

ASPIRE

OBAT Quarterly Newsletter

July 2012



Dear friends and supporters of OBAT,

Imagine a world where women do not have a place for taking a bath; where bathrooms are not a necessity, not even a luxury but a mere wish. It is hard to fathom that in a world where brand names and other luxuries are pursued by some women, we can also hear about women living without the basic need of private restrooms. To take a bath, these women collect kids to form a barrier in front of them; thus preventing anyone from coming their way while they bathe in an alley. Listening to this story left a permanent impression in my mind. It inspired me to join OBAT's board to help in any way I could. [Read More](#)

Best Regards,
Tabasum Ahmed.
(Director, OBAT Helpers Inc.)

OBAT goes to APPNA!

Please visit us at booth
#729 at the APPNA
convention:
Washington, D.C.
July 5th - July 8th
Gaylord Resort &
Convention Center

[Note: we are looking for booth
volunteers.

Please contact us if you
are interested!]

Friends of OBAT - St. Louis Chapter

On June 16th, OBAT Helpers joined our newest Friends of OBAT Chapter in St. Louis to hold an effective meeting with the community. This event was hosted at the home of the the gracious Dr. Azfar and Dr. Maheen Malik and was made possible by the hospitality of community members. Local St. Louis residents took part in this event as this influential



community has committed to adopting the Sardar Bahadur school in Chittagong. A young banking professional visiting Dhaka for an internship with Grameen Bank, Mehdi, also had a chance to discuss and share his pictures, videos, and overall experience of the camps. Our Friends of OBAT chapters are growing with St. Louis, Indiana, and Dallas all coming together and forming their own chapter. Your city can also become a Friends of OBAT chapter to make a big difference by involving your own community. With our helpers, OBAT Helpers continues to make an impact on the forgotten people!

OBAT's Cultural Evening

On April 21st, 2012, OBAT hosted a cultural evening at its office headquarters in the Indiana Interchurch Center in Indianapolis. The evening kicked off with enjoyable performances from Skylark and Sam Carman, local folk singers with a wide variety of musical talents. They were followed by singers, Ranjani Datar and Ajesh Happy, who delivered a memorable performance with

their melodious and soulful duets. Mr. Mir Ali also gave a captivating solo performance. The evening was enhanced with presentations highlighting OBAT's progress and projects. We are very grateful to the generous donors who stepped forward to adopt our Khulna, Hali Shaher and Ferozeshah Schools. It is a blessing to have such a powerful and helpful home team to continuously support OBAT's endeavors! Our local group of the Friends of OBAT - Indiana is irreplaceable.



The evening was concluded with a much anticipated raffle drawing for Drake tickets, with Charlie Wiles as our lucky winner! Delicious appetizers and desserts were served to the guests throughout the night. A huge thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors who made the evening a success!

School Library in Rangpur

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Suess

For the first time in OBAT history, a school library has recently been established at OBAT's Rangpur School! The library will begin by housing 50 books available to students and teachers alike. This library is groundbreaking, as it is the first among all the seven schools of OBAT which will house a library facility. The students will be able to borrow books on different subjects, from world history to biographies to comics.



A Stitch in Time

Sewing Center in Syedpur

There are nearly 22 camps in Syedpur and almost 80,000 stranded Pakistanis or Biharis that reside here. OBAT's sewing center is located in Syedpur and continues to help individuals gain textile skills. Except for Bangladesh's largest locomotive workshop, there is no other industry in Syedpur. Overall, jobs are very hard to find for the camp dwellers. Most of them drive rickshaws, or are daily laborers and hawkers. After a clothing factory was established here, OBAT set up a sewing training center. [Read More](#)



So Proud of our Students!

Recently, students studying at OBAT's tutoring centers in Dhaka, Mymensingh and Rangpur took their Secondary School Certificate (equivalent to high school) exams. We are very proud to report that out of 28 students at the Mymensingh and Dhaka centers, more than 30% secured an A grade! Additionally, out of the 29 students from the Rangpur tutoring center, 55% passed their exam with an A+ or an A grade.

OBAT has three tutoring centers that provide students with after school coaching to improve their grades and help them pass their major exams. Most of these students have illiterate parents who are unable to help their children with homework or exam preparation. However, despite obvious disadvantages, these students continue to go above and beyond to achieve their dreams. Way to go future engineers, scientists, educators, and doctors. The world awaits you!



About Us

OBAT Helpers is a US based non-profit, 501(C)3 organization committed to providing aid, support, education and economical empowerment to the 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 forgotten people. We are the only hope for them, as they don't have any help and support from anywhere else around the world. Together we are making a difference in their lives as we help them fulfill their hopes and dreams.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events!

July 14th: OBAT cultural evening in Ft. Wayne (6222, Ellison Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46804)

July 21st: OBAT Iftar at ISNA, Indianapolis

Sep. 29th: Race for Rehma at the Indianapolis canal walk from 3-6 PM

Please send your donations payable to:

OBAT Helpers, 1100 West 42nd St.,

Suite 125, Indianapolis, IN 46208

Visit www.OBATHelpers.org for more details.