

2014-ISSUE 2

# ZAKATNEWS

*The Leader in Empowering Lives through Zakat*



**ZAKAT**  
FOUNDATION  
of AMERICA



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Share the Warmth*  
**OF YOUR  
COMPASSION**

**EMERGENCY RELIEF**

Palestine / Gaza, Iraq,  
Pakistan and Syria

**2014 RAMADAN AND  
UDHIYA / QURBANI**



ZAKAT FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

**RAMADAN-2014**

**INDIA**



## IN THIS ISSUE

3 | **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

4-9 | **EMERGENCY RELIEF**  
Palestine / Gaza, Iraq,  
Pakistan and Syria

10-11 | **RAMADAN**

12-13 | **UDHIYA / QURBANI**

14-15 | **SADAQA JARIYAH /  
DEVELOPMENT**

16-17 | **EDUCATION**

18-19 | **US PROGRAMS**



### OUR MISSION

Zakat Foundation of America (ZF) is an international charity organization that helps generous and caring people reach out to those in need. ZF fosters charitable giving to alleviate the immediate needs of poor communities and to establish long-term development projects that ensure individual and community growth.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join us in making change happen.

### E-NEWSLETTER

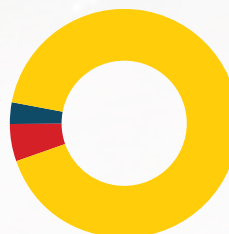
Visit [zakat.org](http://zakat.org) to subscribe to our e-Newsletter.

### SOCIAL NETWORKS



### A PARTNER YOU CAN TRUST

ZF takes pride in careful management and distribution of funds raised. In 2012, 91.88 cents of every dollar spent went directly into our programs.



■ 2.83% Fundraising  
■ 5.29% Administrative  
■ 91.88% Program Services



## Share the Warmth OF YOUR COMPASSION

Dear Friend,  
Assalamu alaykum (Peace be upon you),

The cold winds here in Chicago always remind me of the bitter Turkish winters of my childhood.

Children teased me about my stiff, chapped hands because I had no way of warming them. Walking the six miles to school every day, I saw other children wearing coats and gloves, but my brothers and sisters and I stuffed newspapers underneath our clothes to keep warm. When I asked my mother what to do about my chapped hands, she suggested I rub tar on them, which I knew would just make it more obvious that I had no gloves.

Now, thanks to the Lord of Heaven and Earth, my family and I have warm clothing to wear in the winter. But not everyone does. Today around the world countless children are enduring the same misery my siblings and I did.

In North America we see many of our neighbors getting excited to go shopping, to decorate their houses and attend parties in the winter. But Alhamdulillah, the donors of Zakat Foundation of America (ZF) remember how important it is to care for the poor and needy all year, but especially when the weather turns cold.

This year your donation to ZF winter clothing distribution will make sure that those who cannot afford warm winter clothing will have what they need. Please, as you bundle yourself and your family into coats, scarves and mittens, include a donation for a warm coat in your budget so you can do the same for a cold, suffering child.

I have never forgotten the misery of being cold all through the winter as a child. Remembering it keeps my compassion alive for those who are cold now, and I know I am not alone. Thanks to your tremendous generosity and that of all ZF donors, we can warm many hands and hearts this winter, including our own.

Wassalamu Alaykum,

*Khalil Demir*

Khalil Demir  
ZF Executive Director



Top: Khalil Demir, ZF Executive Director, hands out backpacks to Syrian refugee schoolchildren.

Bottom: Syrian children try on their winter coats with a smile.



*Emergency aid for those affected by natural and man-made disasters allows ZF donors to relieve the immediate suffering of innocents around the world.*

## *Gaza receives* **ESSENTIAL MEDICINE, FOOD AND SUPPLIES**



When bombs began to rain down on Gaza on July 8, ZF teams were already on the ground distributing Ramadan food packages. But as the situation deteriorated, the destruction spread and the number of dead and wounded escalated, ZF sprang into action, distributing food, supplies and medicines to those in need.

Just five days after the bombing began, ZF delivered the first shipment of essential intravenous and injectable antibiotics that were urgently needed to treat 2,000 of the wounded. Gaza hospitals were short on medicines before the bombing campaign began; as the wounded flooded in, they became desperate. ZF donors rapidly responded to fill the need.

In mid-July ZF teams delivered 5,000 hot meals including rice, meat and water for iftar to families in shelters. Hot, nourishing meals were scarce at that time because of the danger of going out to obtain groceries and the lack of fresh food.

