



DostíNama

Special Edition

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOSTI FOUNDATION

AUGUST 2010

The Dosti Foundation strives to make education available in parts of the world where it otherwise would not be available, due to economic depression or political oppression.

Founders

Munir Ahmad, MD
Reynolds Clinic;
Dosti Foundation

Tahira Shaheen.

Executive Director, Chand Foundation
Board Member, Dosti Welfare Organization

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Affiliations for identification purposes only

We will soon start using the name GLOBAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, to be clearer about what our mission is. Stay tuned for more about that. Suggestions for a catchy new newsletter name are welcome!

Special Appeal from Dosti Board and Staff: Don't Let Flood Wash Away' Our Efforts...

The Holy Month of Ramadan extends until September 9. As the month for focusing on spiritual purity, Ramadan is the perfect time for the giving of zakat (alms). Our daily challenges in Pakistan have now been magnified by another natural disaster: the July 27 flood, the most deadly flood in Pakistan in decades. BBC reports that the flooding covers an area the size of England and affects 20 million people. Millions are fleeing their homes, abandoning possessions. About 1600 have been killed, and more deaths are likely if water-related disease spreads. Destroyed crops equal destroyed livelihoods for many.

Hundreds of thousands of people who desperately need immediate assistance have received none, reports BBC. According to an Associated Press report from Monday, August 2: "Relief work for some 2 million people has been delayed by swamped roads, washed out bridges and downed communication lines, and survivors have complained about government inaction."

Our short-term emergency response will make or break our long-term peace-building efforts in Pakistan. The effects of the flood would be less extreme to begin with if the land and infrastructure were of better quality. Moreover, the areas most affected by the flood are also the areas in which the militant extremists are strongest, i.e., the Northwest Frontier Province. In the absence of government and humanitarian aid, militant groups will offer their kind of aid, and will win people over.

The Dosti Welfare Organization and the people of the Dosti Tangi school have visited flood-stricken areas and distributed food, drinking water, and clothes, for which people have been extremely grateful. We are also allowing some people to take shelter within some of our schools, and are running two emergency shelters, one in Tangi and one in the village of Khazana. To continue our flood relief efforts, we need your support. For one way to help, see page 4.



Left picture: effects of the flood.



Right picture: Dosti distributing relief

...Or 'Wash Away' Our Holiday Celebrations

Now is the worst possible time of the year for a flood in Pakistan, because it is a holiday. As we have mentioned before, Muslims in Pakistan are observing the Holy Month of Ramadan through September 9th, and look they forward to celebrating the Festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, meaning "Festival of the Fast-Breaking" once Ramadan ends.

The traditions of Eid look much like those associated with Christmas. Following a morning of prayer, observers of Eid spend three days celebrating with family and friends and exchanging gifts. To ensure that the everyone is able to participate, Muslims donate food known as sadaqah al-fitr (charity of fast-breaking), during the last few days before Eid. Eid is usually also a three-day holiday for schools and government offices.



Eid should be the time for Dosti to give our children parties and gifts, and we would like to give them new uniforms. We appeal to you to help make this possible. Your donation of \$12 will purchase three uniforms.

We wish *Ramadan Mubarak* and *Eid Mubarak* to our readers and friends who celebrate these holidays.

You Are Invited...

to join Dosti, the Toledo-Hyderabad Sister City Committee, and the India-Pakistan Friendship Association for a family-friendly night of food, bangles, Mehndi, and more, in celebration of Chand Raat, the conclusion of Ramadan. Thursday, September 9, 7:30 pm, Epiphany Lutheran Church, 915 N. Reynolds Road, Toledo, Ohio. For information or to RSVP call Dr. Anwer Ali at 419-908-0440, or the Dosti office at 419-535-3214. Full-size flyer on our web site.



And mark your calendar to join us for a Hindi movie showing Sunday, September 12, (third day of Eid) at 1 pm. Location and specific movie to be announced.



Faces of Dosti I: Kalu Shah Teacher Finds in Teaching an Opportunity to Learn (continued next page)

Just as Javed Iqbal (pictured on the left) was finishing his 10th grade exams in 2002, he learned his father had cancer. He managed to complete his F.Sc. (a 12th-grade degree, with science education) in 2005, but after his father had a relapse, the family ran out of money for his school fees.

