




CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN AT A GLANCE



Fifteen years ago the Taliban regime ruled Afghanistan with a closed mind and an iron fist. In the last decade, Afghan women have made significant advances, in education, in the professions and business, in political participation, and in media and culture. Human development has improved, and women are taking part in public life. Yet many women are still denied their basic rights, violence against women is rampant, and barriers exist to accessing education. Female teachers have been threatened with death; rural schools have been burned; and the Taliban threaten families who send their daughters to school. Millions of women and girls continue to live a harsh reality marked by extreme poverty and oppression.

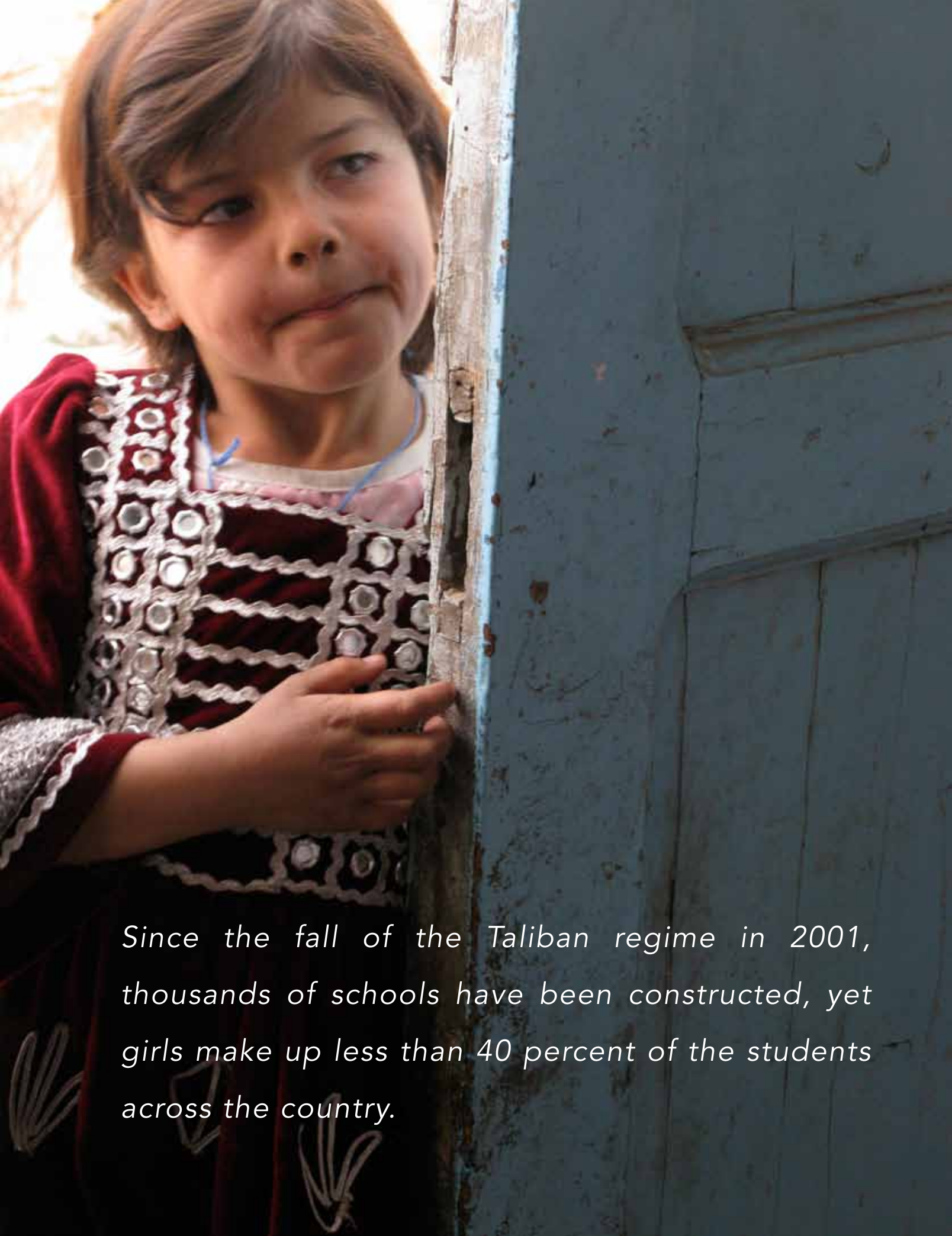
Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan) was established to bring together the efforts of Canadians who are passionate about improving the lives of Afghan women and girls. CW4WAfghan is a not-for-profit charitable organization with 13 chapters and more than 800 volunteer members across Canada who support 20 Afghan program staff in Afghanistan.

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| Members | Afghan and Canadian members believe that the path to true peace in Afghanistan is through education. To that end, they work to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families, and to educate Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan. |
| Mission | Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women, towards improving conditions of human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women to live their lives with dignity, certainty and purpose. |
| Values | CW4WAfghan members believe that individuals, as global citizens, working in solidarity and with integrity of purpose and action, can affect positive change in the world through education and the promotion of social justice and human rights. |
| Goal | To ensure effective long-term sustainable education programs for Afghan women and their families and to engage Canadians as global citizens. |
| Structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canadian Board of Directors with cross-Canada representation• Project Management Team overseeing project and program design, management, monitoring and evaluation• Afghanistan Country Office with 20 Afghan staff in Kabul |



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Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, thousands of schools have been constructed, yet girls make up less than 40 percent of the students across the country.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a year 2014 has been. Thanks to our chapter network of volunteers, we've enjoyed great success with galas and events offered from coast to coast. We've also seen a stunning level of enthusiasm, energy and growing interest in our work from our members with the featuring of author and award-winning journalist, Mellissa Fung, at so many of our events. The power of our organization is fueled by you, the volunteers and members who do this work relentlessly, often quietly and behind the scenes, to produce the results that mean a future for Afghan girls and women. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment.

The Lantern Fund campaign is flourishing thanks to the leadership of Deborah Alexander and Irene MacDonald, Co-chairs, and Sally Armstrong, Honorary Chair. By December 31, 2014, \$900,000 of the two million dollar target is already raised. Well done!

We continue to engage the media and to speak at schools, churches and community halls to raise awareness as well as dollars.

At the helm we enjoy the continued brilliant leadership of our Executive Director, Janice Eisenhauer, and our Programs Director, Dr. Lauryn Oates, as well as the relentless work of my fellow members of the Board of Directors and Executive Team. Special kudos to Penny Christensen who manages the massive financial aspects of all we do, and a special nod to Dale Butterill who spearheaded the completion of the Strategic Plan. We are well blessed by the strong team in Kabul, under the steady and powerful leadership of Murwarid Ziayee, our Country Director. Our great thanks to all these individuals. We join our Kabul team and Afghan friends in a renewed hope with the presidential election results finalized with the inauguration of President Ashraf Ghani and the formation of a coalition government. Within a day, he signed the US-Afghan Bilateral Security Agreement bringing relief to much of the Afghan populace.



*Madeliene welcoming delegates at
MANITOBA 2014 Symposium*

We are delighted to welcome the newest member of our team, Christine Wilde, in her role as Manager: Community Engagement and Fund Development.

While 2014 year has been a year of great success, sadly there has been darkness as well. In Kabul, the massacre at La Taverna Restaurant, and the shooting at The Serena Hotel, both sites at which some of us have personally enjoyed some Afghan hospitality, took the lives of those in our personal circles—Roshan Thomas and Zeenab Kassam. We mourn their loss and remember their love of, and contributions to Afghanistan.

The year also marked the final withdrawal of Canadian troops in Afghanistan. We are so very thankful and proud of the contribution made by our troops and their allies, who have transformed Afghanistan from flattened rubble and a failed state to a country with a growing economy and continued improvement in all human development sectors, including education --close to our hearts. Their contribution came at great cost, and this too, we remember and honour.

We know that significant challenges remain. I'm sure you join with me in the sense of trepidation as we are confronted with extremism in the world news each day. How are all of us as members of CW4WAfghan to overcome the sense of powerlessness when confronted with such abominations? The answer lies in all of us continuing our work together with counterparts across the world. We must be even more steadfast in our determination to bring education to the most vulnerable. It is education that will reduce the vulnerability to extremism.

I am honoured and privileged to work with all of our members and those beyond who see our service as an honour and a duty, from the safe harbor of our privileged lives in Canada, to bring futures to the girls, the women and their families in Afghanistan, and to be agents in the world that bring light to darkness.

Thank you.

Madeliene Tarasick, President

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP and GENEROUS DONATIONS

We are very encouraged by the long standing support Canadians have demonstrated toward our volunteer efforts to advance education for Afghan women and girls.

Because Human Rights Are Universal!

Every donation, large and small, contributes to our ability to implement, manage and sustain our quality education programs each year. Please know that your donation is greatly appreciated and at the core of our success and sustainability.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Breaking Bread Dinner Hosts and Guests

Deborah Ellis: Parvana Fund Book Royalties

Linda Norgrove Foundation, UK

Individual, Service Clubs, Monthly and Annual Donors

Corporate, Small Business, Government and Foundation Grants

CW4WAfghan Board and Chapter Members

CW4WAfghan Lantern Fund Teacher Training Program Donors

CW4WAfghan Lantern Fund Honorary Chair, Sally Armstrong

CW4WAfghan School Library and Science Kit Donors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I always feel a bit overwhelmed as we reflect on another unbelievable year...how can I ever begin to capture and share all the remarkable stories of 2014? Each of our own stories has built up this rich history of CW4WAfghan, and collectively we make up this sparkling, wonderful energy and power that moves us forward in our goals.

I loved our theme for this year's MANITOBA 2014 symposium in October: *"Because Human Rights are Universal!"* It sums up so well why we are all here, why we all care. And while I acknowledge our terrific board members and our executive team, I also want to ensure that you--each and every member--understands the importance of your efforts. I want everyone in Canada to feel a personal and direct connection--those 'threads of humanity' that bind us with our colleagues, friends and beneficiaries in Afghanistan. I also think of what Penny, our financial officer, often says *"you don't need to thank me, it's my responsibility"*. Exactly Penny. Universal human rights are everyone's responsibility. At the same time, it is a huge reward for us to live our lives with purpose and meaning. We are grateful and thankful to live in appreciation of, and benefit from, the depth of the universal human rights that are part of daily life for most in our country. These very rights energize us and give us the ability and motivation to strive for these same rights and freedoms for Afghan women.