From mid-July to mid-August, ZF teams delivered non-food supplies including hundreds each of mattresses, floor mats, blankets and tarps; 14,500 infant diapers, and several large plastic nylon sheets to families whose homes

had been damaged or destroyed in the bombardment. The hearts of donors around the world were deeply affected by the suffering of Gazans attacked during the most sacred time of the year.

In September ZF addressed the increasingly diverse needs of Gazans by distributing an array of urgently needed items to 250 families recovering from the bombing campaign. The women's apparel kits included prayer clothing and essentials including housedresses and slippers. The infant and toddler kits included milk, formula, diapers, a floor mat and children's bedding. Hygiene kits supplied essential grooming, sanitary and housecleaning items in addition to plastic plates, cups and eating utensils. Food packages included tea, pita bread, cheeses, beans, meat, canned sardines and tuna, olive oil, sugar, jam, cookies and a case of water bottles.

Support for Gaza has flooded out from ZF donors. Through your generosity and your deep concern for those in need, ZF will continue to come to the aid of Gazans and people in need wherever they may be. ■



*Top down:*

*The widespread destruction of Gaza resulted from a 50-day bombing campaign.*

*Children and families in shelters enjoyed a few moments of peace over the Ramadan iftar that ZF donors provided.*





## TENTS, FOOD, MILK AND COMPASSION FOR IRAQIS

The world has looked on in horror as fighting in Iraq led to a humanitarian crisis of alarming proportions. The persecution of the Yazidi and other minorities has caused the displacement of close to 3 million Iraqis and provoked an international outcry.

In response to the displaced Iraqis' urgent need for food and shelter, ZF rushed tents and food packages to northern Iraq and the Turkish border with Iraq. Yazidi families

received 150 tents, and truckloads of flour, pasta, milk and other food supplies were distributed to displaced people in Duhok City in Iraq and refugees across the border in Turkey.

These relief efforts are only the beginning of what Iraq's persecuted minorities and civilians will need until this conflict has ended. ZF is grateful for the profound kindness of donors who do not turn their backs on anyone in need. ■



*Top down:  
Yazidi children play as their  
parents receive urgently-  
needed food and supplies.  
ZF field staff distribute tents  
and bags of flour to displaced  
and refugee Iraqis.*



## FLOOD-RAVAGED PAKISTAN RECEIVES FOOD PACKAGES

During the first week of September, 2014, heavy monsoon rains triggered flash floods and caused widespread losses and damage across Pakistan and India. Heavy rainfall continued in Kashmir and northern and southern Punjab regions, killing nearly 500 and affecting more than 5 million. The flood also caused irreparable damage to houses, livestock and standing crops, adding to the miseries of the affected communities.

By September 12, ZF representatives were on the ground in the hard-hit areas of Gujrat and Hafizabad, Pakistan,

distributing 320 food packages containing sugar, flour, rice, lentils and cooking oil to families affected by the floods, which benefited around 2000 people.

ZF has rushed emergency flood relief to Pakistan almost every year since 2010. Thanks to the generosity of donors, ZF will continue to reach out to those affected by disasters - whether natural or man-made - wherever they may be. ■





*More than 500 died in the monsoon flooding in Pakistan and India in September.*

*ZF food packages are always culturally appropriate for the region where they are distributed.*

*Flood survivors were comforted by packages for their families.*





# FOCUS ON SYRIA

*\$10 million spent in emergency aid  
to the Syrian people since 2011.*

## ESSENTIAL AID AND ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP

ZF has delivered more than \$10 million in aid, including food, medicine, water, clothing and other aid that Syrians need whether inside their country or in refugee camps, since the conflict began in March, 2011. More than 6 million Syrians are internally displaced, while more than 3 million have fled to neighboring countries.

Along with the generous donors who have continued to keep Syrians in their prayers and donated to support them, ZF will continue to work to meet the needs of those who suffer inside Syria, and in the region.

A shipping container of gently-used clothing was divided into 100 baskets and distributed by ZF staff and volunteers in spite of the frequent aerial bombardment in Idlib and Hama, Syria. Dodging the most intense bombing allowed ZF to bring much-needed clothing to areas where it is hard to obtain.

The ongoing conflict in Syria has deprived Syrians of access to basic necessities: food, water and shelter, but also clothing.

According to UNICEF, a staggering 6.5 million Syrian children are suffering these deprivations and are growing up while the war rages on.

