



ASPIRE

OBAT Helpers' Quarterly Newsletter

January 2013

Greetings!

Initially, when I was asked to write this introduction to OBAT Helpers' newsletter, I was nervous. What should I say? What can I express that has not been said before? So I pondered a few days and realized the obvious. As a unique individual, I have a unique perspective on what it means to be a part of OBAT Helpers' work; to elevate, empower and encourage stateless and displaced people.

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Special Guests Visit Camps

This year, Mr. Anwar Khan was fortunate to be accompanied by several guests during his yearly December visit to the camps. Joining him were Mr. and Mrs. Husam and Uzma Ahmed and their daughters Amal and Nabira from New York, Katie Basbagill from Indianapolis, Zachary Rockwood from California, Ehtesham Arshad from Chicago and Arishaa Khan from Indianapolis.

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Eid Blessings brought to Thousands



The OBAT Qurbani program for Eid-ul-Adha 2012 was carried out in six cities which included Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rangpur, Syedpur and Bogra. Fifty-seven cows and two hundred and eight goats were sacrificed and approximately 43,000 people received the Qurbani meat. Thank you for all of your contributions and for bringing the joy of this holiday to so many deserving people.

Fire Ravages Rangpur Camp



The recent fire at the Rangpur camp has rendered thousands of people homeless, bringing destruction to nearly 300 homes. More than 50 people have been hospitalized and others are in dire need of immediate assistance with shelter, blankets and other essential items in order to survive.

We are immensely grateful to our staff at the OBAT Rangpur School for donating one day's worth of their salaries to the fire victims at the Isphahani camp in Rangpur. The government of Bangladesh has also extended their help.



L to R - Back row: Arishaa Khan, Amal Ahmad, Nabira Ahmad, Uzma Ahmad, Husam Ahmad, Anwar Khan.
Front row: OBAT Students presenting award to Ahmad family.

[Read More](#)

NOVEMBER- A TIME FOR GIVING?



That's right. When you think of November, you think of getting deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday but not as a time for giving.

November 13th, 2012 was celebrated as The National Philanthropy Day nationwide as a tribute to the spirit of philanthropy. OBAT participated in the celebration with full force.

Throughout the month we paid tribute to all our great staff in Bangladesh; our stellar students whose determination to succeed in the face of dire difficulties inspires us to do more and all our valuable partners and volunteers whose support we count on and value at every turn. [Read More.](#)

The Philanthropic Way to Shop



Voucherry Do you like to shop and get great deals? How about shopping, getting great deals and releasing your inner philanthropist, all at the same time? If the idea appeals to you, Voucherry.com is where you need to be. Spending will actually feel good here as not only will you find amazing promotions, you also earn rewards that you can cash out, buy more promotions with or donate to your favorite cause. Of course, we hope your cause is OBAT!

Also, a significant portion of all purchases go to the cause you choose. The site will ask you to register- just use the following Invite ID: contact5

Happy cherry collecting!

United Nations Conference

Unlike us, these unfortunate people do not have a roof over their heads right now, they are surviving in open air, exposed to the elements. Their already struggling lives have been further destroyed.

OBAT Helpers will continue to provide help and support to the fire victims and provide financial support for the reconstruction of the destroyed huts. We hope you, as part of the OBAT Family will help alleviate their suffering.

If you would like to extend help to the fire victims, please donate at:

[Donate online](#)

Please include the reason for the donation in the comments section.

Helping Hands!

- OBAT's friends of Fort Wayne chapter has generously adopted one non-formal education center in Syedpur as well as a tuition center in Dhaka. Thank you for your immense kindness!
- OBAT received a \$5,000 grant from Power of One, to build a tubewell in Geneva camp, Dhaka. The construction of the tubewell will begin in January 2013. Our deepest gratitude!

Our Spirit and Place festival blog: "Just Play-with or without"



As part of the Spirit and Place festival, we submitted a blog centered around the theme, "play." Check it out!

Here's the link to our entry:
<http://spiritandplace.wordpress.com/2012/11/20/just-play-with-or-without/>

Training our Teachers



To reinforce and reinvigorate the learning methodology, a teachers training program was organized in August to introduce new teaching methods to the staff at the preschools. The training was conducted by Rokeya and Halima Sultana (senior teachers) and Sohail Khan (The Program Director for



On November 16th, 2012, at a forum titled "Linking Muslim Giving to the MDG's," several Muslim philanthropists and international development experts came together at the United Nations

headquarters. End poverty and hunger; Universal education; Gender equality; child health; Maternal health; Combat HIV/AIDS; Environmental sustainability and global partnership-" these are the eight MDG's or millennium development goals that the United Nations has developed with the aim to address these areas by 2015. [Read more](#)

About Us

OBAT Helpers is a US 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 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. OBAT represents hope for them and it is their only source of support. Together we are making a difference in their lives as we help them fulfill their hopes and dreams.

Please send and make your donations payable to:

OBAT Helpers Inc.
1100 West 42nd St.,
Ste. 125 A, Indianapolis, IN 46208.
Visit www.OBATHelpers.org for more details.

Donate online

Current Needs

- **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: \$20,000 (for 500 patients @ \$40/person)**
- **Economic Empowerment: \$250-\$900/project**
- **Family Assistance program: \$300-\$600/yr**
- **Educational scholarship: \$200-\$500/yr**
- **Clean water infrastructure: \$6000**
- **Non-Formal Schools: \$13,100/yr/10 Schools**

OBAT). Teachers were trained in new techniques to teach Math, English, Health and Arts and Crafts.

In early December, another training for English School teachers was organized. The training facilitator was Mr. Tanvir Ahmed who has completed his Masters in Education and Research from Dhaka University. Tanvir's graduate studies were financed by OBAT.

