

# CREATING HOPE INTERNATIONAL

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, CHANGING COMMUNITIES, CHANGING LIVES



*Education is the key to a stable and self supporting society.*  
**Dr. Sakena Yacoobi,**  
 Founder of AIL

## Afghan Youth Actively Seeking Peace

The Afghan Institute of Learning has always been an innovative organization seeking to restore Afghan society to balance and enabling all Afghans to realize their potential and contribute fully to their nation. The AIL Conference on Love and Forgiveness has spawned an explosion of interest in workshops on the subjects of leadership, social entrepreneurship, elections, peace, justice, democracy, human rights, the rights of women and children and Afghan poetry. AIL is holding workshops on these subjects in many schools and at its Learning Centers.

In addition, AIL has started new gatherings called Ideation Symposiums where young and old, from students in school, to housewives and professors, come together to discuss concepts such as peace and justice in society. Most recently a symposium focused on youth participation in democracy, elections, capacity building, and social entrepreneurship. In 2013,

over 1,000 people have attended these educational offerings.

It is the youth who are especially engaged and actively requesting this sort of training. These young people are tired of war and strife. They are seeking a way forward where all Afghans whatever their background, ethnicity or life experiences can come together to rebuild. Reaching youth with ideas is vital as a staggering 60% of the country's population is under the age of 24.

Afghan youth are ready to respond and learn how to rebuild a society with the core values of peace, social justice, individual responsibility and leadership. A *sea change*\* has occurred in people's minds; they are opening up and looking out, thinking for themselves about how to create the society they want as Afghanistan continues its transition.

\*The Tempest



PEACE & HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP

CREATING HOPE INTERNATIONAL

P.O. BOX 1058  
 DEARBORN, MI 48121

CHI@CREATINGHOPE.ORG  
 WWW.CREATINGHOPE.ORG

# Dr. Yacoobi awarded the 2013 Opus Prize



Sakena was thrilled to be awarded the prestigious Opus Prize at a ceremony at Georgetown University, Washington D.C. on November 13. She was overwhelmed at receiving this high honor and grateful for the recognition of her life's work and the life changing work of the Afghan Institute of Learning.

The Opus Prize honors unsung heroes of any faith tradition with a monetary award for their entrepreneurial spirit and abiding faith as they address solving today's most

persistent and pressing global issues, including poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease, and injustice.

The main prize and awards for the two other finalists are collectively considered one of the largest faith based humanitarian awards recognizing social innovation in the world today.

Sakena said, "It is a great honor to receive the Opus Prize and carries with it much responsibility. We will use this prize to continue to educate women and children and to bring peace to Afghanistan."

## Madonna & Fans Support AIL

We were delighted that artist Madonna picked AIL as one of the causes she supported at the Chime for Change concert in London in June, 2013. Madonna reached out to her fans and they generously responded to the challenge funding all of AIL's projects, which Madonna then matched 2 for 1. Thanks to all those people who answered the call and took action helping to reach the goal. Now AIL is putting the money to good use and will provide 72 workshops on reproductive health, mobile literacy, leadership, and human rights.



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

## PRIVATE SCHOOL NAMED TOP SCHOOL

### SOCCER TEAM TAKES TOURNAMENT

The Prof. Sakena Yacoobi Private School has been named one of the top 8 schools in the whole of Herat Province! More good news! The school's soccer team won the Herat Schools Soccer Championship! Everyone was jubilant at this result and danced and sang in the school grounds to celebrate. This coming together of community to celebrate is a sign of life returning to normal as people bond over a sporting event.



SOCCER PLAYER & COACHES

We still need your help!  
Tax deductible donations can be made by check to:

Creating Hope International  
P.O. Box 1058  
Dearborn, MI 48121

To give by credit card, go to:  
[www.creatinghope.org](http://www.creatinghope.org)

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF TIBETAN BON STUDENTS

### SUPPORTED BY CHI

Each day, students at the Menri Monastery in Dholanji, India wake at 5:30am to begin a day which includes study, meals and time for friends. While living at the monastery, the students are divided into four houses. These houses serve as the students' family and are their teams for various competitions, like the costume competition shown on the right. The students also participate in sporting competitions, such as basketball and badminton. Not all competition is fun and games, there are also intra-house essay and poetry contests.

Within these houses, the younger students are paired with a big brother or big sister. These older students help to serve as the younger children's guide through the first years of school. The older children walk the younger brothers and sisters to class and to meals. Many of the students at the monastery are orphans, and these older children and the other children in their house are the closest thing to family that they know.



COSTUME COMPETITION