

News from Afghanistan for Friends of Khorasan

UK Registered Charity No. 1081438

Issue No. 1 – Spring 2004

- **Founded in 1999 and initially funded personally by Seema Ghani, who lived and worked in London for 12 years**
- **Seema returned to Afghanistan in May 2002 to assist in the reconstruction of her country**
- **Some of the most needy children from Jalozai Refugee camp in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan have been cared for by Khorasan**
- **Sixteen children currently live at Khorasan House who all think of Seema as ‘mother’**
- **Khorasan relocated to Kabul from Pakistan in the summer of 2002**



Khorasan’s Founder and Director, Seema Ghani with one of her ‘sons’

Khorasan says a big ‘thank you’ to all their friends who are helping them to live their childhood in a safe and loving environment.

Khorasan’s children all come from traumatic backgrounds. Some have been physically injured, all bear emotional scars from their years in refugee camps, living in the streets or with family members who have no resources to look after them. Love, care, education and a warm, happy environment with good and plentiful food is helping to transform these young lives into happy, well-adjusted children. Khorasan relies on your assistance to continue the good work – and there is much to be done in Afghanistan.

- **Over 1/4 of Afghanistan’s children die before the age of 5 – most from preventable diseases and over 1/2 suffer from malnutrition**
- **About 1/3 of all landmine victims are children**
- **Girls are still denied access to education in some areas**

Friends of Khorasan – this is what you have helped us to achieve

Khorasan moves house



Settling in

In September 2004, Khorasan House moved from Karte Parwan to the Shar-e-Naw district. The children excitedly played games and explored their new garden with its trees and flowers before getting down to the serious business of choosing their rooms.

Spring is here! The nine girls and seven boys have settled in well and continue to thrive under the care and attention of Seema Ghani, Khorasan's Founder and Director.

Khorasan supports children who are in crisis by providing them with a loving environment and education. Some of the children have living relatives who are unable to look after them. Khorasan undertakes to care for and educate them until such time as the family is able to take them back.

There are thousands of children in Afghanistan who are living in harsh conditions. Many parents have been subjected to hardships that have been beyond human endurance and left them unable to cope. One child, 5 year old Nilab, has recently come to stay at Khorasan as her father is suffering from drug addiction. Khorasan is helping the whole family by trying to secure a treatment programme for him. Nilab has several siblings and their mother found it impossible to care for them without help.

If the treatment for Nilab's father is successful Nilab's stay at Khorasan will be temporary and the family eventually reunited. Nilab has settled in well and is already showing a keen interest in and aptitude for writing and art.

Work and play

The children continue to make progress in their school work and outside activities. Sixteen year-old Lina was totally illiterate when she joined the Khorasan family last August. Recently she delighted guests by reading them a poem – a source of great pride for both Lina and Khorasan's staff.

Khorasan aims to support children who have no family through university or vocational training. In the past year the children have been given the opportunity to learn Judo and they are making great progress. They have already changed their belts; some from white to yellow, others from yellow to orange.



Having fun at Khorasan House

Kabul in winter is extremely cold and snowy so schools close for a long break. Khorasan's children enjoy their holidays but continue to take classes. Their education was interrupted during the war years and so they need to catch up for lost time. They are all eager to learn.

Afghanistan Today

Khorasan provides security for children in a country that is still suffering from over two decades of war that began with the Russian invasion in December 1979 and ended with the ousting of the Taliban in 2001. Natural disasters, including a four year drought throughout much of the country and earthquakes in some areas have compounded Afghanistan's problems. Epidemics of measles, polio and malaria continue to claim the lives of children whose state of health is very poor due to years of impoverishment, cold and hunger. The country's new Government under the leadership of President Karzai is working hard to reconstruct Afghanistan with the help of the International Community and the peace-loving Afghans who are in the majority. Afghan and international charities are assisting the Afghan Government in rebuilding the country with funds from other Governments. They are determined to prevent the country returning to a haven for foreign terrorists.

Khorasan gives children a chance to live a life free of fear, where they can enjoy innocent play – a basic right for all children. Afghanistan is a land –locked country and children can play in the wonderful rivers and lakes that are some of the most beautiful parts of Afghanistan's landscape.



We are the Champions!

What you can Do to Help

Friends of Khorasan can help the children of Afghanistan by raising awareness of their suffering and assist those who are trying to improve their situation. Khorasan can only do its good work with the continued generosity of their friends who donate money to house, feed, clothe and educate children who are in desperate need. Khorasan's carers provide love, kindness and necessary discipline to assist the children to grow in to well-rounded and considerate adults. But they cannot do this without your help. Please continue to support Khorasan – Afghanistan's children need you.

Donations can be made to:-

Khorasan, National Westminster Bank
520 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex
HA9 7BZ

Charity Name Khorasan
Account Number 77550366
Sort Code: 60-23-08

For enquiries and more information on Khorasan and Afghanistan please
Email: Afghanlinks@aol.com
Telephone: 01303-264215.
Address: Khorasan, Shepway East
Lympne Hill, Lympne,
Hythe, Kent CT21 4NX

Khorasan is a registered UK Charity - No. 1081438 and a Member of the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group – (BAAG)
www.baag.org.uk

Khorasan's website is currently under construction and will be on-line shortly at www.khorasan.org.uk

Khorasan's Objectives are

- **To relieve need and sickness amongst Afghan refugees – mainly women and children**
- **To provide health advice**
- **To provide accommodation and education for orphans resulting from the Afghan war years**



Khorasan – a children's home – not an institution

