

The Maria-Helena Foundation

(Registered Charity Number 89250 2725 RR0001)

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Annual Newsletter

November, 2016

Dear Family & Friends:

This year we sponsored two small projects:

1. Lieba-Helena Maktab School. In a difficult to reach tiny hamlet of the district of Mansehra, there existed a one-room school with one teacher, managed by our Pakistani partner, Friends Welfare Association (FWA). The “school” had 154 registered students who could not all be accommodated in one classroom. During winter and in rainy weather most stayed home. We donated the cost of two more classrooms consisting of earthquake-resistant-prefabricated material assembled at the site. The expanded school was opened for registration on 1st September, 2016.
2. HDF Lieba-Helena School in the village of Mirwas close to Mardan, a big city in KP province. We sponsored badly needed expansion of an existing school with registration of about 300 students, all girls.

As you know, our mandate is to provide educational and medical aid to poor families in South Asia, and to offer bursaries to qualified university students in financial need in Canada. Over the past several years we have concentrated mainly on providing **educational aid** and **skills training** to the poor in Pakistan. All our projects are in Pakistan and are in partnership with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Bursary Fund at the University of British Columbia is continuing. Below we present a brief description of our programs.

IN PAKISTAN: EDUCATION

A. Permanent Primary Schools: (Program started in 2000). Typically, the local community provides the land. We pay for construction of the school building, consisting of six classrooms, as well as for furniture and equipment. This costs us a total of somewhere between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Our Pakistani partners manage the schools, charging low fees and covering the operating losses by donations collected locally. In these schools, which are self-sustaining after building has been completed, tuition fees are generally about \$4 per month, and a teacher’s salary is between \$40 and \$80 a month. All schools are co-educational and non-sectarian, and the teachers are almost exclusively women. We have helped establish nineteen such schools, and two are under construction. On page 3 is a table of all schools completed and under construction.

B. Temporary One-Room Primary Schools (Program started in 2001). These are one-room, one-teacher schools meant for the poorest children and for working children. Classes are held at the teacher’s home or in a community building. Students do not pay any fees. We provide them with books, notebooks, and mats or benches to sit on, and also pay the teacher’s salary. All schools are co-educational and non-sectarian. In the Pakistani school system, the primary school academic program is five years (60 months). In the home-school system, due to fewer holidays, the same curriculum is covered in 36-40 months. Typically, the cost of supporting one such school of 25 to 35 students is about \$1,400 per year. Currently, we are sponsoring 15 such schools, with an enrollment of about 500 students, in partnership with Kawish Welfare Trust. These schools are in several villages in the district of Bahawalnagar.

C. Nobel Laureate Dr. Abdus Salam Science Scholarships for High School Girls: (Program started in 2014). We have at present 16 girls in Grades 9 and 10 receiving these scholarships valued at \$12 per month.

D. Fee Concessions: (Program started in 2009). This is an ongoing program for primary school children, which offers fee-concessions, formerly called Scholarships, valued at \$4 per month per student. Currently, 200 such fee-concessions are being offered in three schools, all in Karachi.

IN PAKISTAN: SKILLS TRAINING

We have helped establish two small vocational schools in which young girls and women learn traditional needlecraft and sewing. This training helps the invisible household economy of poor families, and can potentially generate income from outside work.

1. Nani Maria Vocational School, Lahore (2000). In this two-room school, situated in Kot Lakhpat, Lahore, the enrollment has varied from 20 to 40 students. Al-Khidmat Foundation manages this school.

2. Dr. Marilyn Mohan Vocational School, Pind Dadan Khan (2007). This one-room vocational school is located in Khewra, district Jhelum, situated within a girls high school.

IN PAKISTAN: HEALTH

1. Amina Jabbar Trust Hospital, Lahore (1998). This, our first project, is an outpatient hospital, the size of a single-family detached bungalow in Vancouver. It is managed by Al-Khidmat Foundation. About 80 patients per day receive a medical examination and 3 days of medication at a nominal cost of 25 cents per patient, about one-sixth the cost of private care.

