

Graduation and New School Year

Our Afghan Director just returned from a much needed trip to the project. Our school year in the village is mid-March through mid-December. The students who graduated in Dec. had a small graduation celebration. An important part of our Afghan Director's visit was to hold a larger graduation celebration which included new clothes, scarves, and a luncheon. (Due to the sensitivity of taking pictures, the girls also wore face masks for the photos.) Our director also wanted to make sure our 23rd school year was running smoothly. He was able to purchase some needed supplies while there. Our biggest challenge in the past two years has been the shutting down of financial institutions in the country with the return of the Taliban. Our director travels to take funds and we have another resource we can use to wire funds. As a result our schools remain open and running, and with local support, our boys and girls continue to learn. As far as we know, our girls may be the only female graduates in the entire country. We celebrate our girls, but are also saddened at the situation for the rest of the country after so much progress during the previous 20 years. We also celebrated 35 boys graduating and 9 of our orphans graduated. Three students took the exam to be teachers - one girl and one boy passed this time. Both will be teaching at the project once they receive their certificates. Due to the inability for students to travel to the capital to continue their studies, we hope to raise funds to build a community college/trade school at the project.

We continue to move forward! The partnership with our village has survived and flourished since 1998. We always appreciate everyone who would like to join us with their time, energy, and/or finances. It is heart warming to see the difference one project can make for an entire village.

Warmest regards,
Khris