Our year has been packed full with what seems like a lifetime of change, growth, highs and lows. We continued our very strong partnership with John and Lorna Norgrove in Scotland, and with their help we have been able to navigate the complex world of USAID funding. This Afghanistan Reads! contract is now administered by The Asia Foundation in Kabul and a new partnership is growing with their offices. The first year of this program has been very successfully managed and implemented by Lauryn Oates, Programs Director, Murwarid Ziayee, Country Director and all of our very capable field staff and Afghan partners.

The end of 2014 marked a total of 7,608 teachers impacted by our FANOOS Teacher Education Program since its inception. Lauryn, Murwarid, Basir our Admin Officer, support staff and our master trainers have all been key to this ongoing successful program. And congratulations again

to Irene and Deborah for all of their efforts as they continue to spend the bulk of their waking hours in efforts to connect with corporate Canada and philanthropists in support of our Lantern Fund. We are excited to see that these relationships are bearing significant results. Needless to say, the thousands of students and teachers in Afghanistan join us in our appreciation for this strong effective teacher education program.

Back home in Canada, we have seen the same dynamic and professional abilities continue across our chapter network, with so many creative and successful chapter events--from the breaking-bread fundraisers in all shapes and sizes, to the belly dancing and film nights, school and church presentations and product sales. Congratulations to each and every one of you, our chapter members, for a remarkable year at CW4WAfghan.

Throughout the year to come, please take opportunities, as I know you will, to connect with our members and ask them to share their stories. It is our own stories--each and every one--that make up the whole of CW4WAfghan. Think about it: Why did you get involved? What is your personal story? What made you pull yourself from your busy lives to say "I can do this. I will do this. It is my responsibility!" Therein lies the root of our uniquely made-in-Canada global citizenship... filled with diversity, meaning and action.

Why do we care? Because Human Rights are Universal!

Janice Eisenhauer, Executive Director



Janice welcomes Delegates and introduces the theme for MANITOBA 2014: BECAUSE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL!



THE LANTERN FUND

**Teacher Training
for Afghanistan**

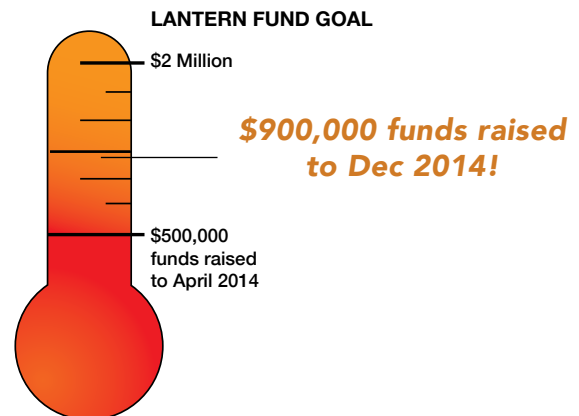
www.CW4WAfghan.ca

The **Lantern Fund: Training Teachers for Afghanistan**, is Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan's national fundraising campaign. We aim to generate \$2 million to train 1,000 teachers each year to 2018.

Please make a donation or host a **Breaking Bread Fundraising Dinner** with your friends, family and community to help us achieve our goal.

CONTINUING OUR SUCCESS

- 7,000 teachers have already been trained by CW4WAfghan
- 1000 more teachers will be trained each year through the Lantern Fund
- Quality Education will unleash the potential of millions of women and children across Afghanistan



We recognize the inherent power of education to transform lives and communities. Training teachers is critical and we invite you to support this initiative that will create a key force for continuing change: Teachers who will educate men and women, girls and boys.

Effective qualified teachers provide the knowledge and skills needed to empower individuals and inspire action.

Through your investment in the **Lantern Fund: Training Teachers for Afghanistan**, you will help the people of Afghanistan build on what they have already achieved and continue their forward momentum. You will be building local capacity and skills for a higher quality of life. For further information, contact the co-chairs, Deborah Alexander and Irene MacDonald by email at LanternFund@CW4WAfghan.ca.

"A teacher is a candle that burns to enlighten others"

Afghan Proverb

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR CHAPTER NETWORK

Thanks to our devoted members and supporters, CW4WAfghan is a very unique volunteer-led organization. The first six months of 2014 were constantly busy with many events and activities, community presentations, volunteer appreciation dinners, annual International Women's Day events in March, as well as visits made to schools and universities--all across the country. Our members also set up Afghan Marketplaces where Afghan goods and books were sold. Details of the many activities undertaken by chapter members from January to June 2014 are described in our Summer Newsletter 2014 on our website, www.CW4WAfghan.ca RESOURCES.

The following is a snapshot of highlights from the chapter activities during the last six months of 2014. Please SIGN UP on our website to follow our regular news postings about these local activities, events and updates on our community engagement activities throughout the year. JOIN US!

ATLANTIC

In July 2014, the Atlantic chapter held our second "Day in PEI," a day for active members to celebrate our efforts and exchange ideas and information as we headed into planning for the fall. Atlantic members in Pictou County attended a Breaking Bread Bridge Tournament in August and in November, members sold products at the 10,000 Villages sale.

PEI Rotary clubs continue to be big supporters of CW4WAfghan. Susan Hartley, chapter chair and CW4WAfghan Board member, spoke at three different clubs. The Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty made a presentation of a donation to the Lantern Fund and invited us back at the end of the year. As well, Susan has been invited to speak at various Women's Institutes across PEI. The Atlantic chapter was highlighted in the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation newsletter as we became a member ACIC this year.

In September 2014, The Atlantic chapter members were very pleased to host an informative and inspiring event with international journalist and author Mellissa Fung. Mellissa is well known to members of CW4WAfghan all across Canada and has generously donated her time to travel and present at our events as a strong advocate for CW4WAfghan and our programs in Afghanistan. This event was hugely successful with an attendance of about 200 people coming out to hear Mellissa's stories and to learn what is happening today in the lives of Afghan women. CBC covered the event on both radio and television news and the chapter enjoyed a full-page article in the PEI newspaper, *The Guardian*. This article included a profile of Susan Hartley,



Atlantic Chapter volunteers welcome Mellissa Fung, guest speaker at their September 2014 event: "Return to Afghanistan"

the work of the organization and highlights from the September community event. The welcome media coverage helped us reach out to more interested individuals in our communities.

In October 2014, Stephanie Cyr from Fredericton and Linda Sangster from Pictou County joined Susan to travel to Winnipeg for the annual symposium. It was a most rewarding time together and an opportunity to learn and reconnect with our network. Also this past fall, members in Fredericton, NB have started to meet and discuss how they might introduce CW4WAfghan to their community. Halifax members are busy getting organized and planning for a 2015 spring event.

CALGARY

The Calgary chapter was very pleased to be well represented this year at the annual symposium with seven members travelling to Winnipeg for the three-day event. Later that month, Janice Eisenhauer, Executive Director, presented at three Breaking Bread dinners in our community. The first very successful fundraising dinner was hosted by members, Patti Dolan and Irene Herremans. They have a wonderful and loyal following of friends who have gathered together for three years now in honour of our work. The speaker was Donna Kennedy-Glans, who has worked in over 35 countries around the world with expertise in gender and human rights. The generous sponsors and guests contributed more than \$7500 towards teacher education in Afghanistan.

The second two dinners in November were a special celebration for hosts Barbara Thrasher, Carole Perkins and Frances Wright and their guests. This is their tenth year of support for CW4WAfghan programs and the theme for the evening was "Celebrating 10 Years: Engaging Hearts Engaging Minds". A record \$10,000 was raised. Lauryn Oates, Programs Director, travelled to Calgary to speak at one of the dinners and shared heartfelt stories and inspiring photos depicting the struggles, determination and successes of Afghan women toward achieving their goal of quality education. Thanks also to Lorna Dodd and Devan Kublik for setting up and selling the beautiful Afghan products at all these dinners.



Dec 2014: ATA International Cooperation Debrief (l-r) Heather McPherson, Francoise Ruban, Edna Dach and Janice Eisenhauer

EDMONTON

The Edmonton chapter sponsored an event held in June with guest speaker, award-winning journalist and author, Sally Armstrong. She inspired all 60 guests who greeted her with great enthusiasm. The supply of her books was immediately depleted as she graciously autographed copies! In October, one of our members attended the annual symposium and enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with members from all across Canada. Then in November, members volunteered at Just for Christmas, an annual pre-Christmas gift sale that continues to be very popular. Even with the season's first winter blizzard, we were able to expand our funds and raise awareness about our volunteer efforts in Edmonton. CW4WAfghan also benefitted in December from the work of a group of non-member volunteers who organized a musical evening to benefit the Lantern Fund.

The Alberta Teachers' Association, located in Edmonton, is a collaborative partner working with and supporting CW4WAfghan nationally since 2013. In addition to several annual grants provided for CW4WAfghan's Lantern Fund for teacher training, the ATA's International Officer, Francoise Ruban has worked continuously to mentor and build connections and networks for CW4WAfghan. Most recently, in December 2014, she invited Janice Eisenhauer, CW4WAfghan Executive Director, to present and join a panel discussion at their annual ATA International Cooperation Debrief: Making Connections for Change, facilitated by Francoise and Heather McPherson, Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. This full day seminar brought together a number of teachers who recently returned from placements overseas, providing them an opportunity to share their experiences and learn from others working globally. The theme for discussions centred on: "moving from charity to solidarity" with background in global citizenship education, how to recognize and contribute toward strong international development initiatives, and how to build productive partnerships.





Excerpt from Email:



TO: Our Breaking Bread Dinner Guests
 FROM: Barbara, Carole, Frances and Alexis
 SUBJECT: "Calgary - Oh what a night!" Thank you

We are still on a high from the two wonderful evenings spent with you in celebration of our coming together for our 10th Anniversary of supporting Breaking Bread for the women and girls of Afghanistan. As the song says, "Oh what a night!"