2. Medical Examination of Primary School Children (Program started in 2005). At a cost of only \$1 per child per year, about 1,000 children in primary schools in Bahawalnagar are examined and their health reports sent to their parents.

IN CANADA: BURSARY

Maria-Helena Bursary Fund, University of British Columbia (2000). The bursaries are awarded annually from the income generated from the capital of this fund. The university selects the recipients.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. Let us know if you have any questions.

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal
President

Dr. Diane Fast
Vice-President

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Amount of Donation: \$_____ (Make cheques payable to The Maria-Helena Foundation)

Please indicate: For projects in Pakistan _____, or for bursary at UBC _____, or for both _____

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____
(Please print legibly, thank you)

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ e-mail _____

PERMANENT PRIMARY/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOLS

Name of School	Year Established	District (Village) Province	Student Capacity	Pakistani Partner
1. Fazal Noor Primary School	2000	Lahore (Kot Lakhpat) Punjab	400	Al-Khidmat
2. Haji Bostan Primary School	2001	Lahore (Ghaziabad) Punjab	300	Anjuman Ghaziabad
3. Dadi Helena Primary School	2004	Lahore (Dina Nath) Punjab	400	Care Foundation
4. Maria-Helena Primary School	2006	Jhelum (Daryala Jalip) Punjab	300	Tameer-e-Millat
5. Hazara TM Public School <i>(combined primary and high school rebuilt after the 2005 earthquake)</i>	2007	Shinkiari Khyber Pakhtoon Kh. Province	450	Tameer-e-Millat
6. Ratwal Residential Primary School <i>(For orphans of the 2005 earthquake. We provided six classrooms)</i>	2008	Islamabad (Ratwal) Punjab	200	Tameer-e-Millat
7. Maria-Helena Primary School	2008	Khanewal (Wajhianwala) Punjab	210	Tameer-e-Millat
8. Maria-Helena Primary School	2008	Jhelum (Pind Dadan Khan) Punjab		Tameer-e-Millat
9. Maria-Helena Primary School	2008	Jhelum (Lilla village) Punjab	300	Tameer-e-Millat
10. Maria-Helena Primary School	2009	Jhelum (Jethal village) Punjab	300	Tameer-e-Millat
11. Maria-Helena Primary School	2009	Jhelum (Wara Buland) Punjab	300	Tameer-e-Millat
12. Lieba-Helena Primary School	2011	Jhelum (Sugail village) Punjab	210	Tameer-e-Millat
13. Talis Primary School <i>(rebuilt after the 2010 floods)</i>	2012	Talis (Talis village) Skardu		Tameer-e-Millat
14. Maria-Helena Primary School	2014	Mandi Bahauddin (Dandka Village) Punjab	200	Tameer-e-Millat
15. HDF Maria-Helena Primary School, to be extended to a high school for girls in 2016	2014	Islamabad (Kalya village) Punjab	200	Human Development Foundation
16. Maryam-Halima Middle School for Girls	2015	Mansehra (Shangri) PK	90	Friends Welfare Assn.
17. Maryam-Halima Middle School for Girls	2015	Mansehra (Raiter) PK	90	Friends Welfare Assn.
18. HDF Maria-Helena Primary School	2016	District Zhob Zhob Town, Balochistan	200	Human Development Foundation
19. HDF Maria-Helena Primary School	Under construction	Rahim Yar Khan (Village 99-IL) Punjab	200	Human Development Foundation
20. Lieba-Helena Maktab School	Started 2016	Mansehra (Banda Jalgali) PK	150	Friends Welfare Assn.
21. HDF Lieba-Helena School	Under construction	Mardan (Mirwas) PK	100	Human Development Foundation

A Glimpse at Our Projects in Pakistan



Fig. 1 HDF Maria-Helena Primary School in Kalya



Fig. 2 Maryam Helima Middle School for Girls: Students in Discussions with Parents and Teachers, Shangri, Mansehra,



Fig. 3 Lieba-Helena Maktab School, Banda Jalgali, Outdoor Class



Fig. 4 HDF Maria-Helena High School in Kalya - Sports Day