. I look forward to working with the rest of the Board and staff to continue building and expanding the community that supports OBAT Helpers so that we can more effectively provide assistance to the Bihari people and empower them to rise above the challenging circumstances they face every day. The work is humbling and it helps me to appreciate the many things I sometimes take for granted. Working together as OBAT Helpers we will accomplish a lot, for ourselves and for the people we serve.

Kind Regards,

Charlie Wiles

(Secretary OBAT Helpers Inc.)



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OBAT's tutoring center students shine!

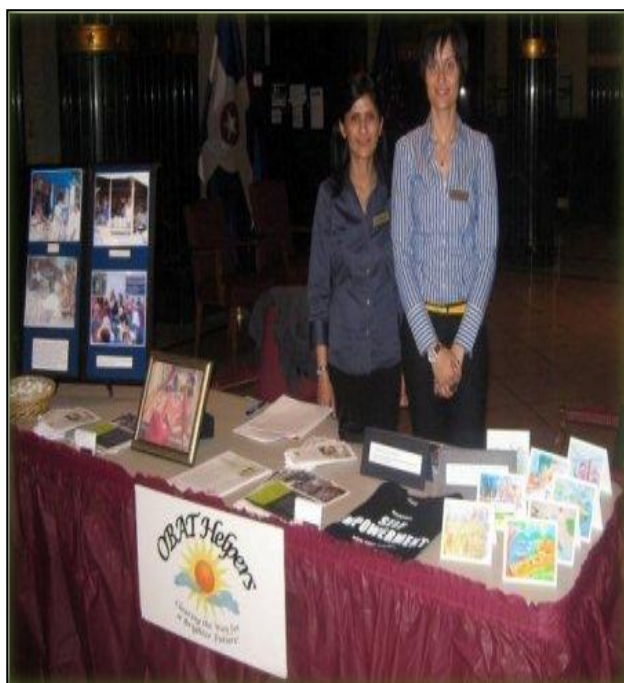
The results are out! We are so proud to announce that students studying at our tutoring centers at Dhaka and Mymensingh passed their SSC exams (equivalent to high school in the US) with flying colors. Twelve students from the Dhaka tutoring center and ten students of OBAT tutoring center in Mymensingh were eligible to take the SSC exams this year. Sixty % of these students scored an A as their final grade. Way to go, young scholars!

THRIVING ENTREPRENEURS!



This time the stars are the women enrolled in our microfinance program in Syedpur. These enterprising and industrious ladies were the recipients of the Crest Award for best performance in the microfinance program. The awards were given in a ceremony hosted by ISDCM, OBAT's partner in Bangladesh; the chief guest was the Mayor of Syedpur. The Mayor hailed OBAT's microfinance program as excellent and distinct from other organizations as it is specifically targeted to the destitute camp population. The criteria for borrowers for achieving excellence in the program was related to timely payment of loan; regular attendance of training meetings; continuous and regular savings; proficient use of loan in business; organizational discipline; and sound performance.

OBAT at MICROFINANCE BAZAAR



Students from the Indiana University's SPEA program organized a Microfinance Bazaar and a panel discussion at the Indiana War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis on May 4th. Among the participants were, OBAT Helpers, The Village Experience; Trockman Microfinance Initiative and CMF International. All of these organizations are valuable players in the microfinance arena. The first part of the event was the bazaar during which all the organizations exhibited informational material and displays related to their microfinance initiatives. During that time, attendees visited the tables of each organization, observed their displays and exchanged information with their representatives about their operations.

The panel discussion was held in the beautiful Pershing Auditorium. In the group discussion, participants fielded questions about each initiative's unique scope of work; their mode of operation; their challenges and impact; use of social media in their operations; cultural impact etcetera. The floor was then open to questions from the audience. All in all, it was a well-organized effort on the part of the IUPUI students and served to highlight the role that microfinance is playing worldwide in the financial betterment and empowerment of impoverished societies.



The Promise of Preschools

OBAT is now giving the younger population of the camps a chance to attend school like all other children their age. Instead of spending their day playing marbles close to perilous, open sewers, these little ones will now actually get to hold books in their hands. During the two hour preschool program, students are being instructed in math, science, religion, art, health, english and have story time as well.

Twenty preschool centers have been opened in the following cities: Eight in Chittagong; six centers at Rangpur and six in Khulna. In collaboration with Humanity in Distress (HID), a local nonprofit, a teachers training program was organized for the opening of the preschools. Total enrollment for the preschools is as follows:

Khulna: A total of eight-two boys and fifty-three girls are registered at this school.

Sardar Bahadur Nagar: One hundred and sixty-eight tiny tots are enrolled in the seven preschool programs in Sardar Bahadur Nagar.

Rangpur: The six preschool programs at Rangpur have one hundred and twenty-two students registered in them altogether.

Although these children sit on mats on the floor to study, they are happy to learn from the books that have been specially printed for them by OBAT. The preschools are a promise that could not be fulfilled for them by their impoverished parents or by the lackadaisical Government. Through these schools, OBAT is not only teaching the children basic hygiene and discipline; it is also laying the groundwork for making them champions of their own futures.

OBAT's Community Outreach Program

Recently, OBAT volunteers helped the Miracle Place on East side of Indianapolis with clean-up and planting their garden. Miracle Place is a nonprofit that offers educational opportunities and cultural experiences for all ages. They are currently in need for after-school tutors and also looking to get regular volunteers to help with their projects.

With the start of a new season, OBAT Helpers is seeking to establish a new Community Outreach Program that brings together a group of volunteers that are willing to donate their time and resources to improve the well-being of our local community.

Purpose: To create a team of OBAT Helpers volunteers that will help OBAT make our community a better place one step at a time. To help our community members and families in the time of need by supporting local organizations with that same goal.

Want to be a volunteer for the OBAT Helpers' C.O.P. program. Email us at contact@obathelpers.org

Words to live by...

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Buzz from Bangladesh



There are approximately a quarter million of these in the bustling city of Dhaka. They are brightly colored and embellished with paintings which vary from the face of a famous actress to those of birds and flowers. They sport outrageous one-liners, from cheesy, outlandish poetry to statements bashing local politicians. This is the rickshaw, a three-wheeled, human powered, bicycle/vehicle- the most popular mode of transport in Bangladesh. The word, "Rickshaw" is derived from a Japanese word, Jinrikisha (Jin=human; Riki= power; and Sha=vehicle); and these three-wheelers are a picturesque addition to the landscape of Bangladesh.

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"Clearing the Way for a Brighter Future"

Find us on the Web:
www.obathelpers.org

OBAT Helpers is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.



Please reach out

Together, we are making a difference in their lives by helping them fulfill their hopes and dreams and to enable them to live with pride and dignity. We need your help to continue these projects. Please help us by passing on this message to others who can join us in these efforts. To continue our educational projects and clinics, we need to raise almost \$71,000 before July 2011. The projects details are:

Project	Total project cost in \$
5 schools in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna \$5000 each	25,000
2 clinics, Rangpur (\$10,000) and Syedpur (\$25,000)	35,000
10 preschool centers (\$1100 each)	11,000

Please be a part of OBAT's humanitarian mission by:

- Sponsoring our events
- Contributing your time
- Donating to this worthy cause
- Letting people know about OBAT's work