Together we did some amazing things:

1. Raised money from our dinners for more Teachers to receive Teacher Training so that they have the basic tools they need to reach the minds and hearts of the kids they are teaching. **FIVE TEACHERS TRAINED!**
2. Endowed a Library **YES WE MADE IT!** In fact thanks to an offer to match funds and donations of two entire libraries, one as a gift for four grandchildren – together, you made it happen. **THREE LIBRARIES!**
3. That was so overwhelming and two more guests came forward and said, "Well they need a science kit too and we'll donate towards that." **TWO SCIENCE KITS!**
4. You purchased almost \$2000 of Afghan Marketplace gifts which will help many women entrepreneurs to support their families. **FOOD ON THE TABLE!**
5. Several of you have already stepped forward and offered to do your own Breaking Bread. **MORE BREAKING BREAD DINNERS PLANNED!**
6. Several of you have already offered your connections, knowledge, sources and resources to help CW4WAfghan achieve more. **LOTS OF SHARED RESOURCES!**

It wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of so many. Our deepest thanks to you our guests, and we look forward to meeting again next November.

Warm regards, Barbara, Carole, Frances and Alexis



Congratulations to Barbara Thrasher and her team on this tenth anniversary Breaking Bread

GRANDE PRAIRIE

We welcome our new member, Janice Hovey, who joined our Grande Prairie chapter in November. On June 21st, we held a lovely garden party in a member's backyard, with a homemade pie auction and tooney raffle for a handsome red outdoor lantern. A classic summer dessert of angel food cake with strawberries was enjoyed by friends and neighbours, young and old. We provided information about CW4WAfghan and details about the Lantern Fund teacher training program. In September, Arlene and Marlene did a presentation about our organization at a women's United Church retreat in Spirit River. Our

presentation was well received, accompanied by a trifold display, brochures, memberships forms and books. We also had a table of CW4WAfghan products for sale at this retreat. Our chapter members will meet with the Spirit River executive to discuss possible ongoing collaboration with our chapter. In December, we had an information session with product sales at the annual Farmers Market Christmas sale. We hope to have a member attend the BANFF 2015 symposium and help welcome chapter members to Alberta.

KINGSTON/C4WA

Canadians for Women in Afghanistan enjoyed a busy fall, beginning with attendance at the annual symposium. Madeliene Tarasick, President and Kingston member, Reine Dawe attended the event and were thrilled with the high quality of all aspects of the event – program, venue, speakers, and the all-important time to enjoy the interaction with our counterparts across the country.

In Kingston, Madeliene and Marg Stewart, Treasurer, were invited to speak at a number of churches, including Elginburg United Church, St. Peter's Anglican Church and St. Alban's Church. Each congregation made a generous donation and helped us raise awareness about both the plight of Afghan women and the work of our organization. In the same spirit, the chapter was pleased to present its fall event in partnership with Crossroads United Church. The event was held at the church, a beautiful facility, and featured homemade sweets and coffee and an Afghan marketplace. The highlight of the evening was Afghan speaker Maryam Sahar Naqibullah, a former interpreter for Canadian troops in Kandahar from the age of 15, now granted sanctuary in Canada after her life was threatened by the Taliban for the work she was doing. She held the audience spellbound with the story of her life, her work and her dreams for the future. The event attracted 150 people and the chapter was pleased to reach a new audience in addition to its regular supporters.

Canadians for Women in Afghanistan presented a movie night as a small fall fundraiser. A locally owned small theatre, The Screening Room, allowed us to feature the movie *Afghan Star*. With very little investment of our volunteer time or energy, this event proved to be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a fabulous film, with a lot of insights about Afghanistan, as well as to realize proceeds of more than \$600!

With the approach of the holiday season, C4WA set up its annual display at the Craft Fair at Canadian Forces Base Kingston. We were pleased with brisk sales and the opportunity to spread awareness and attract potential new members. The two-day event attracted a large crowd on both days, which resulted in very good sales of our Afghan products. In addition, the chapter's annual holiday appeal was published in the Kingston Whig-Standard, which generously dedicated a half-page spread and large picture. At this time the proceeds from this appeal have yielded \$2,600 with cheques still coming in.



Maryam Sahar Naqibullah, guest speaker in Kingston

The chapter finished off its 2014 year with its holiday celebration, which featured an Afghan dinner as well as a presentation of highlights from the annual symposium. Chapter members are ready

to gear up for the new year and planning for the Annual Gala to be held on May 1, 2015 at the Vimy Officers' Mess at Canadian Forces Base Kingston. Stay tuned!



Beautiful Afghan hand-made products sold at chapter events across Canada.

MANITOBA

The Manitoba chapter members were delighted to host the national annual symposium, "MANITOBA 2014: Human Rights are Universal!" and witness the gathering of approximately 50 CW4WAfghan members from coast to coast, an equal number of Manitoba community supporters, and world-renowned guest speakers, here in Winnipeg.

After hosting the symposium in October, the Manitoba chapter was busy working to engage with community schools and organizations such as the Association of Rights and Liberties. On November 21 we were invited by the Lord Wolseley Elementary School to present on the status of Afghan women, girls and human rights.

The impetus behind the school's invitation was a remarkable young activist by the name of Sydni Lane. In 2013, inspired and wanting to take action after reading *The Breadwinner*, Sydni connected to our Manitoba chapter. After a few phone conversations, emails and lunch with one of our members, Sydni decided to approach her teacher to pitch the idea of donating some of the World Changers Leadership Group fundraising for 2014 proceeds to CW4WAfghan. In the fall, we received an email from Sydni's teacher inviting us to present on Afghan women and girls. The Manitoba chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize Sydni Lane for her passion and dedication to the Afghan women and girls.

Next year, two of our members will be presenting at the Association of Rights and Liberties workshop where high school students from various schools will be attending. Yet another opportunity to inspire!



Student, Sydni Lane: a real change maker!

OAKVILLE/CSAW

After a very rewarding first six months of activities in 2014, on September 9th at St. John's United Church, CSAW members hosted a Breaking Bread with former anchor at CHCH TV in Hamilton, Connie Smith, as our MC and Mellissa Fung as our keynote speaker. Mellissa wowed the audience of 110 guests with her personal story of returning to Afghanistan in 2013 with volunteer members of CW4WAfghan, including our own Linda Middaugh. Mellissa's words moved two groups of women in the audience to commit to organizing their own Breaking Bread fundraising dinners. Enough money--\$4,000--was donated to the Lantern Fund to train 10 teachers!

Dale Butterill, national Board member, Sheila Zanyk, Liz Watson, Daniela Jansson and Linda Middaugh attended the annual symposium in Winnipeg as representatives of CSAW. We all thoroughly enjoyed our experience, coming away with a renewed passion for our cause, renewed CW4WAfghan friendships and new ones, as well as many ideas for future events. We enjoyed meeting our new manager of Community Engagement and Fund Development, Christine Wilde. Congratulations to Mellissa Fung for winning this year's Champion Award. Well deserved! Kudos to the Manitoba chapter who did a terrific job in organizing this year's symposium in Manitoba!

Linda Middaugh spoke on our behalf to the Southampton Federation of University Women's Club in October about her trip to Afghanistan and gave highlights of the CW4WAfghan programs. More than 100 people attended and guests purchased more than \$900 in Afghan products.

In November, members set up our Afghan Marketplace at Forestview Church Fair Trade, Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga and a home Breaking Bread in Rockwood, where sales reached \$1,500. Thanks to Barb Wood, Bev LeFrancois, Daniela Jansson, Liz Watson, new member Jan Beddoe and Linda Middaugh for participating in these sale venues. Thank you to Dale Butterill for representing CW4WAfghan in Toronto at the book launch of Ahmad-shah Duranai's book "The Leadership Zone, Lessons from the Front Lines." Mr. Duranai, an Afghan-Canadian architect and entrepreneur, is kindly donating a portion of the proceeds from his book sales to CW4WAfghan.

Elaine Scott hosted a Breaking Bread in her home in Rockwood, inviting 25 people and raising \$1,200 for training three teachers in Afghanistan. Linda Middaugh made a presentation about her past trip to Afghanistan and the CW4WAfghan projects, focusing on the teacher training program. People were attentive and demonstrated their interest with many questions. They also purchased \$400 worth of goods from the Afghan marketplace set up by Barb Wood. Elaine is an enthusiastic supporter and plans to make this Breaking Bread an annual event.

Since becoming an official chapter of CW4WAfghan, we are proud to have sent CW4WAfghan national more than \$47,000. We ended 2014 with our December meeting, inviting friends of CSAW to join us for a lunch catered by an Afghan restaurant. It was a chance to celebrate all of our successes, and to thank all of our committed, enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers.



Linda Middaugh (CSAW) with Mellissa Fung and Kathy Clarke who bought 10 copies of Mellissa's book for her book club at our Breaking Bread fundraiser in September that raised \$4000 for teacher training.



CSAW members Linda Middaugh (left) and Liz Watson (right) visit with guest speaker, Raheel Raza (centre) during tour of Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg during the symposium in Oct 2014.

OKANAGAN LW4LW

For the past eight years we have been working toward peace through education in Afghanistan. For Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan, this year alone has been exciting, challenging, and full of growth and gifts. On June 1st, we participated in Oyama Fun Days where we held our annual booth. We sold our t-shirts, tank tops, long sleeves, books, and other things, as well as introduced a new fundraising initiative — henna. It seemed to be quite the hit with everyone, even the "Littles!" On July 1st, we held our Canada Day booths in Lake Country and downtown Kelowna. This was our final year doing our Lake Country Canada Day booth. We had a great time with both booths in raising awareness and having fun. We sold our products and did henna again.

Over the remainder of the summer, three of our members and friends joined together to raise money and awareness for LW4LW. Two members travelled to Toronto and gave a speech to their

family and friends and had a fundraiser at their event. When they returned home, they came together with their friends and had lemonade stands and other fun fundraisers. In total, the girls raised \$4,000 over the summer!

Overall, we have had a busy and successful year with LW4LW. We were able to accomplish a lot and had an amazing time doing it. It is hard to believe we held our first ever meeting eight years ago. So much has happened since then; the idea of people joining together to become a powerful movement for peace has come to life.

LW4LW Founder Alaina Podmorow writes: "I have seen the girls never give up in standing for what is just in this world, and I have watched as the girls who, on day one were determined to change the world, continue to grow into wonderful, intelligent, passionate, determined, and truly phenomenal young women."


OTTAWA

In October 2014, we hosted an exciting educational event aimed at Exploring the Impact of the 2014 Election on Afghan women. We invited the community to a screening of Diana Saqeb's Documentary 25 Darsad (25 per cent), with a donation to CW4WAfghan as admission. In addition to the screening, we were pleased to present women's rights activist Sabrina Saqeb as a guest speaker. While Sabrina was born in 1979 in Afghanistan, she spent the first two decades of her life in Iran as a refugee, before returning to Afghanistan in 2003. Two years later, at the age of 25, she became the youngest elected member of parliament. Ottawa chapter members were also pleased to present guest speaker Senator Mobina Jaffer. Women's rights

and children's rights are central to Senator Jaffer's advocacy.

