

GIVELIGHT NEWSLETTER

GiveLight in Haiti



After the magnitude 7.0 earthquake leveled the nation of Haiti on January 12, **GiveLight Foundation** immediately acted on its mission to aid orphans devastated by the calamity. GiveLight activated its 100% volunteer base to mobilize the bay area Muslim community as well as all GiveLight supporters, to join in the immediate relief effort collecting over **\$10,000**. These funds were directed towards the immediate sponsorship of **50** orphaned children via the U.S. Fund for **UNICEF** and **Zakat Foundation**, to facilitate their health, nutrition, shelter, and water-and-sanitation needs.

We're currently in the second phase of relief efforts with the launch of "**A Dollar a Day**" campaign that's aiding a continued beneficiary relationship with the U.S. Fund for **UNICEF** and **Zakat Foundation**. Volunteers and emergency personnel are in Haiti. **Zakat Foundation** cooks for and feeds more than **2,000** children a day. Generous donations are being used to bring daily supplies from neighboring Dominican Republic to the St. Claire camp in Haiti.

GiveLight is employing a plan to enter the third phase of reconstructing an orphanage in Haiti for long-term durable living conditions for orphaned children.
..... **Uzma Khan.**

Announcements

- The GL team would like to warmly welcome all the new members joining our family. Thanks to all volunteers for their passion, commitment and hard work in driving this cause forward.
- The **GL 3rd Annual Garage Sale** is set for May. We need volunteers for this event. If you would like to help, please email at sarahmehryar@gmail.com.
- GL is having its **1st Walkathon** in October. For more info, contact Ruhi Ali Khan.
- **Thousand Rays of Light**, the annual fundraiser for GL is planned for the month of August. More info coming soon.
- Project '**Global Chefs**' launching soon. For more info, email bellawella1@gmail.com.

A GL Volunteer visits Orphanage Noordeen

My temperature was at 100 degrees, throat parched and head pounding. I should've been glad to be home, but the only thought running through my mind was how much better I fared compared to the orphans I left behind 16 hours ago. The plane landed, I was back in San Francisco. The thought still lingered.

Perspective is a much needed aspect that runs amiss in our lives. Allow me to explain.

How uncomfortable do we get with our un-satiated, satiated lives?

It's so easy to complain if our hot showers don't have enough force or if the room temperature gets too warm. We remain wanting and wanting more. Living in Indonesia changed that for me. I now understand that just being able to take a hot shower is a luxury that many don't have.

*It was a hot, humid day in Medan, Indonesia - the city a 10 hour trip to my destination, the **Noordeen Orphanage** of GiveLight in Takengon. My excitement was dampened by sweat and exhaustion. Though, it quickly dissipated as I met Dwi, a local GiveLight volunteer and one of the warmest smiles I've ever seen. The bus ride to Takengon was scary to say the least, as it cut across edgy corners and steep hills.*

In Takengon the orphanage van picked us up; three of the boys had come along to help carry the luggage with as much enthusiasm as Dwi. I would later find out that those boys were only part of a larger group of children, which have forever touched my heart.

I spent 5 amazing days with these children. There are 44 boys and girls living in perfect harmony. If attitude was any indicator, one could believe that Noordeen was the Ritz of orphanages with three meals a day, a big front yard, and a beautiful mosque at the center of the orphanage. The kids had an aura on their faces that one could constantly see and vividly recall. Perhaps, it was the fact, that the orphanage was a haven compared to the surrounding area.

All the children had suffered the loss of parents and loved ones. But one could not detect a hint of regret. Each child was filled with such energy and passion that being around them made you think twice about yourself. Their lives, drive and habits despite their circumstances are a cause of hope and joy. This is a cause worthy enough.

.....**Chandni Shah.**



GiveLight's First Ladies Gala

This past December, I was honored to participate in a special ladies afternoon at the posh Four Seasons hotel in Palo Alto. The thought of spending an entire afternoon eating fabulous gourmet food and laughing and living it up with other women was delightful; but the reason that brought us together truly took that delight up one more level to that of pure Nirvana.

All the ladies came from different walks of life to share in one common passion: The GiveLight Foundation. GiveLight is a non profit entity that acts as a guardian angel to the defeated children of disaster-torn areas by creating orphanages, donating food and clothing, supporting education and thereby instilling hope. In short: giving light in the darkest hours of many lives.

The afternoon was filled with melancholy knowing our delight at a mere donation of \$100 would feed and clothe a child for several months.

We devoured our delicious four-course meal as we brainstormed of how we could give to and do more for the children. We laughed and we danced - and at the end of the afternoon, we got a goody bag filled with items well over our donation. This was the first ladies gala for the Give Light Foundation. Yet I, along with many of the new friends I made that day, are already looking forward to the next one.
.....**Ruhi Ali Khan.**