"Fortunately, in those trying circumstances I joined Dosti school," he says. "It was a heaven-sent moment. This school greatly supported me morally as well as financially."

Javed has since earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.); a Primary teaching Certificate (P.T.C.) from Allama Iqbal Open University; a computer diploma from the Trade Training Board of Peshawar (T.T.B.); and, despite continuing to care for his father, has taken admission in M.A. and applied for an M.A. final.

Faces of Dosti (cont.) He acknowledges he has taken time out of teaching to attend to family duties, but is eager to come back to teaching for Dosti, because, he says, Dosti was the only reason it was possible for him to become more educated. He says:

“Dosti changed my life, it groomed me or else I would be a typical farmer not knowing anything about the realm of education. Dosti is a helping hand to poor children, it is Dosti schools that let children cross the threshold of education.

Faces of Dosti II: Pakistani Dosti Leaders Stay in Touch with the U.S.

Left: Mian Zamarud Shah



Mian Zamarud Shah, President of Dosti Welfare Organization in Pakistan, spends each summer in the United States. On August 3, 2010, Dr. Munir Ahmad and the rest of the U.S. Dosti board and staff were pleased to welcome him for a visit to discuss administrative matters.* Mr. Zamarud Shah has served as President of the Dosti Welfare Organization in Pakistan since 2007. Before that, he was involved with the construction and funding of schools through Rotary, and his Rotary connections have enabled us to continue to partner with Rotary clubs around the world.

Originally from Pakistan, he has a Bachelor's of Science from the University of Peshawar and a Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering from Perrivale in the United Kingdom. He has worked in agricultural research in Pakistan and has been employed in various engineering (machine design) positions in Canada, the U.S., and the United Kingdom.

* Note: Dosti USA Vice President Aijaz Ahmad is spending most of this year in Pakistan, overseeing spending and administration, and is staying in touch with our U.S. office.

Dosti Helps Bring Better Doctors to Patients

Dosti cooperated with Safeeh Hospital on a free, one-day medical clinic Sunday, July 18, at the Safeeh Hospital facility in Khazana. More than 90 people, including 59 children, received treatment or services from quality practitioners who donated services not usually available at that facility. We are very grateful to those physicians: pediatricians Dr. Naseer-ud-Din and Dr. Mohi-ud-din; chest specialist Dr. Iqbal Safeeh; and technicians Muhammad Ibrar, Majid Khan, and Muhammad Ismail. Special thank-you to Dr. Aman Safeeh, eye specialist, who, in addition to serving at the camp medically, led the way in making this collaboration possible.



Left: Dr. Aman Safeeh tests a child's eyes

Right: Drs. Mohi-ud -din (on the left in picture) and Dr. Naseer-ud-Din listen to a child's heart



Both the patients and the doctors involved learned about Dosti, and the patients requested Dosti's help to open a school in the area, plus more medical camps in the future. Your support can help make this happen.



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Help Dosti Win the Global Giving Challenge!

Dosti's flood relief project will be featured at www.globalgiving.org from September 1 through September 30. ***If we raise \$4000, through Global Giving, from 50 different donors***, we earn a permanent spot on their web site. This will allow us access to new online donors and to Global Giving fundraising tools and campaigns.

To help us meet the challenge, visit www.globalgiving.org *between September 1 and September 30* and find Dosti's project. Watch our web site and your email for a direct link. Or, send checks made out to the Global Giving Foundation, to 1023 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. ***Specify on your check that it is for Dosti! Checks must be received by Global Giving by Monday, September 27.***

We welcome the **Greater Toledo Cricket Club's** collaboration with Dosti and the Toledo-Hyderabad Sister City Committee in all future fundraising and events. Stay tuned for more in future newsletters.

More about the latest Dosti activities and accomplishments at www.dosti.org or www.globaleducationcampaign.org. 2009 financial information is now available. And find Dosti in Facebook Causes and Aijaz Ahmad in the regular Dosti pages and invite your friends to join! Donate through a Cause page called "Enlighten Pakistan" with a moon and stars. If you donate by check, for now, make checks out to Dosti.