Our Ottawa members, Jennifer Simpson and Hally Siddons were pleased to be able to attend the MANITOBA 2014 symposium this year. Jennifer gave a presentation to other chapter members during the session: "Lightning Strikes." This session profiled a number of successful experiences and activities undertaken by chapters throughout the past year and was a huge success.

Ottawa members are looking forward to 2015 and hosting our board members, Madeliene Tarasick and Marg Stewart from Kingston at an event with university students, as well as our upcoming celebration of Nawrooz (the Afghan New Year).



Join us in the Celebration of
Nawrooz 2015

Discover and enjoy
Afghan culture
through music, dancing and food ...and contribute to the education of girls and women in Afghanistan

Saturday, March 21, 2015
6:00pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

Ottawa City Hall
110 Laurier Avenue West

Tickets
\$30 general admission
\$10 for 13 and under
*In addition to admission donations would be welcomed

PETERBOROUGH

Last November, Peterborough members held a very successful event at St. John's Anglican Church with 80 people in attendance. It was a unique community fund raiser and presentation "Education is a Human Right." The special guest speaker was Shegufa Merchant, an academic researcher with international experience. She is a motivational speaker who has conducted workshops for women and youth and helped newcomers in Canada. Those in attendance were treated to a delicious meal of traditional Afghan food prepared by Soriya with help from her volunteer Afghan cooking class. Chapter members also provided Afghan music, a craft sale, silent auction, displays and a slide show. Over \$1,500 was donated for our programs. One of our members, Soriya Basir-Monsef attended the MANITOBA 2014 symposium and brought back wonderful stories about her rewarding experiences. She really enjoyed spending time with members from across Canada and the many inspiring presentations throughout the weekend. Hopefully our members will be able to also plan to attend BANFF 2015.



Peterborough fundraising dinner: 80 people attended the community dinner at St. John's Anglican Church. Members (l-r) Joanne Rowland, Janet Bradley, Daphne Ingram and Melodie McCullough admire items at the Afghan marketplace.

SASKATCHEWAN

Our Saskatchewan chapter has been working with the Girls Everywhere Matter Club and teachers in other schools to build on their efforts in understanding the challenges facing girls and young women in Afghanistan and to support the work of CW4WAfghan. We also collaborate with members of the Saskatchewan Chapter of DkG - an international women's leadership society.

VANCOUVER

After a busy first half of the year with an event featuring Melissa Fung at the Planetarium in March, followed by a film screening with Afghan filmmaker Malek Shafi'i in April, chapter members gathered on a warm August evening for a potluck patio social to share ideas and plan for fall events. Then in September, chapter member Shahnaz Qayumi hosted a Breaking Bread dinner in her home, with close to 50 attending and enjoying the stunning view of downtown Vancouver and the Pacific Ocean.

In mid-November, the Vancouver chapter hosted an Evening of Afghan Storytelling, a fundraiser in support of the Lantern Fund. Our evening began with a traditional Afghan meal at the Afghan Chopan Restaurant. Many of us headed back for seconds at the buffet before we settled down with our dessert to listen to the storytelling. Our diverse group of speakers showed slides while telling their stories that highlighted people, places, music, culture, technology, sports, families, love, and memories of Afghanistan. Numerous guests said the speakers presented such a positive and fascinating view of Afghanistan, they were intrigued and hoped to learn more about the country and the people. The silent auction portion of the evening provided the opportunity for individuals to buy gifts for others or to pick up something special for themselves. Bidding was competitive on many items; however at the end of the silent auction, all left satisfied with their purchases. All in all, it was a very successful evening!

Also in mid-November, Vancouver chapter's Global Stewardship student volunteer and chapter member Matina Kamdar organized a Bachelor Auction fundraising event hosted by the BC Ismaili Student Association. All proceeds went to the Lantern Fund, and chapter member Barbara McMillan attended with a brief slide presentation on CW4WAfghan programs.

As 2014 came to a close, we held our December dinner meeting at Canada's first Afghan restaurant, the Afghan Horseman, to celebrate the end of a very successful year, and start planning for 2015.

VICTORIA

In 2014, as part of our community engagement activities, chapter member Catherine Lang spoke with the Kiwanis Club of Victoria; chapter member Kay Dila presented CW4WAfghan's work to several schools, which resulted in three schools raising money for school library kits (Central Middle School, Christ Church Cathedral School and Montessori Selkirk School); and chapter chair Jill Leslie gave presentations to Oak Bay Rotary, Zonta, and at Monterey Public Library on International Women's Day.

In the spring, the Victoria chapter held three showings of The Honor Diaries to our own chapter, to the Advocacy Group of Canadian Federation of University Women Victoria, and to a group of social workers from Women's Transition House.

In July, the chapter held our annual garden tea party at Jill Leslie's home. We hosted Marnie Gustavson in August for two very inspiring events. First was "Tales from An Afghan Village: An Afternoon in a Summer Garden" held in Cowichan Bay, BC, at chapter member Bev Oliver's Bed & Breakfast.

The second event with Marnie, the luncheon "On the Ground in Afghanistan: Lunch with P A R S A ' s M a r n i e Gustavson," took place at The Penny Farthing Pub in Victoria; it was co-hosted by



Marnie Gustavson, PARSA, special guest speaker at the VICTORIA chapter garden party

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. From the two events more than \$2,000 was raised for CW4WAfghan education programs in Afghanistan. The chapter was also busy with craft sales at the summer garden tea parties and at the VIDEA Fair Trade Fair in the fall.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The heart of CW4WAfghan is the remarkable and unique skills and commitment of every volunteer member across Canada! Canadians can foster change in the world. Be a part of the global effort for justice and human rights. The rewards are endless both personally, and for all of us! Here are a few initial recommendations for ways that you could support CW4WAfghan by volunteering:

- 1) **Join a Chapter** in your area to learn more about local activities and events...and make new friends! There's no Chapter in your area? We can help you start one!
- 2) Become an official **Member** of CW4WAfghan to demonstrate your support for our goals and objectives. The life-time membership fee is \$15.
- 3) Hold a **Breaking Bread Pot Luck Dinner** or other fundraising event in your community. Help raise funds for education programs in Afghanistan.
- 4) Help others **Learn** about the issues. Review our Fact Sheet series, resources and newsletters. Invite a CW4WAfghan representative to your work place, school, book club or community group to raise awareness of the need to continue sustaining education programs for Afghan women and girls.
- 5) **Sign up** to our mailing list to learn more about upcoming events, news and other opportunities to get involved.
- 6) Check back often on our **Calendar of Events** to participate and help with local activities. Also, each year we hold an annual symposium to draw together our volunteers, supporters and members from across the country. Together, with expert speakers, we explore and learn more about the importance of universal human rights in Afghanistan and what we can do. Watch our events page for more details.
- 7) **Volunteer Translators** needed in Dari or Pashto.

Talk to us about other specific volunteer tasks depending on your interests, skills and time available. We welcome you to contact us to discover the right fit for your valuable skills and contributions. **For further information:**

Visit our website www.CW4WAfghan.ca or email Community@CW4WAfghan.ca

Foster change in the world. Be a part of the global effort for justice and human rights.



GOALS:

- To advance education for Afghan women and girls
- To educate Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan

www.CW4WAfghan.ca

HIGHLIGHTS OF MANITOBA 2014 SYMPOSIUM

"It is my pleasure and honour to welcome delegates from almost every chapter in our organization. It seems hard to believe that a year has passed since our magical gathering in Victoria. Yet, here we are in Winnipeg. What a perfect location to come together to do our work in concert with the opening of the magnificent Canadian Museum of Human Rights. A huge thank you to our Manitoba chapter chair, Mariam Omar, and the hard-working members who have expedited this fabulous opportunity and welcomed us with such wonderful hospitality. And we much appreciate the comfort and amenities of this grand Fort Garry Hotel."

Madeliene Tarasick, President

SESSION: BREAKING THE BARRIERS OF SILENCE



RAHEEL RAZA

Opening with a 30-minute version of the documentary film *Honor Diaries*, Raheel Raza, President of the Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow, gave an impassioned presentation on the need to speak out about the violence being perpetrated upon women and girls worldwide. While these practices are most common in Muslim countries, they occur even in North America.

Raheel noted that since 1999 there have been 22 recorded honour killings in Canada. During this period there have been 8,000 per year in Pakistan, her native country. Raheel says, "I appreciate the opportunity to speak out here in Canada (her adopted home); this is not so in the country I

grew up in." She went further, saying that she wishes there had been such an organization as Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan in Pakistan when she was growing up.

The *Honor Diaries* focuses on the three greatest violations of women's rights: 1) female genital mutilation, 2) forced marriage, and 3) honour violence. Muslim women who suffer these atrocious violations, says Raheel, are being ignored, not only by Muslims but by the whole world. Honour in the Muslim world permeates the entire culture. It is believed that "the honour of a family is vested in a woman's body," Raheel explained. According to her, "There has never been a better time than now to change the tide." This is why she chose to join and moderate the discussion among a group of female activists who were brought together by Jasvinder Sanghera in Princeton, N.J., and developed the *Honor Diaries*. Jasvinder founded Karma Nirvana — an organization created to save women from forced marriages, a practice which she could only personally escape from by running away from home. The group that assembled to create the *Honor Diaries* included such internationally recognized activists as Aya Hirsi Ali. Out of their discussions grew the immensely powerful video which tells the story of the three main female rights' violations, and the horror, suffering, and human cost of each.

"We have strength in solidarity," said Raheel. "We must speak out." The film does just that! It has been screened in Urdu, Arabic, Spanish, and numerous other languages. Over 400,000 Muslims have watched it. "To be afraid to speak out against these practices, these beliefs, is to give into them," declared Raheel. Asked whether the group has developed tools to help women in countries where these violations go on, Raheel said, "Yes. We establish connections with grassroots organizations. We need to get legislation changed. However, the first stage is raising awareness. In Britain there is a help line and there are safe houses. We need both of these in Canada. We are working on it!"

