

Upcoming Event

Save the Date

Saturday October 23, 2010

Ayenda's 5th Annual Benefit Dinner  
with Special Guest

**Khaled Hosseini**

The World Renowned Author of

*"The Kite Runner"*

and

*"A Thousand Splendid Suns"*



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# Ayenda Foundation

Newsletter

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## Report on the Ayenda Learning Center in Bamiyan

Dear Friends,

It has been over a year since the successful and worthwhile inauguration of the Ayenda Learning Center in the Bamiyan Province, and both the school and children are blossoming. This past March, Ayenda Learning Center celebrated its second school year. These children have been through a real journey: from ignorance to knowledge, from oppression to freedom, and from darkness to hope. As we move forward, it is important that we continue to meet the needs of the children and teachers, providing them with the necessary resources to sustain and build academic success.

In May of this year, I, Founder of the Ayenda Foundation, visited the school in Bamiyan and was pleased to witness that the progress was steady and the children, teachers, and staff were all well and hopeful. However, I was very mindful that there were still some important issues that needed to be addressed. From what I could observe the school was still in need of teachers training, text books, a computer lab, a health clinic, means of transportation, uniforms, water access and so forth.



Currently, the school serves 120 students, 75% of whom are girls, an enormous victory for women's rights. In addition, there are 18 staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs employed at the school: the Headmaster, Assistant Headmaster, 12 teachers, two guards, a cook and a cleaner. Our representative, Mohammad Zafer, oversees the school's day-to-day operations, implements new programs and initiatives, and consistently reports to us on the overall activities of the school.

The quality of education and an adequate learning environment are essential for the progress of the school. For that reason, this newsletter serves both as an update on the progress and status of the Ayenda Learning Center and to bring into view its current needs.



Greeted by the students upon arrival at the Ayenda Learning Center, May 2010



## Training and New Developments

Since my return from Bamiyan, we were able to accomplish the following at the Ayenda Learning Center:

### Teacher Training

The Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) was founded by Professor Sakena Yacoobi in 1995 to improve the lives of Afghan women and children through education and literacy.

To date, AIL has trained 16,000 teachers in student-centered teaching techniques, thus improving the quality of education for about 390,000 Afghans. By using the student-centered teaching methods, teachers are able to teach students to think critically, use logic for problem-solving, and interpret and evaluate information. The result is that students are able to learn more quickly than the traditional method that emphasizes on dictation, rote memorization, and recitation.

AIL has conducted a 10-day teachers training at the Ayenda Learning Center from July 25-August 5, 2010 to improve the quality of education and to ensure the efficiency, value, and modernity of teaching at the school.

The training was a major success, and the teachers at Ayenda benefited tremendously from it. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the AIL founder and staff for their valuable support of the Ayenda Learning Center.



Students during an exam

The Ayenda Foundation has many new and exciting developments to report. Thank you to all of our supporters and friends – we would not be able to do this without you.

## Health Care Program Update

Implementing a comprehensive health care program for the students at the Ayenda Learning Center has been a top priority and objective since its commencement. Proper hygiene and health care are essential to enhancing the children's learning experience and quality of life, yet a majority of the students have access to neither. Today, the funding for our health care program has been secured through a women's group in the area and we now seek the appropriate partner on the ground to implement the program.

Save the Children has agreed to start its community-based health care program at the Ayenda Learning Center during the month of September. Save the Children works to create a school-based and community centered learning environment where children in Bamiyan can learn how to prevent and treat diseases like diarrhea.

Children are trained to be facilitators and the health education provided is fun and on children's own terms. Knowledge about health, hygiene and nutrition will then be shared with other young children in the villages after the training.





## Construction and New Developments

### Backpacks

Fourteen children from the Cash Lovell Stable and Riding Academy in North Carolina joined hands to help the children at the Ayenda Learning Center. Nancy Hawley, mother of one of the children, learned about the Ayenda Learning Center's need for backpacks and school supplies. She immediately realized this would be the cause the academy would adopt to teach a valuable humanitarian lesson to the students at the academy about the living conditions of other children in a war-torn country.

The children spent their own money or called upon relatives to buy backpacks that they filled with pencils, paper, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and puzzles. Some added personal touches, such as stuffed animals, homemade artwork and pictures of horses. The 125 backpacks reached the children at the Ayenda Learning Center this past March, and were distributed at the opening of the second school year.

The children at Ayenda were thrilled about their new backpacks and were happy to know that children in another part of the world were thinking about them. What a great way to start the new school year!



### Outdoor Washstand

A potential solution for sufficient water storage and to keep the children clean on a daily basis is currently underway. We just completed construction of a tank near the kitchen in the back of the school accompanied by a large washstand with multiple faucets for the children to wash up before breakfast each day. Clean water and good hygiene are luxuries not readily available for most of the children, yet both will undoubtedly improve their educational experience at the Learning Center.



### Uniforms

Save the Children is a non-profit organization that has been operating in Afghanistan since 1979. In 2009, 100,000 children and adults benefited from its program in Bamiyan. Save the Children donated 125 uniforms for the children at the Ayenda Learning Center.

