

# CREATING HOPE INTERNATIONAL

AIL Empowering Individuals & Communities



Almost complete AIL Office extension

## AIL is Expanding - We Need Your Support!

The Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) is enjoying another successful year and is expanding despite the insecurity and political instability earlier in the year. There have been over 20,000 students in Learning Center classes and 136,000 patients and 79,000 health education participants. The expanded programming has necessitated more office space so the building of a 3rd floor on the Herat office block is currently being completed. This will provide much needed space and house a new endeavor- a *private radio station*!

**We need your support to make all this happen!**

“There is so much work that needs to be done. Many young women come up to me and ask for my help- ‘We want to read! We want to have choices and not be trapped in ignorance and poverty!’ This is why I am always working - working for them, working for their chance at a bright future. Can you help us?”

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi

## Hitting the Airwaves in 2015!

Dr. Yacoobi's idea of a private radio station is a way to reach thousands more people with information about health, education, teacher training methodologies, human rights, leadership, poetry, ethics, values as well as news and classical music. AIL is providing space in its office 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and will contribute programming. Sakena has secured 75% of the funding goal, but more is needed so the station can start!

## **DONATE TODAY!**

Creating Hope International  
[www.creatinghope.org](http://www.creatinghope.org)

PO Box 1058  
Dearborn, MI 48121

## From AIL Home School to College Prep

What a story! Three young Afghan women recently found themselves at a luncheon with Dr. Yacoobi, Founder of AIL. All three attended Home Schools in different provinces, which were run in secret during the time of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. It turns out they were all AIL Home Schools! The women are now attending high school in the USA preparing for college. They were delighted to meet Sakena and see her as one of their role models and heroes.



### Election Song

The Afghan elections were obviously big events in the country. AIL played a part in educating the youth about the importance of the process. This awareness-raising effort played out in private schools too. At one of Dr. Yacoobi's Private Schools, students and their teacher made up a song about the election. The song was performed at AIL Election Workshops and was a big hit, so much so that it was played again and again on radio and TV! Candidates even wanted to use it in their campaigns! AIL helped the students create a professional video which can be viewed on YouTube. For more information go to the blog page at [www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org](http://www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org).

## AIL and How, When and Why of Voting!

AIL developed a comprehensive election education curriculum that was used by nearly 940 people at workshops, a symposium and an AIL Women's Networking Conference, as well as by thousands at village assemblies. They learned about the election process, how to vote and why it is important to vote. They also learned about their self-worth and how their voice counts in society. Many, especially the women, were not raised with the expectation that they would contribute so did not see that what they think is valuable. AIL received much praise for its election awareness raising work including a commendation from the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Many thousands more benefited from AIL election education in Leadership Workshops, through Learning Center classes and at AIL events and office activities.



Bon Students Having Fun!

## Tibetan Bon

The new Bon Medical Institute opened after 3 years of building work. The healer who is in charge of the essential oils project, supported by CHI, now has office space and has new shelving for his oils supplies. The Bon Children's Welfare Centre graduates were given a celebratory tea as they embark on a new stage of their lives. The younger children received new bags this year and sports teams were formed as physical activity is an important part of the daily curriculum.



Small Group Work at an Election Workshop