The *Honor Diaries* documentary is a very powerful way to raise awareness and should be shown wherever possible. In order to get the film to show to friends, chapter members, or other groups, Raheel invites you to contact her at: info@honordiaries.com



CW4WAfghan Delegates attending MANITOBA 2014 Symposium

l-r, front row: Susan, Sue, Anne, Devan, Laila, Amanda, Courtney; second row: Lois, Georgina, Public guest, Public guest, Mary, Makai, Linda, Kay, Jennifer, Reine, Liz, Lauren; third row: Janis, Janice, Soriya, Deborah, Daniella, Raheel, Susan, Celia, Sheila, Talia, Mimuna; fourth row: Sanjar, Christine, Linda, Lauryn, Wilma, Monica, Madeliene, Libby, Hally, Hedie, Ilene, Patti, Shahnaz, Public guest; back row: Public guest, Barb, Dale, Mariam, Stephanie, Eve, Jeff, Public guest, Farouk missing: Leuba, Gord



KEYNOTE ADDRESS "To Live With Dignity"

LAURYN OATES

CW4WAfghan's Programs Director and long-standing member Lauryn Oates wowed the delegates with an impassioned keynote address making reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: All Human Beings are Born Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights.

Deviating dramatically from her usual format, Lauryn moved the audience with a wonderful personal tribute to her amazing grandfather. Within just a few nostalgic photos from home, it was clear where Lauryn gets her spunky spirit and sense of humour. This segue of growing up in a home filled with love and respect was clearly a

cornerstone for her passion and commitment to the young girls and women of Afghanistan.

Through more candid photos and vivid descriptions of life in Afghanistan, Lauryn took delegates on a journey to an orphanage in Kabul. She introduced us to several special girls there through slides taken many years ago, then chronicled their lives and shared a series of updated pictures of the girls grown up. She shared their stories of young lives brimming with hope and determination, and the varied outcomes that reflected the realities of being a young woman in Afghanistan.

This truly poignant chronicle brought home so clearly the tremendous worth of our investment in these young women's lives. We thank Lauryn for another amazing keynote!

Just recently, Lauryn followed up with an inspiring update: Anisa, one of the young girls she featured, has been accepted into university – a stellar achievement for an orphaned girl who grew up during the rule of the Taliban.

W W W W W

WOW, WOMEN - WINNIPEG WAS WONDERFUL!

AND, WE DO THE OTHER 5 W'S WELL TOO –
WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY!



PLUS THANKS FOR BEING SUCH
ENTHUSIASTIC DANCING ACTIVISTS!
YOU ARE HELPING TO KEEP YOUR BIG
HEARTS HEALTHY!



YOUR S.I.S.
(SISTER IN SOCIAL JUSTICE),
BELLY DANCING ANNE

"Thank you CW4WAfghan Members for your support and to those who were up early on Saturday morning to take part in our third annual LNF walk/run. I was thinking of you as I ran round the Valtos Peninsula. It has been called one of the most beautiful 10K circuits in Scotland, and our event has gained quite a following. Let's meet again 'on the run' in BANFF 2015!"

Lorna



L-R: Liz (Oakville), Linda (Atlantic), Sheila (Oakville), Soriya (Peterborough), Janis (Calgary) join Manitoba chapter members for the early morning LNF walk/run.



Linda
Norgrove
Foundation
10K Run/Walk
Oct 4, 2014



Participants on the Valtos Peninsula, Isle of Lewis

REFLECTIONS ON SYMPOSIUM FROM DELEGATES

Great symposium!

- inspiring speakers
- maturing of the organization
- expansion of the team in Kabul with further reaching results.
- hope for the future.

Thank you to the Winnipeg team.

Reine, Kingston

I had a fantastic time at the conference. It was so nice to meet so many passionate, caring people over the 3-day conference. I really came away from the conference having gained so much. I appreciated all of the program content: the speakers, the presentations, the performances and all of the conversations. More than anything, the conference really just reinforced why we do the work we do. I feel so very lucky to be apart of such an incredible organization.

Courtney, Manitoba

Thank you for the hard and the great work you are all doing for my country. I also enjoyed meeting and talking to so many great people.

Sanjar

What a wonderful few days! ...so many more amazing people, all working together for a common goal! And Sanjar, I've already voted for him and wish him success and safety in his dangerous work. Meeting Mellissa was also a great experience, together with meeting Sally Armstrong a number of months ago. Getting to know both of these inspiring women, even briefly, made this a truly seminal year for me! I also want to thank CW4WAfghan, for all you did for us (me) at the symposium - wine at Bombolini's, the gift card for Café 360, the beautiful rose and star at the dinner, the last breakfast at the Fort Garry, etc. These were all unexpected things, so thoughtful, and so much appreciated. Thanks again, and I look forward to the next time we meet.

Hedie, Manitoba

It was really good to hear from people working in Afghanistan to get their perspective - really appreciated that.

Susan, Manitoba

Thank you so much for hosting me in Winnipeg. It was beyond my expectations and I am so inspired by all of you tireless women that my own journey seems easy :) ...

Hope to see you in Banff.

Raheel

Thank you again for a wonderful weekend - I'm so energized and excited being around amazing and inspiring CW4WAfghan Delegates. You lift me up and I'm truly humbled by the Champion for Education Award. Thank you all!

Mellissa

Thank you...to be part of another successful event for CW4WAfghan in 2014. I loved every part...

Sorya, Peterborough

I loved every minute of the Winnipeg conference! What a wonderful program it was, with heart-rending theatre, a brilliant, terrifying, call-to-action film, and talks that transported us repeatedly to the immediacy of Afghanistan and where it stands now—Lauryn, Murwarid, Sanjar, Raheel thank you! And, beyond all this, it was such an opportunity to reconnect with so many wonderful 'CW4WAfghan-ers'! Finally, I felt such renewed support for the Lantern Fund—and new ideas for taking it forward... THANK YOU!

Deborah, Calgary

I have been a member of CW4WAfghan for 5 years but wasn't able in past years to attend the annual conferences...I knew the symposium would be a great experience, but it out-did my highest expectations. The most valuable aspect of the past few days for me was meeting and hearing from members of our executive and board and getting to know some of the members from the other chapters. I was also very inspired by our excellent guest speakers. I will be thinking of the sessions in the days and months ahead and look forward to meeting again with everyone next year.

Monica, Manitoba

I thought the event was outstanding - superb programme content and excellent pace. Thank you and all involved!

Hally, Ottawa

SESSION: BEYOND BREAKING BREAD, A FUNDRAISING PRIMER

Fundraising is an important role for chapters, whether the goal is to support local activities, raise awareness or contribute to CW4WAfghan programs. This fundraising planning session explored different ways to raise funds, what motivates people to give, organizational readiness, and how to develop a plan that is strategic and effective. Drawing on chapter success stories and building on the Lightning Strikes session, this participatory session helped members learn to create a fund development plan that is suitable for their chapter environment, interests and goals.



BARBARA McMILLAN

Long time Vancouver Chapter member, Barbara McMillan, has a wealth of fundraising and community development experience promoting youth philanthropy, proposal writing, working with community foundations, teaching at the B.C. Institute of Technology, and operating her own consulting firm: All About Impact. She generously shared her expertise to assist members with their fundraising and relationship-building goals, events and projects.

Barbara discussed the organization's current challenges and opportunities and demonstrated our fundraising potential by citing successful campaigns such as The Giving Pledge, which has raised the profile of philanthropy in Canada, and outlining current trends:

- a new generation of younger, wealthy donors and social entrepreneurs
- growing competition for funds in general
- funders in search of partnerships
- increased challenge/matching gift programs
- new tools and opportunities through social media
- improved tax incentives for giving

- belief that education reduces vulnerability (it's an antidote to evil)
- heightened awareness and donor concern about accountability, efficiency and impact.

She described some of the major reasons that individuals in general are motivated to give, such as compassion for, or experience with, the cause, and invited symposium participants to list reasons that people give to CW4WAfghan.

These include:

- education is a long-term solution that impacts generations to come
- belief that Afghans should have the same human rights as we do
- our donated funds go directly to programs empowering individuals to address threats to peace and security and helping to restore human rights
- credibility of our organization: donating to CW4WAfghan is effective, i.e., the dollars go further
- we reach those with an interest in Afghanistan and its history of exploitation
- connection to someone in the organization
- well-written impact and annual reports: real stories with impact.

Barbara encouraged chapters to leverage their own personal relationships. She noted that any chapter member may have a connection to a donor and can make personal introductions to provide opportunities for people to give. For example, a Breaking Bread participant could become a monthly donor; access matching dollars through his or her employer; create speaking opportunities at schools or Rotary clubs, and much more. She encouraged members to explore and communicate new opportunities such as planned giving, crowd funding, direct mail and more. Chapters also benefit through a mutual and complementary relationship with national staff and volunteers who can assist with vital community engagement tools and support.

"The key to success is creating your own fund development readiness checklist, which includes having a detailed plan with short- and long-term goals; knowing your audience; knowing your message; looking for opportunities, leveraging current support and contacts, and linking others to the cause."

SESSION: ENGAGING THE MEDIA: A Journalists' Panel

PANEL MEMBERS: GEOFF CURRIER (RADIO PERSPECTIVE); MELLISSA FUNG (TV PERSPECTIVE); SANJAR SOHAIL (ONLINE MEDIA PERSPECTIVE) AND TERRY GLAVIN (PRINT PERSPECTIVE). MODERATOR AMANDA EYOLFSON (VICTORIA)

The Engaging the Media: A Journalists' Panel included four panelists: local CJOB Radio Nighthawk host Geoff Currier, former CBC TV reporter Mellissa Fung, Hasht e Subh Editor/Founder Sanjar Sohail and Ottawa Citizen columnist Terry Glavin. Victoria chapter member Amanda Eyolfson was the moderator. Each media expert was tasked with providing the audience their top tips for engaging with journalists and answering questions on how best to build relationships as well as raising CW4WAfghan's profile with local and national press.

As representatives of a human rights and development organization working to further change in Afghanistan, we have a story to tell--many stories in fact! This panel provided a hands-on workshop where delegates heard directly from journalists about what it takes to interact proactively with the media to get our message out there.

