



First Group of Orphans Moves into CHINAR House



CHINAR's pilot project became operational in November 2004 with the arrival of the first group of orphans at CHINAR House located in Srinagar, India. At present there are nine kids in the home **Javaid, Abbas, Massarat, Gowher, Zubaida, Tahir, Jabeena** and the youngest of them all - the cheeky little **Sajjad**. These kids are being looked after by two loving mothers, **Nighat** and **Dilshada**. The children have been admitted in area schools and have quickly caught up with their classmates in schoolwork. Other orphans will be joining them soon. For pictures of CHINAR family see page 3.

Avalanche Relief



In mid February, 2005, a massive avalanche flattened scores of villages in Jammu & Kashmir, India causing widespread death and destruction. Children were the worst hit. CHINAR set up an Avalanche Relief Fund to help the children impacted by the avalanche and was able to raise **\$5600** for the project. The money was used to buy clothes, shoes, socks, hygiene kits and school supplies for over **180** children living in a tent village in **Vasaknag**, one of the worst hit areas. Also, floor matting and water tanks were supplied to 3 tent schools in Vasaknag. For pictures see page 4.

Tsunami Relief

CHINAR received **\$1,000** for its Tsunami Relief Fund. The money was sent to Senthilir orphanage in Sri Lanka. This orphanage had been destroyed by the tsunami, killing over 94 of the war orphans living there. Many thanks for your support.

Medicine sans Frontier and CHINAR

After visiting CHINAR home and observing the successful implementation of CHINAR pilot project, Medicine sans Frontier team in Kashmir has agreed to assist CHINAR in its

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efforts to offer psychological rehabilitation to CHINAR children. As per our request, MSF counselors have started weekly counseling sessions for CHINAR children and will be designing activities aimed to mitigate the effects of psychological trauma.

CHINAR Volunteers

"It takes an entire village to raise a child." CHINAR's efforts to involve the community in the welfare of orphans have started to bear fruit. We are very happy to report that our volunteer base in Srinagar is growing strong. We will be profiling some volunteers in each issue of the newsletter.

Drs. Suhail and Asmet Khandey: This young medico couple has taken it upon themselves to make sure that CHINAR kids remain healthy. They have made the services of their private clinic Ramzana Hospital available to CHINAR family free of cost. Also, being next door neighbors to CHINAR home, they spend quality time with the children on a regular basis and the children have become very attached to them.

Jehangir Qasba: A businessman whose wrong turn turned out right. Jehangir Qasba mistook CHINAR home for a new school he was looking for. He walked in and was so impressed by our programs that he has been visiting regularly ever since - loaded with food supplies and gifts for CHINAR family. He is also a regular at weekly CHINAR board meetings and offers valuable input.

Joost van Gerven: He is the ideal tourist, helping in local community projects wherever his travels take him. A specialist in Human Resources Management and a former banker, Joost is from Holland and came to know of CHINAR through our website. He has been spending time with CHINAR children painting, making face masks and gardening. He has a ton of other great ideas up his sleeve.

Our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers!!

Profiles of CHINAR Kids

The CHINAR family has begun with 9 children, aged four to six. With your continued support we are on our way to building the nest to 20 children. Since we are many miles away from the day to day lives of these kids, we will profile two children in each newsletter to help personalize their experiences.

Naeem Ahmed Magray

Naeem is four years old and is a double orphan. His father passed away from natural causes. Sadly, three months later his mother was shot dead. Naeem has adjusted well in his new home and has already decided he wants to be a doctor when he grows up.



Zubaida and Jabeena Jugal

Zubaida is approximately five years old and her sister Jabeena is 4. Their father died 2 years ago due to illness and left behind four daughters and a son all under the age of 12. Their mother is alive but unable to provide for five children. Their elder sister works in a carpet factory to help the family make ends meet. We are grateful to be able to keep part of the family together.



CHINAR Kashmir Holds its First Open House

Our sister organization in Kashmir held its first Open House on August 3, 2005 at CHINAR home in Baghat Srinagar. About 60 people attended and were acquainted of CHINAR's pilot project and future plans. They were also given a tour of the home and interacted with the children and mothers. Several attendees pledged monetary assistance while others volunteered to donate their time. We thank them all.



CHINAR Remains Active on Fundraising Effort

We are only just beginning but thanks to your generous donations CHINAR Home has become a reality. We will need your ongoing support to sustain this grand project. Here is a highlight of some of the recent events.

Long Island: *Zahid Khan* and *Muzzamil Khan* hosted a fundraiser for CHINAR at their home in November 2004. CHINAR Directors *Irfan Shahmiri* and *Dr. Fozia Qazi* gave a presentation to an audience of about 30 people. *Dr. Farooq Khan* of Long Island became an ambassador for CHINAR when he urged the audience to donate handsomely and followed this up with an email to his mailing list introducing CHINAR. We are grateful to *Dr. Farooq Khan* and the Long Island Kashmiri community for their support.

San Francisco: *Tahir Mian* put together a CHINAR fundraiser at a restaurant in San Francisco in December 2004. *Irfan Shahmiri* gave a presentation to the audience. We thank the audience for their support.

Maryland: In March, 2005 the Prince Frederick chapter of *League of Women Voters* raised funds for CHINAR during their annual Women of the World Luncheon. *Dr. Fozia Qazi* was the keynote speaker at this luncheon and informed the audience about the orphan situation in Kashmir and gave details of CHINAR programs.

Virginia: Showing its continued support to CHINAR, the Kashmiri community of Greater Washington DC area came together in April 2005 to donate generously to CHINAR's Avalanche Relief Fund. We are greatly thankful to them.

Villanova University: The *Muslim Student Association* of Villanova University raised money for CHINAR by organizing an iftar dinner and a basketball game. Special thanks to *Waleed Shah* for his efforts.

London: *The Jammu and Kashmir Society of The School of Oriental and African Studies* raised money for CHINAR by organizing a picnic in May 2005 at the SOAS campus in London. Special thanks to *Nageela Yusuf* for her efforts.

The CHINAR Family



Pictures from Vasaknag Avalanche Relief



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