The girls at the Ayenda Learning Center love their black and white uniforms and are thankful for Save the Children's generous donation and support.



## New Ideas and Future Programs



*There are hundreds of thousands of orphans living in Afghanistan.*



### Vocational Workshop update

The vocational workshop and center for vocational studies remains a top priority. The Ayenda Foundation has been coordinating with multiple groups to develop and implement the project; it will hopefully be up and running in the coming year.

### Computer Classes & Lab

A computer lab has been lacking since the opening of the Ayenda Learning Center. However, recently we have come closer to acquiring the means to making a computer lab possible. One of the major obstacles in the way of achieving a computer lab was the expensive shipping costs of computer equipment to Afghanistan from the US. Luckily, we found friends in Kabul to research local prices for us. We hope to start a computer lab with ten computers, two printers and a hired computer teacher within a couple of months.

### Transportation

Despite the school's capacity for 300 students, only 120 are regularly attending. Long distance commutes are the main reason that attendance at the school is lower than expected; students are walking for hours to get to school. The teachers suggested we provide transportation to increase the number of students attending on a daily basis. We are looking into contracting a bus to pick up the students in the morning from one or two main locations and dropping them off in the afternoon at the same locations.

### Attendance Incentives

One idea for increasing the attendance at the school is to provide incentives for the students and their families. Such incentives will be to offer cooking oil or a bag of flour on a monthly basis. These both will encourage the students to attend the school and provide economic assistance to families living in abject conditions. Raising the quality of life will inevitably increase the children's chances of success.



There are many ways to make a difference in a children's life in Afghanistan. One way is to help contribute to one of the items shown on this page. To make your donation by mail, please make your check payable to Ayenda Foundation, and mail to:

**Ayenda Foundation**  
 2341 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008  
 or make a donation online at  
[www.ayendafoundation.org](http://www.ayendafoundation.org)

# Additional Projects

## Scholarship Grants to American University of Afghanistan

Ayenda Foundation is pleased to announce the second round of scholarship grants to female students at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF). This was made possible through our collaboration with Friends of the American University of Afghanistan, a US 501 (c) (3) nonprofit working to support the university and its students.

This scholarship makes it possible for more young women to attend the American University of Afghanistan, the only independent, private, non-sectarian, co-educational institution of higher learning. In Afghanistan Educational opportunity is important for the advancement of women, social progress, and human rights. AUAF provides a benchmark of quality and spurs innovation.



Ayenda hopes that by helping these girls complete a higher education, they will be able to become thriving members of the Afghan community. This experience will allow them to take advantage of opportunities previously unknown to them and hopefully someday become the leaders and inspiration of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

*Helping  
Afghan  
Children  
Secure a  
Brighter Future*

## New School in Maidan, Wardak Province

Ayenda Foundation strives to provide opportunity for Afghan children to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment. Therefore, Ayenda partnered with The Children of War, a non-profit organization, to build a new school in Maidan, Wardak province for needy children. The construction began late November of 2009, but was halted shortly thereafter due to the inclement weather in the region. Construction resumed again this year and is estimated to be completed by September 2010.

The Children of War focuses on providing the most needy children and disabled citizens of Afghanistan with a primary education, a nutritious diet, and valuable job skills through the schools and skills training facilities it operates within Afghanistan. Ayenda Foundation is proud to provide grants to The Children of War to support the building of the Maidan School for the suffering children of Wardak area. Ayenda is looking forward to continuing its partnership with The Children of War and will keep you posted on the progress of the new Maidan School.





# Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for all our supporters and the local Bamiyan community for helping us achieve so much in the past year. We have on average of over 120 students attending the school daily - walking hours from their home to attend. We have seen that these children and this community are actively making the most out of the school that was built due to the generous support of you and others.

Many of the provinces in Afghanistan are poverty-stricken and in need of aid. Bamiyan Province is one of the poorest regions. It is not agriculturally fruitful, and has no infrastructure of electricity, gas or water supply. Therefore, the people rely heavily on outside assistance.

We all welcome you to learn more about the Ayenda Learning Center in the beautiful province of Bamiyan, a safe and nurturing place for the children to forget about their daily hardship and poverty, and in its place enjoy the taste of learning and the freedom of being a child. We are proud of the accomplishments we have achieved in such a short period. We hope that you will become part of this amazing journey, hand in hand with our dream, sharing the hope.

We are hoping to build a vocational center in the next year, complete a computer lab, and provide every child with school supplies and a healthcare program. We are also trying to fill the bookshelves with more learning material and supplies.

We have much more work ahead of us, but we know with the support of friends like you we can enhance the lives of the children of Afghanistan through education.

Sincerely,  
Shamim Jawad  
Founder



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Ayenda Foundation, a U.S. Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, was established in March 2006 in partnership with the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. The mission of Ayenda (means future) is to implement projects that enhance and improve the education, health, shelter and safety of Afghan children, especially girls. TAX ID No. 26-0509581

Board members: Shamim Jawad, Timothy McBride, Cidalia Luis-Akbar, Renee Schoenberg

Volunteers: Elizabeth Baker, Austin Bailey, Riga Sadeq, Nahid Noori, Shiema Zikria, Erin Kilbride and Iman Jawad