Geoff Currier started the session by stressing that since news outlets receive dozens of press releases and tips each week, releases should be brief and to the point. Chosen interview subjects must be good communicators, while story ideas with a local angle are important. Mellissa Fung mentioned that good relationships are built through transparency and a willingness for subjects to assist journalists with their story where possible. Speaking on social media, Sanjar Sohail reminded participants to remain active online to maintain their position as experts in their field, ensuring information provided is accurate in order to increase audiences. Joining the panel via Skype, Terry Glavin advised to ensure that there is always a story to release, not just an event. Story ideas must also have all the details, including: who, what, where, when and why. They should be suitable for the news medium itself; for example, some pieces may be appropriate for TV or print only. Audience engagement for the panel was high, with many questions asked and plenty of information taken away from the session.

SESSION: BECAUSE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL!

PANEL MEMBERS: LAURYN OATES, RAHEEL RAZA AND SANJAR SOHAIL. MODERATOR: SUE HARTLEY, CW4WAFGHAN DIRECTOR (ATLANTIC)

Panelists briefly addressed their key areas of expertise regarding universal human rights, discussing progress and needs in areas such as freedom of expression, access to education, gender equality, and good governance. Delegates took the opportunity to ask questions and delve into these issues in more detail.

As a wind-up to a heady series of presentations and discussions throughout the day, and preceding the closing presentation by Sanjar Sohail, delegates were treated to an excellent panel discussion. These are the highlights:

Advice to Afghanistan's New Leaders:

Raheel: Build trust with neighbouring countries; forge a unity government.

Sanjar: The government's focus must be on sustainability of gains made.

Lauryn (quoting President, Ashraf Ghani): prioritize rebuilding and reduction of lawlessness.

Human Rights Challenges:

Raheel: Address needs of 2.7 million refugees outside Afghanistan; access to and quality of education are top priority.

Sanjar: Too many civilian deaths and injuries; Pakistan's military and ISI still a major issue.

Lauryn: Address environmental crisis such as lead or poor air quality; promote good governance; and rooting out corruption.

Priorities for the Canadian Government:

Raheel: Facilitate discussion with groups of people in Afghanistan.

Sanjar: Donor money needs to go to the country, not outside contractors.

Lauryn: Continue Three-D's: diplomacy, defense, and DEVELOPMENT.

SESSION: CHAPTER LIGHTNING STRIKES

FACILITATED BY BOARD MEMBERS, JANIS RAPCHUK AND MADELIENE TARASICK.

This session was designed to provide opportunities for chapter members to share their experiences and techniques with other members in short “lightning strike” five-minute presentations. This was a unique chance for delegates to engage and share their many skills and chapter resources.

The plan behind this unique session was to get specific ideas about successes and challenges of our chapter activities and events to the delegates, all in a very brief time frame. It was a concentrated workshop on fundraising, film festivals, operating funds, grants, volunteer recruitment, and school activities. These were areas that members had indicated they wanted more information on how to, how not to, what works, what doesn't. For example, the annual gala is used by a number of chapters to raise significant money and to raise awareness of not only the issues in Afghanistan, but also the profile of CW4WAfghan within the local community. It was informative to hear the background and planning undertaken for each gala, what contributed to the overall success, what detracted from the success, and some of the specifics such as who to invite as the keynote speaker, and how to contact speakers, and whether to have a sit-down banquet or a cocktail party. Members could pick and choose among the numerous suggestions for their own events.

After each lightning strikes general theme there was time for a few questions and input from the audience. Discussion on the topics was initiated and ideas were shared which were taken back to the various chapters to be utilized.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OUR KABUL TEAM

Delegates had the opportunity to “meet” the Kabul staff, who sent a greeting in a short video. Each staff member cheerfully introduced him or herself and explained his or her position—the country director, administrator and logistics manager, program manager, procurement officer, monitoring and evaluation officer, master teacher trainers, the cleaner, the cook, the guards and drivers. This short clip gave delegates a wonderfully personal glimpse into the Kabul Office by matching the names with the faces of the individuals who do our work each day in Afghanistan. The video was a highlight of the symposium—a tremendous opportunity to shine the spotlight on the contributions of the Afghan staff in implementing our programs, to underscore how proud we are of their excellent work, and to highlight that our organization is able to provide employment for a very special group of Afghan citizens.

CRY AFTER MIDNIGHT



A PLAY BY TALIA PURA

One of the highlights of the annual symposium was a very special premier presentation of an original play, *Cry After Midnight*. The play was written and directed by long-time Manitoba chapter member, Talia Pura. Talia is a professional artist with extensive experience as a dancer, teacher, playwright and actress. In 2011, after reading about CW4WAfghan in a local paper, Talia got in touch with the Manitoba chapter to help. Ever since she has been a dedicated supporter and an incredibly giving chapter member. Mariam Omar says, “*Her dedication, generosity and giving nature have enhanced our fundraising events and our chapter beyond measure.*”

Cry After Midnight is the story of lives irrevocably impacted by the war in Afghanistan. Through a series of intertwined, first-person monologues, the drama plays out through the lives of three women. Congratulations to Talia and the performers for giving each woman a distinctive voice and perspective on the war. This poignant exploration of the military roles in Afghanistan and the devastating effects on the lives of soldiers and their families, as well as the innocent victims of Afghanistan, was expertly crafted and well acted by local Talia and the Manitoba actors. They each donated their time and talents in this performance. Thank you for bringing to our audience a unique and heart-wrenching portrayal of life on the front lines in a country forever changed by war.

MANITOBA 2014 SYMPOSIUM OCT 2-5, 2014



ARTICLE 1:

All human beings are
equal in dignity and rights.



THANK YOU MANITOBA
CHAPTER!

are born free
in dignity and rights.



*The Universal Declaration
Human Rights*



ARTICLE

SESSION: A DECADE OF DEMOCRACY IN AFGHANISTAN: TAKING STOCK AND IMAGINING THE FUTURE

SANJAR SOHAIL

Sanjar Sohail is the Editor of Afghanistan's Hasht-e Subh ("8am") Newspaper. A leader in the emergence of Afghanistan's thriving independent media sector, Sanjar took a look back at the past decade in Afghanistan and a look forward to analyze key elements of the social and political change that has swept the country. He discussed what is likely to happen in the coming months and years, and what Afghanistan will need from the international community, including the public, to hold steady. The role of youth, media, good governance, human rights, and gender was explored, as well as a discussion of freedom of expression. To wind up the symposium, Sanjar gave an inspired and inspiring keynote address on the positive changes taking place in Afghanistan.

As the editor of a leading newspaper in Kabul Sanjar noted the lack of media attention on the positive changes, citing Tom Stafford who says, "Journalists are drawn to the reporting of bad news because sudden disaster is more compelling than slow improvements." CW4WAfghan members are well aware of this and as such found what Sanjar chronicled on the good news front extremely compelling.

Sanjar started by linking his account to personal experiences within his family, notably his sisters, to illustrate the degree of change taking place in Afghanistan. All three were able to pursue higher education either within or outside the country, and he noted how their experiences reflected that of millions of other young women today. Dramatic changes in the level of girls' education have occurred over a short period: today 40 percent of the eight million students now attending school are female.

This corresponds to a rapid increase in political participation where 25 percent of parliamentarians are female and many provincial council members are female, along with judges, ambassadors, military personnel and so on. He credits this rise in part to the constitution which guarantees equality between men and

women, and to laws which protect rights and responsibilities, e.g., the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. He sees this law as a beginning from which Afghan society can recognize its obligation to stop the abuse and violence facing women and girls.

A third area of great importance in women's lives is the explosion of telecommunications technology, such as mobile phones. Such technology enables women, often restricted in their movements outside the home, to communicate through alternative means and to connect with the world. This radically transforms access to information and connectedness for women. This is supported by very robust mobile phone services in the country where 85% of the population has access.

Fourthly, Sanjar cited freedom of the press as a very important achievement that is accompanied by the proliferation of television, radio and newspaper media. These are supported by the Afghan Media Law, which outlaws censorship before or after broadcasting as long as the media stay within certain "red lines", such as no broadcasting against ethnic groups or Islam. Afghanistan stands ahead of most countries in its region on the press freedom index established by Reporters Without Borders. Importantly the media provide outlets for citizens to express their opinions and media play a substantial role in public education. There are now programs where women openly discuss forced marriages and domestic violence, something that would never have happened under the Taliban regime. He believes such programs establish a basis for dialogue on issues of societal importance.

Another area seeing marked change is health care. Infant mortality rates are down significantly, access to public health services and immunization is at 90%. Life expectancy is now 60 years, up from the 40-year statistic under the Taliban.

Sanjar ended his address on a cautionary note. He spoke to the importance of sustaining the gains made to date and to the time it takes for a society like Afghanistan to make meaningful change. It does not happen overnight and while it may look to an outsider that change is too slow, the reality is that change needs to be nurtured over the long haul. In his words "progress that is visible takes years, not days," and

without continued international support these achievements risk being lost. Sanjar expressed deep gratitude to Canada for its military role and the sacrifices made to help Afghanistan. He thanked CW4WAfghan for its work in education and Lauryn Oates for her professional approach, her extraordinary knowledge of the country, her willingness to undertake risk in order to carry out this “highly valuable” work. He closed by asking the delegates to ask the Canadian government

and stakeholders to stay and do more because, in his words, the “people need you and they have the capacity and commitment to change their destiny if you are behind them.”

CHAMPION AWARD



MELLISSA FUNG

At the annual symposium dinner, CW4WAfghan members presented this year's Champion of Education in Afghanistan Award to Mellissa Fung, award-winning international journalist and former CBC correspondent. This award is presented annually to recognize an individual who has given outstanding service to the cause of supporting education for girls or women in Afghanistan.

Mellissa Fung began her love affair with Afghanistan when she travelled there to report on the conditions in one of the sprawling camps for internally displaced persons. She was abducted on the outskirts of Kabul on her second tour of the country in 2008. Her book, *Under an Afghan Sky*, powerfully chronicles that experience and was, for many of us, our first introduction to this amazing woman who cares so much about the Afghan people, especially the girls and women.

In May of 2013, five years after she was kidnapped, she courageously returned to Afghanistan, along with a CW4WAfghan delegation, to reset her narrative and affirm her belief in the people of Afghanistan and a hopeful future, in spite of daunting challenges. To quote Mellissa, “I think that when you go through something so

traumatic, you're forever tied to that place and those people. I will never be able to stop thinking about the hope I saw in the eyes of the women and girls I met there.” This journey, featured in the CBC documentary, “Return to Afghanistan,” which aired on The National in November, 2013, brought a heightened awareness of the plight of Afghan women, as well as the work of our organization, into thousands of living rooms across this nation.

