

*Here's how your support makes OBAT special!*



## **ASPIRE- Your Monthly News & Updates**

**April 2016**

*Lots of good stuff is happening at OBAT and you are behind it! Aspire is now being released monthly to keep you informed of the never-ending good news and the changes you are creating.*

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### **Maternal care services for Syedpur camps**

Special days are always marked in the camps in meaningful ways. On International Women's Day on March 8th, an MOU was signed by OBAT with Surjer Hasi (previously Smiling Sun Clinic) to provide pre and post natal maternity care services to the women in Syedpur camps. Debilitating poverty does not allow camp women to seek such services otherwise. However, with the help of this clinic, they will be able to access them for free.



a camp woman poses with her child

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### **New tube well in Khulna**

A deep tube well was installed two weeks ago at camp number three in Khalishpur, Khulna. Camp residents here faced a

critical issue of fresh drinking water. The total population of this camp consists of 147 families. About 70 families have directly benefited from this tube well.



Installation of tube well in progress

## New Sewing Center at Golahat camp

A new sewing center has been set up in Golahat, Syedpur. The camps it will cover in this area include Golahat camp no 1 and 2, Cinema Hall and Islambagh camp. At present, the center has one instructor and sixteen students. The center runs in two hour batches lasting for two hours during the day. The duration of one course is four months.



Outside view of Golahat sewing center

## Tragic fire in Khulna camps

On February 29th, a devastating fire ravaged the Khalishpur camp. Forty-three families consisting of about two hundred people lost their homes. Fifteen people were injured during this tragedy.

Essential household goods were provided to the victims by OBAT. The staff of Khulna educational projects donated one hundred Takas each to supply breakfast for the victims' families. The government and Khulna's mayor also extended some help to these unfortunate souls.



A woman stares painfully at her destroyed home

## Would you like to help us during Ramadan?

If you observe Ramadan, like most followers, you host an iftar or two. Iftars, as you know, are an opportunity

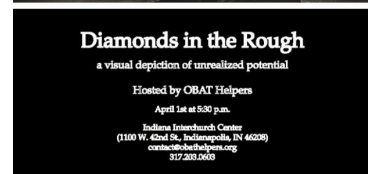


Iftar at ISNA headquarters in 2015 hosted by Indianapolis friends of OBAT

to earn reward by bringing people together to break their fast. This auspicious occasion can become more rewarding by inviting guests to participate in a good cause and showing them a way to supplement their fasting and prayers with acts of kindness. Some of our friends around the country have been hosting OBAT awareness or fundraising iftars and you can do the same in your community as well. Get in touch with us at [contact@obathelpers.org](mailto:contact@obathelpers.org) to find out how an at-home or mosque iftar can garner support for OBAT and how we can help you to organize an event. Multiply your blessings- It's as simple as sharing a meal with your friends.

## Get to know our Diamonds in the Rough

We are so proud of an incredible and first of its kind project undertaken by the students of OBAT Helpers Media Productions. Thanks to the outstanding training and mentoring provided by COO, Immad Ahmed, the students got behind the lens and were able to relate their stories through the amazing photos that you can view in this exhibit. The exhibit is opening on April 1st but will stay in the gallery through the month of April. Stop by to view the exhibit and to chat with us.



Diamonds in the Rough is a photo exhibit telling the story of marginalized youth in Bangladesh, growing up in extremely difficult circumstances, their goals are big, and their will to succeed is strong. All they need is an opportunity to realize their potential. We can help them do that. The young photographers have been given the equipment and training by OBAT Helpers to take photos that show us the world in which they live, and the dreams they hope to realize. Come see these photos in the opening of the exhibit and be inspired by their stories.

Join us for an inspirational evening if you live in the Bay Area!

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of OBAT Helpers invites you to a night of enlightenment and inspiration. Visit this link to register: <http://obatsf.eventbrite.com/>



Inspired? Click here to **DONATE** to our projects

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