As part of the ongoing response to this crisis and the impact it is

having on children, since July ZF has facilitated the individual sponsorship of 100 orphans inside Syria. Although the conflict has made tracking individual orphans a challenge, thanks to the persistence of ZF field staff and the generosity of donors, these traumatized children are receiving the food, clothing and educational support they need.

## SENT TWO 40-FOOT CONTAINERS WITH FOOD AID FOR HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES

The hearts of Chicago-area Muslims were moved by reports of starvation that emerged from Syria over the last year, inspiring a massive collection to purchase food aid for Syria. ZF helped by shipping the food to Syria and distributing packages that fed hundreds of families each for approximately one month.

Numerous families gave generously to feed brothers and sisters in Syria whose access to food has been severely curtailed by the conflict that continues to rage in their country.

The food packages included staples and canned foods, as well as cookies for the children to enjoy. The June shipment took place through a one-time arrangement between ZF and the Mosque Foundation community in Bridgeview, IL, whose concern for the Syrian people greatly inspired ZF office and field staff.

## SCHOOLS AND BOOKS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

As Syrian refugees have flooded into Turkey, the need to educate their children and return to the routines of normal life has become increasingly urgent. In October, 2013, ZF began a program of school sponsorship that pays teacher salaries and supplies the needs of 600 Syrian refugee students in Gaziantep, Turkey.

At three additional schools for Syrian children, ZF sponsors the uniforms and supplies for the children in attendance.

The schools ZF sponsors meet after Turkish students have been released for the day, and employ Syrian refugee teachers. The curriculum is comparable to that normally used in Syria.

Syrian refugees have expressed deep concern that an entire generation of children will be left uneducated and traumatized by the conflict that has now lasted three and a half years, with no end in sight.

As refugees continue to stream across the Syrian border into Turkey, the importance of this program becomes increasingly evident. ZF is dedicated to expanding school sponsorship for Syrian refugee children with the help of generous donors whose humanity has been a bright spark in the darkness of this ongoing conflict. ■





*Syrian families inside Syria and refugee families throughout the region received food packages.*

*Jordanian and Syrian children enjoyed Eid gifts and a carnival.*

*And refugee children learn, grow and thrive at ZF-sponsored schools in Gaziantep, Turkey.*



# RAMADAN

*Sanctifying the most blessed times of the year through charitable giving.*



Food packages, Eid gifts, community iftars and life-changing livestock gifts made the holy month and Eid al-Fitr joyous for families around the world thanks to ZF donors whose generosity reached 37 countries worldwide.

**37**

COUNTRIES

**22,534**

INDIVIDUALS  
RECEIVED IFTAR

**2,765**

CHILDREN  
AROUND THE WORLD  
RECEIVED EID GIFTS

**725**

SYRIAN REFUGEE  
CHILDREN ENJOYED  
AN EID CARNIVAL

**670**

FAMILIES RECEIVED AN  
EID LIVESTOCK GIFT



*Clockwise from top left: Ramadan food package distribution in Iraq, Jordan, Bolivia, Philippines and Syria.*

*Facing page: Ramadan food package distribution took place throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014. The Livestock Gift program channeled the generosity of donors into significant assets for families around the world.*











# UDHIYA / QURBANI

*Sanctifying the most blessed times of the year through charitable giving.*



**5052**

SHARES IN  
30 COUNTRIES



ZF donors sacrificed generously during Udhiya/Qurbani 2014, purchasing more than 5,000 shares. Their outpouring of gratitude for God's abundant blessings made fresh meat available in communities in 30 countries where protein is scarce and many cannot afford nourishing food. Healthy livestock were purchased locally in each community and distributed during Eid.