Mellissa has continued to be a relentless advocate for the women of Afghanistan, and an outstanding friend of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. She has passionately dedicated herself to a relentless schedule of pro bono speaking engagements across the country, including Charlottetown, Ottawa, Kingston, Calgary, New Glasgow, Vancouver, and Winnipeg, among others. Everywhere she goes, she has inspired her audiences and prompted or affirmed their commitment to support Afghan girls and women. Still, she remains steadfastly humble about her achievements. This selfless contribution of time, talent and energy has translated into a staggering sum of dollars raised to support CW4WAfghan girls, women and families. She is truly a champion who has been stellar in realizing our mission of raising both awareness and funds to carry on the work we so greatly cherish.

Thank you,

tashakor, Mellissa.



Madeliene Tarasick presents award to Mellissa Fung

OUR WORK IN AFGHANISTAN
STRENGTHENING EDUCATION AND
CREATING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS PORTFOLIO 2014

**PROGRAM:
INVESTING IN BASIC EDUCATION**

- The Lantern Teacher Education for Afghanistan Program
- School Starter Kits (Science and Library)
- Fatema tul Zahra Community Schools
- Darakht-e Danesh Online Library

**PROGRAM:
LITERACY, BOOKS AND LIBRARIES**

- Afghanistan Reads!/Afghanistan Lowalee

GRANTS:

- Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies
- PARSA



Lantern

Teacher Education for Afghanistan Program



Darakht-e Danesh
درخت دانش

Afghanistan Reads!
افغانستان لولي!

Community Libraries and Literacy Program

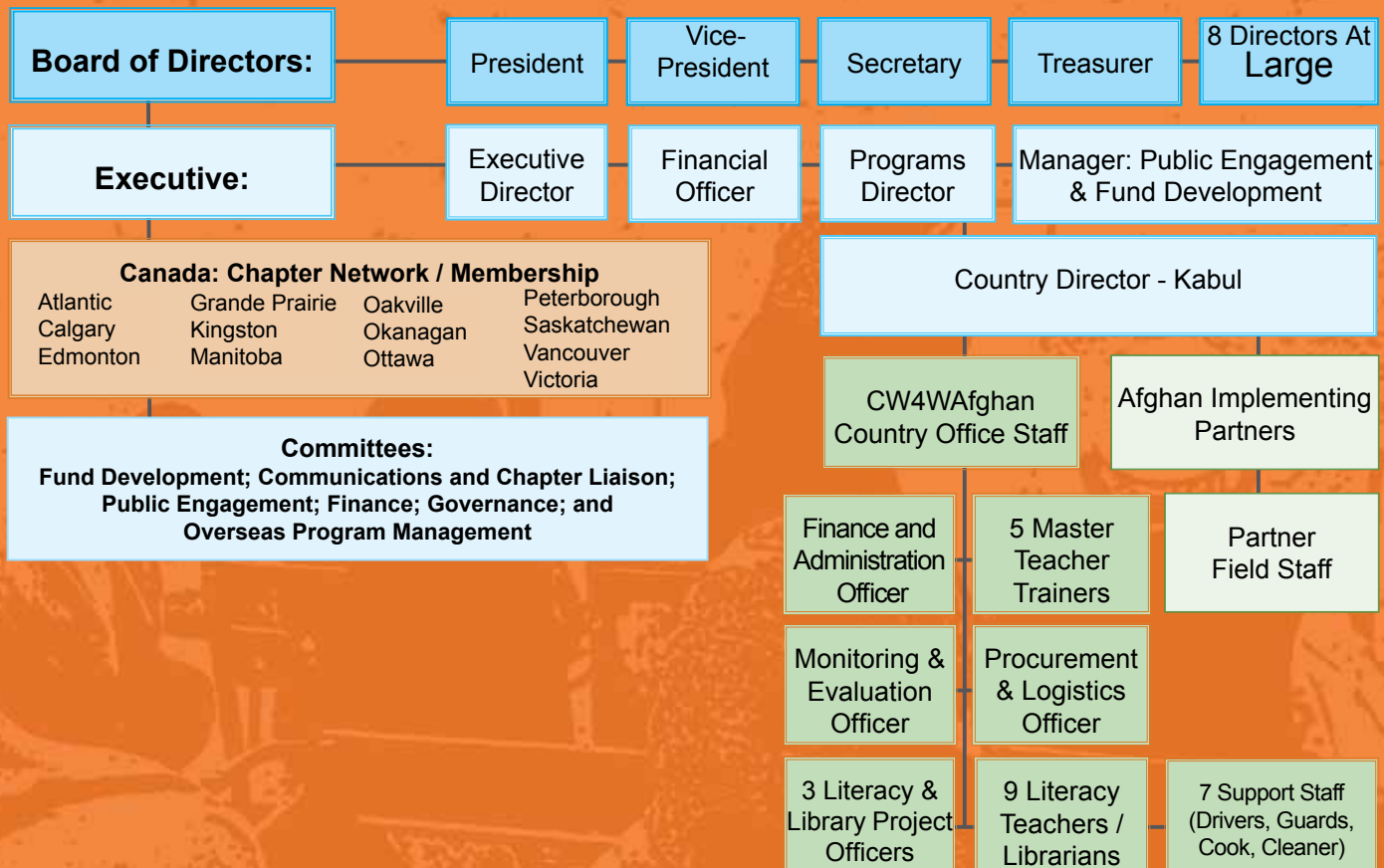


Interested to learn more about our work in Afghanistan?
You will find all of that information in our separate Impact
Report 2014 and on our website "RESOURCES"





ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOUR DONATIONS CAN FUND FOR OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN:

- \$30 buys notebooks, pencils and paper for a student at a community school for 6 months
- \$75 pays for training materials and books for teacher training
- \$120 pays a monthly salary for a village librarian
- \$250 provides lunches for 70 orphan students for one month
- \$400 provides training and certification for one teacher trainee
- \$500 provides literacy textbooks for 100 new readers
- \$750 pays a teacher's salary for six months
- \$1,000 provides one school science kit containing over 200 items from a microscope to anatomy models
- \$1,500 purchases a 500-book library kit for a school or village literacy class



Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women, towards improving conditions of human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women to live their lives with dignity, certainly and purpose.

Goal: To ensure effective long-term sustainable education programs for Afghan women and their families, and to engage Canadians as global citizens.

CW4WAFGHAN EXECUTIVE



*Penny Christensen
Financial Officer*

Penny Christensen has a BSc. in Biology, previously working in the field of food microbiology. Penny has been a member of CW4WAfghan since 2005, and a board member from 2009-2011. Having completed an accounting certification, Penny is CW4WAfghan's Financial Officer and is responsible for financial management, overseeing our audits and board financial reporting. Penny operates a small business in Calgary, AB.



*Janice Eisenhauer
Executive Director*

Janice Eisenhauer is Executive Director and cofounding member of CW4WAfghan. She holds an Honour's BA in International Development Studies from the UofC. Her 1999 honour's thesis was on the empowerment of women in Afghanistan. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of CW4WAfghan. Janice has received numerous awards in honour of her long-standing volunteerism in Canada. Janice lives in Calgary, AB.



*Lauryn Oates
Programs Director*

Dr. Lauryn Oates is Programs Director, overseeing the program planning, management, monitoring and evaluation, and working closely with the CW4WAfghan Kabul staff team. She holds a BA Honours in International Development from McGill, an MA in Human Security and Peacebuilding from Royal Roads, and a PhD in Language and Literacy Education at the UBC. Lauryn is an award winning human rights activist.



*Christine Wilde
Manager, Public Engagement
and Fund Development*

Christine Wilde is the Manager of Public Engagement and Fund Development. She is a leader in philanthropy, stakeholder engagement and capacity building and has conducted successful fundraising campaigns for national and grassroots organizations in Canada and the US. Christine has worked and volunteered throughout her life to help alleviate hunger, violence against women, barriers to education, and poverty. She lives with her daughter in London, ON.



*Murwarid Ziajee
Country Director*

Murwarid Ziajee is Country Director, responsible for the human resources, management, monitoring and evaluation of our programs. Murwarid has a BA in Political Science and Law from Kabul University. She has worked for the United Nations and a number of non-profit organizations throughout her career. She is a leader and advocate for women's rights in her country.

CW4WAFGHAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Ryan Aldred
Director*

Ryan Aldred is the President of the Canadian International Learning Foundation, a registered charity promoting employment-oriented education in regions affected by war, illness and poverty. Ryan helped establish the Afghan-Canadian Community Center in Kandahar, providing professional education to over 1,500 mainly female students. Ryan lives in Ottawa, ON.



*Dale Butterill
Director*

Dale joined the Oakville chapter, CSAW, in 2009 and the board of CW4Wafghan in 2011. She has a Masters in Social Work from Simmons College, Boston and a Masters in Public Administration from Queens University. In addition to Dale's career in mental health, she provides leadership in governance for a number of non-profits. Dale works as an independent consultant and lives in Toronto, On.



*Susan Hartley
Director*

Susan is the founder of the Atlantic chapter. She has a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Waterloo where her research focus was how children learn to read. Over her 25 years of practice she has developed an expertise in advocating for, and treating, children in high risk situations. She works in private practice and has been active in the provincial and national development of her profession. Susan lives in PEI.



*Irene MacDonald
Director*

Irene MacDonald has a BSc. in Textiles and Consumer Studies from St. Francis Xavier University in NS. She has been involved with CW4Wafghan for over a decade, hosting successful annual events and managing the Breaking Bread fundraising initiative. Since 2012, she has been cochairing the Lantern Fund. Irene was appointed to the Hall of Honour at St. Francis for her long-standing public service in 2008. She lives in Calgary, AB.



*Janis Rapchuk
Director/VP*

Janis Rapchuk is Vice-President of CW4Wafghan. She has a BSc from the University of Saskatchewan and also a Library Information Technology Diploma from SAIT in Calgary, where she is employed as a librarian. Janis has been a member of CW4Wafghan since 2004 and became interested in helping to rebuild community libraries in Afghanistan during her initial trip there in 2005. Janis lives in Calgary, AB.



*Marg Stewart
Director/Treasurer*

Margaret Stewart is Director and Treasurer of CW4Wafghan. She has many years of experience as an educator at the secondary school and Board levels in Ontario. Since retiring she enjoys travelling, with the highlight of her travels being her May 2013 visit to Afghanistan to visit the schools and projects we support. She is a co-founding member of the Kingston chapter (C4WA), and she lives in Kingston, On.



