



# Newsletter

## The Opening of the New Computer Lab at the Ayenda Learning Center in Bamiyan, Afghanistan

June 2011

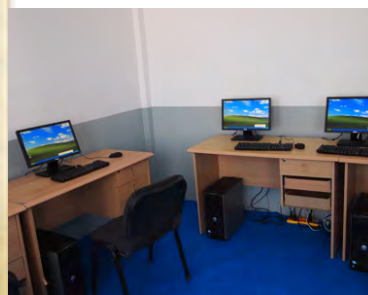
Issue No. 5

Dear Friends of Ayenda,

On June 1, 2011 in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, Shamim Jawad, founder of the Ayenda Foundation, held an inauguration ceremony for the Ayenda Learning Center's new computer lab. A number of distinguished Afghan and international guests attended the ceremony including Ms. Habiba Sarabi, governor of Bamiyan; Said T. Jawad, the former Afghan Ambassador to the United States; and Mrs. Leslie Schweitzer, Senior Trade Advisor to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. After the ceremony, Mrs. Jawad and the guests distributed much needed school supplies to the children.

Connected to the internet through satellite, the new Dell computers are a bright window of opportunity for the poor but inquisitive children of the isolated Bamiyan province. Just over three years ago, the Ayenda Learning Center opened its doors to Bamiyan's orphaned and underprivileged children by providing them quality education in a safe and modern environment. Since opening its doors, the Center has been a beacon of hope for these bright young minds, providing them with standardized education, school supplies, backpacks, school uniforms, and warm meals.

Not only will the new computer lab provide access to the internet, it will also offer students the opportunity to learn the basics of





computers and technology. The skills they will gain through consistent, hands-on computer training will translate across all fields and better prepare them to enter the job market or university arena. Ayenda's work allows the students in Bamiyan the ability to connect to their peers around the world.

The Center has hired instructors to teach computer skills and English to its students but also strives to reach the larger community. It has encouraged women to use the Center for computer training and distance learning programs. It can therefore be used as a hub for women to network and its internet will connect them to the rest of the world.

The computer lab project could not have been realized without your continued support. Funding for the computer lab was provided by both private sector and individual donations. The Alliance Group, a group of generous

women in the United States and Abbott provided the funds for this project. Ayenda Foundation greatly appreciates this generous contribution and looks forward to working with The Alliance Group and all the donors in sustaining the computer lab and the Ayenda school for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Ayenda Foundation