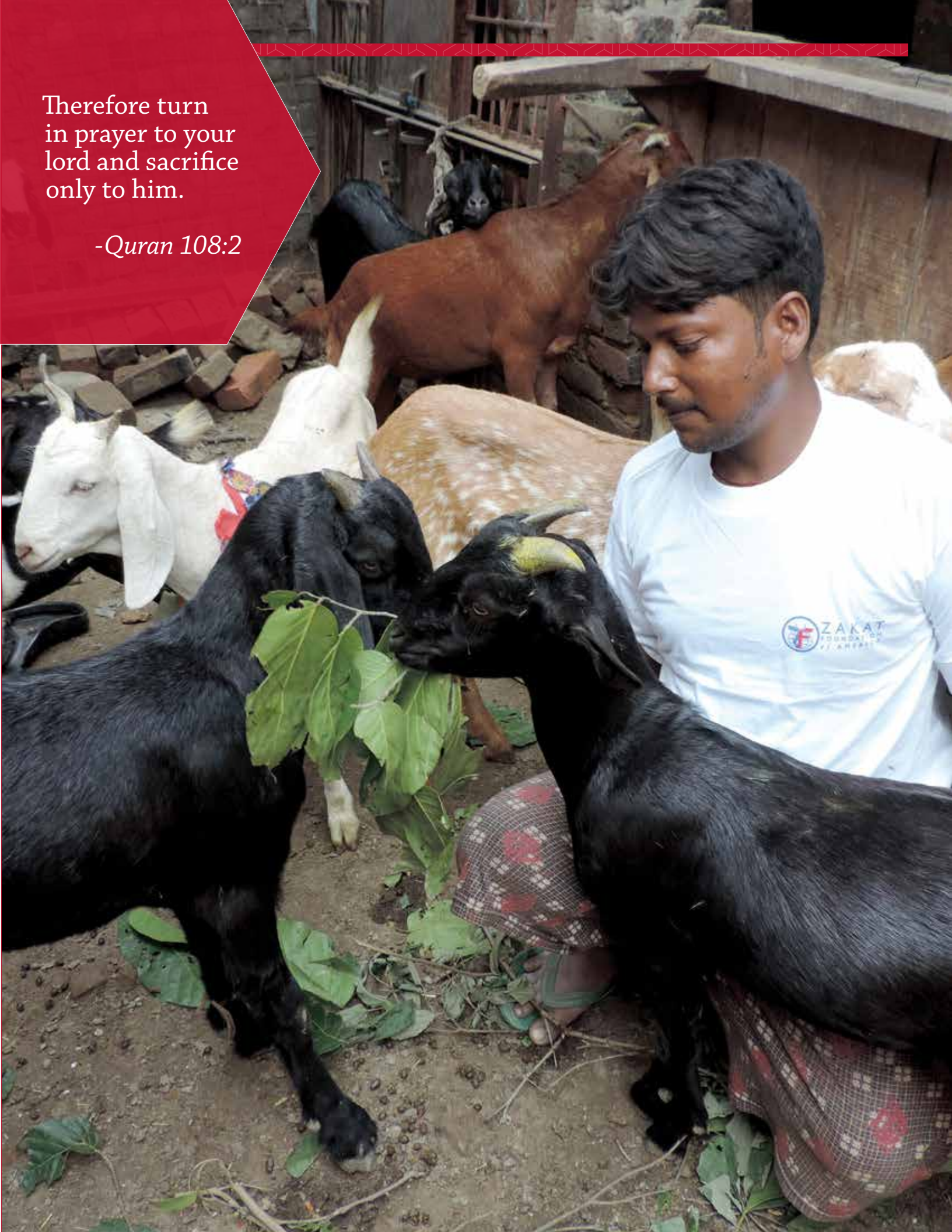
*This page: Udhiya/Qurbani recipients in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Syria, Albania, Kenya.*

*Facing page: A ZF volunteer in India cares for the healthy, locally raised livestock.*



Therefore turn  
in prayer to your  
lord and sacrifice  
only to him.

*-Quran 108:2*







# SADAQA JARIYAH / DEVELOPMENT

*Long-term, sustainable projects giving the poor  
the power to change their future.*

## *Kenya and Ghana* **CELEBRATED MOSQUE COMPLETIONS**



The communities of Nambuya, Kenya, and Bampewa Nkwanta, Ghana, now have mosques in which to pray, meet and study, thanks to generous ZF donors.

*Mosque construction  
in Nambuya, Kenya.*







## KENYA

The mosque built in Nambuya, Kenya was the first one to be built in that area. Local Muslims cleared brush and graded the land at the building site. They also cleared brush to widen the road leading to the mosque, filled potholes and removed rocks on the road so that the trucks bringing the materials could travel safely. This mosque includes separate ablution and prayer areas for men and women as well as sustainable rainwater collection tanks.



## GHANA

The mosque in Bampewa Nkwanta, Ghana serves a community of 180 Muslims. It includes a bookstore and, in addition to providing a space for communal worship, also allows for community meetings and the religious instruction of children.