*Madeliene Tarasick
Director/President*

Madeliene Tarasick is President and co-founder of the Kingston chapter, Canadians for Women in Afghanistan, established in 2003. She is a retired school board superintendent whose portfolio included Human Rights Education and global citizenship. Along with co-founder of the Kingston chapter, and Treasurer, Marg Stewart, she was greatly inspired by a trip to Afghanistan to visit the Kabul office and many of the organization's projects. She lives in Parham, ON.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc.

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2014 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. as at August 31, 2014 and the results of its operations and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Calgary, Alberta

February 25, 2015

CARLOS BESENYI PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

(original statements: www.CW4WAfghan.ca FINANCES)



CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2014

(see www.CW4WAfghan.ca FINANCE for full statements)

Statement of Financial Position
Year Ended August 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Cash | \$ 1,392,381 | \$ 956,313 |
| Accounts receivable | - | 24,468 |
| Sales tax payable (recoverable) | 2,001 | 3,033 |
| Inventory | 11,196 | 27,308 |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,487 | 4,244 |
| | <u>1,407,065</u> | <u>1,015,366</u> |
| EQUIPMENT (NOTE 5) | 3,200 | 16,592 |
| | <u>\$ 1,410,265</u> | <u>\$ 1,031,958</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 9,162 | \$ 9,757 |
| Income taxes payable | - | 16,588 |
| Deferred Contributions | 1,198,464 | 826,576 |
| | <u>1,207,626</u> | <u>852,921</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | 179,037 | 153,311 |
| Net income (Loss) | 23,602 | 25,726 |
| | <u>202,639</u> | <u>179,037</u> |
| | <u>\$ 1,410,265</u> | <u>\$ 1,031,958</u> |

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

 Director
 Director

See notes to financial statements

Statement of Operations
Year Ended August 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE | | |
| Donations | \$ 785,696 | \$ 317,716 |
| CIDA Grants | - | 292,450 |
| Product sales | 17,577 | 17,313 |
| Membership fees | 835 | 750 |
| Investment revenue | 1,542 | 1,513 |
| Afghanistan rental income | 20,334 | 40,122 |
| Fundraising activities | 84,173 | 93,018 |
| | <u>910,157</u> | <u>762,882</u> |
| DIRECT COSTS | | |
| Overseas projects | 792,381 | 337,818 |
| CIDA Projects | - | 292,450 |
| Conferences | 78,423 | 76,832 |
| Printing and Marketing | 3,521 | 5,083 |
| Village Library and Literacy | - | 10,560 |
| Cost of goods sold | <u>17,577</u> | <u>17,313</u> |
| | <u>891,902</u> | <u>740,056</u> |
| GROSS PROFIT (2%; 2013 - 3%) | <u>18,255</u> | <u>22,826</u> |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Bank charges | 1,461 | 1,683 |
| Office, telephone and postage | 6,658 | 6,089 |
| Professional fees | <u>9,300</u> | <u>9,225</u> |
| | <u>17,419</u> | <u>16,997</u> |
| EXCESS OF TRADE SALES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS | <u>836</u> | <u>5,829</u> |
| OTHER INCOME | <u>22,766</u> | <u>19,897</u> |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | <u>\$ 23,602</u> | <u>\$ 25,726</u> |

Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR | \$ 179,037 | \$ 153,311 |
| Excess of trade sales over expenses | 23,602 | 25,726 |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | \$ 202,639 | \$ 179,037 |

Statement of Cash Flow
Year Ended August 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|--------------|------------|
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | \$ 23,602 | \$ 25,726 |
| Item not affecting cash: | | |
| Amortization of property and equipment | 5,593 | 2,522 |
| | 29,195 | 28,248 |
| Changes in non-cash working capital: | | |
| Accounts receivable | 24,468 | (24,468) |
| Inventory | 16,112 | (2,146) |
| Accounts payable | (593) | (1,713) |
| Income taxes payable | (16,588) | 16,588 |
| Deferred Contributions | 371,888 | 116,450 |
| Prepaid expenses | (2,757) | 38,658 |
| Goods and services tax payable | 1,032 | 609 |
| | 399,076 | 143,978 |
| Cash flow from operating activities | 428,271 | 172,226 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITY | | |
| Purchase of property and equipment | - | (19,113) |
| Loss or gain on value of vehicle | 7,797 | - |
| | 7,797 | (19,113) |
| INCREASE IN CASH FLOW | 436,068 | 153,113 |
| Cash - beginning of year | 956,313 | 803,200 |
| CASH - END OF YEAR | \$ 1,392,381 | \$ 956,313 |

Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2014

1. PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. (the "organization") is a federally incorporated non-profit entity under Industry Canada as at May 2003, and became a registered charity in February 2009 (Canada Revenue Agency BN # 887718203 RR0001). The stated purposes of the organization are to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families, and to increase the understanding of Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan. Its mission statement is: "Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women, towards improving conditions of human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women to live their lives with dignity, certainty and purpose." As a registered charity, the organization is not subject to the payment of income tax under section 149 of the Income Tax Act.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Incorporation and operations

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc., "the organization", pursuant to section 297 of the Not-for-profit Corporation Act (NFP Act), has got approval Form 4031 Articles of Continuance. Its operating bylaws have been amended in order to apply for the Certificate of Continuance. Certificate of approval is available upon request from Management.

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO). Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations are part of Canadian GAAP and in management's opinion, have been properly prepared with reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the significant accounting policies summarizes below:

Revenue recognition

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions, including grants, are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Membership fees and other fundraising revenues are recognized as revenue when received or receivable.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents include short-term investment that are readily converted to cash and that have initial maturity dates of no more than ninety days.

Equipment

Equipment is stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization. Equipment is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates and methods:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Motor vehicles (Afghan) | 3 years | straight-line method |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------|

The organization regularly reviews its equipment to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of equipment cost.

Equipment acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

The estimate for the current year end has been done due to the intensive mileage use of the vehicle.

After the Year End the vehicle was sold for less than its net book value. Therefore a provision for obsolescence of \$7,797 has been recorded.

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time each year. Because of the difficulty in determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Foreign currency translation

Accounts in foreign currencies have been translated into Canadian dollars using the temporal method. Under this method, monetary assets and liabilities have been translated at the year-end exchange rate. Non-monetary assets have been translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of transaction. Revenues and expenses have been translated at the average rates of exchange during the year, except for amortization, which has been translated at the same rate as the related assets.

Foreign exchange gains and losses on monetary assets and liabilities are included in the determination of earnings.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with the cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

The deferred contribution amounts relate to a variety of fundraising efforts and grants received for specific purposes as described. As such, these are treated as restricted contributions with the revenues being recognized as the applicable expenses are included.

The deferred contribution balance under the heading "Educational Initiatives" is a combination of the prior year contributions: Breaking Bread, Parvana and Library.

1. Breaking Bread contributions come from individual supporters hosting potluck dinners or similar events to raise awareness and funds. These funds are used to pay for teachers' salaries, teacher training and educational resources in Afghanistan.
2. Parvana contributions come from the regular donation of the royalties related to sales of the books: "The Breadwinner", "Parvana's Journey" and "My name is Parvana and Kids of Kabul", written by Canadian author Deborah Ellis. These accounts are restricted to education and other related initiatives as designated by the board to advance the goals of the organization.
3. Library contributions are from donors who specify that their donations be used to purchase books and other resources for libraries in Afghanistan.
4. Other education initiatives represent donations received from various donors. These donations are restricted to use towards programs and projects in Afghanistan.

Fanoos is an ongoing teacher-training program initially launched as a two year project funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The CIDA contract of \$499,968 was completed August 31, 2013. The program is designed to increase girls' access to education by focusing on increasing the number of trained secondary school teachers available to educate girls.

ROYA is a project set up to pay for Afghanistan girls who come to Canada to further their education.

Lantern is an ongoing fundraising initiative for the Fanoos teacher training program in Afghanistan.

The deferred contributions balances are represented by:

| | Beginning | Additions | Utilizations | Ending |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Educational initiatives | \$ 369,966 | \$ 248,082 | \$ 504,066 | \$ 114,982 |
| Afghan Reads | - | 405,443 | 273,707 | 131,736 |
| ROYA | 34,348 | 10,655 | 21,864 | 23,139 |
| Public Engagement | 25,128 | 41,984 | 62,310 | 4,802 |
| Lantern | 282,090 | 400,663 | 400 | 682,353 |
| Parvana | 110,500 9 | 99,674 | - | 210,174 |
| Other | 4,544 | 74,709 | 46,975 | 32,278 |
| | <u>\$ 826,576</u> | <u>\$ 1,281,210</u> | <u>\$ 909,322</u> | <u>\$ 1,198,464</u> |

4. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the organization's risk exposure and concentration as of August 31, 2014.

Market risk

Market Risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk to the company's earnings that arise from fluctuations of foreign exchange rates and the degree of volatility of these rates. The organization is exposed to foreign currency exchange risk on cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable held in U.S. dollars. The company does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to foreign currency risk.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The organization is exposed to other price risk through its investment in quoted shares.

The organization is mainly exposed to currency risk.

5. EQUIPMENT

| | | | 2014 | 2013 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Cost | Accumulated amortization | Net book value | Net book value |
| Motor Vehicle (Afghan) | \$ 19,114 | \$ 8,117 | \$ 10,997 | \$ 16,592 |
| Provision for obsolescence | (7,797) | - | (7,797) | - |
| | \$ 11,317 | \$ 8,117 | \$ 3,200 | \$ 16,592 |

6. NET PRODUCT SALES

The organization also supports the efforts of women in Afghanistan by purchasing hand-crafted products and selected books for resale in Canada. The net amounts on the financial statement are represented as follows:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Product sales | \$ 17,577 | \$ 16,663 |
| Book sales | - | 650 |
| Cost of goods sold | (17,577) | (17,313) |
| Net sales | \$ - | \$ - |

7. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Contracts with overseas Implementing Partner organizations are undertaken annually in order to deliver their approved education projects. Each contract will set the terms and dates of advance payments to be remitted by the organization upon receipt and approval of narrative and financial reporting.

Service contract payment schedule:

2015 \$ 94,011

8. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



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CONTACT US:

Please contact a chapter in your area to learn about local activities
and how you can volunteer towards our goal of advancing
education in Afghanistan.

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