ZF-funded mosques are typically constructed with the participation of the communities they will serve. These communities lack the resources to purchase materials and create a design, but possess the enthusiasm to work as laborers, cooking meals and carrying water for the skilled workers on the project. Through the Sadaqa Jariyah contributions of ZF donors, these communities now have a place to pray and hold community gatherings and events, and the rewards to donors will continue for generations to come. ■



*Mosque construction in Nkwanta, Ghana.*



# EDUCATION

*Education uplifts the poor  
for generations to come.*

## THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: INDIA, AFGHANISTAN, JORDAN AND KENYA

The education of women and girls has been shown to create stronger families, more stable communities, and healthier babies and children. ZF invests in the long-term well-being of women and girls - and through them families, communities and nations - around the world in a variety of ways.

### **HUBLI, INDIA: SEWING SCHOOL**

The sewing school jointly operated by ZF and Affus Woman Welfare Association (AWWA) recently celebrated its fourth year and the graduation of its 650th student. The three-month sewing courses enroll 30 students per class and cover an array of skills needed for fashion design, hand embroidery and machine embroidery. The goal of the course is to increase students' standard of living while boosting their basic functional literacy, health awareness and ability to generate income. Many of the students have gained employment in the local garment industry.

During training, students are paid to complete stitching work brought to the school, and after graduation those who do not work in manufacturing frequently work independently from home.

### **KABUL, AFGHANISTAN: FARDA-E-AFGHANAN EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP**

ZF sponsors the education of 67 women in private secondary school.

Hamida, 10th grade:

"I was 20 years old and in sixth grade when I started school in 2010. When I was younger, due to our traditions I stayed at home; my father and my brother did not allow me to go to school. When [ZF] started education services in our area, I visited the school and saw it was for girls. After discussions with my parents and brother I was able to join. Before starting school I had nerve problems, but I am very happy now. I am studying and I believe in myself. Let me say a big thank you to the people who supported us in the past and who are supporting us now: Zakat Foundation of America."

Khadija, 9th grade:

"I came to this school six years ago. I belong to a very poor family. Without this tuition support I am not able to continue to my education and graduate from 12th grade. I am very thankful to Zakat Foundation for providing this opportunity so I can study. Access to higher education is my goal. Thank you for supporting us."

### **JORDAN: VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER**

The ZF vocational training school in Irbid, Jordan offers instruction in sewing, weaving, English, computer skills, handcrafts, and life skills to 40 to 50 underprivileged Jordanian and Syrian refugee women each term. The training gives women the opportunity to seek jobs that require these skills.

Since the program began in February, 2014, 265 women have participated in or graduated from the program. In July alone, the sewing school output reached 437 dresses. The upcoming terms will extend to nine months, and students will receive a completion certificate from the Jordanian Labor Ministry.

With the influx of Syrian refugees, the economic pressure on local communities has increased, making skill training for local women urgently needed. This program opens the door to greater economic opportunity for local women and their refugee counterparts.

### **SCHOOLS AND BOOKS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN**

See "Focus on Syria" Relief section for details about this program.



## NAIROBI, KENYA: GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

ZF sponsors the Girls' Empowerment Project (GEP) and community outreach training through a partnership with Heshima Kenya. Since June, six participants completed community outreach training and 106 received vocational training.

Community outreach training equips young women to form women's groups in their refugee communities in order to promote self-sufficiency and access to resources, and share information about their rights.

The GEP offers a safe community for girls and young women to learn about their human rights while developing self-sufficiency and leadership. After demonstrating a strong commitment to the GEP learning process, participants receive vocational training through a seven-month specialized tailoring course. Here participants acquire skills in stitching, measuring, cutting and embroidery. In the two months before graduation, participants are enrolled in pre-production training where they learn advanced designs. They also receive a small stipend to jumpstart their savings and transition into independence.

Of the nearly 450 girls and young women who have participated in ZF-sponsored Heshima Kenya programs since 2008, nearly 70% had little to no formal schooling, and fewer girls and young women had any vocational training experience. ZF understands that this alternative education approach is critical to the safety and self-sufficiency of these young women, and promotes their potential as future agents of social change. ■



*Participants in ZF-sponsored education and training programs in Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, India and Kenya*



# U.S. COMMUNITY CENTER

*Channeling your zakat and sadaqa  
into communities here at home.*

## *Creative Camp* **TAPS KIDS INTERESTS, BUILDS SELF-ESTEEM**

Creative Camp 2014 brought together a group of 15 children from Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, who spent the summer discovering themselves and their city through arts-related field trips, working with college-age mentors, and exploring different art forms.

The first step in this summer of self-discovery was for each child to create a collage poster of her interests. One little girl's favorite activity was farming.

"When she found out we had our own garden, she was ecstatic," said Laila Muhammad, ZF Community Center-Chicago (ZFCCC) Director, "She loved the garden. She explored and asked questions about gardening.

She was really passionate about it once she realized we had an outlet for her to explore her interest."

The program ran from June 17 to August 23 and introduced its students to visual arts, drama, martial arts and more, both in ZFCCC and around the city. In addition to the Monday-through-Thursday camp, students met with their mentors once a week on Saturdays to talk about their interests and goals in life.

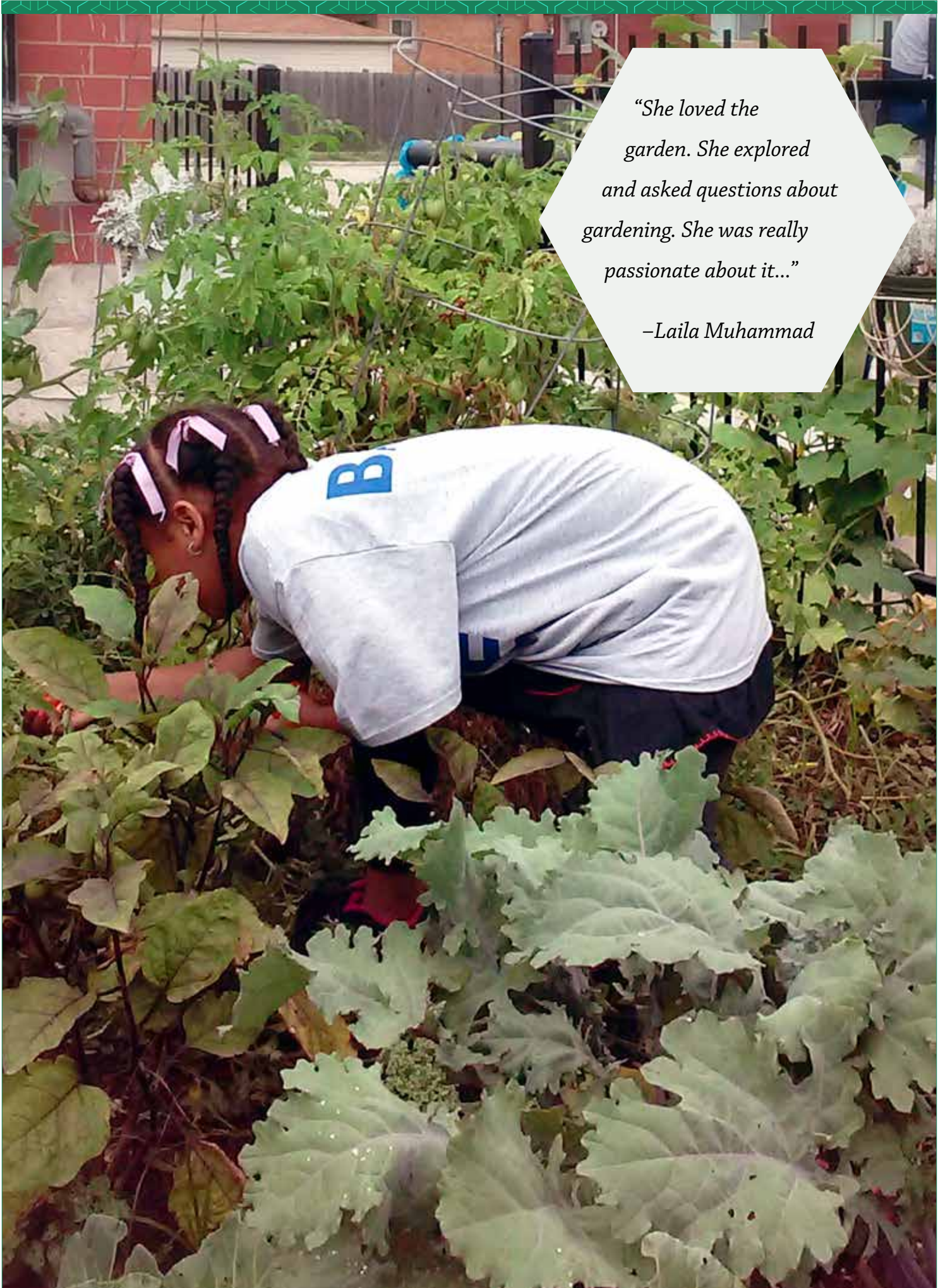
The goal of Creative Camp is to enhance the children's knowledge of art while including a therapeutic component to build self-esteem and prevent violence in the troubled South Shore neighborhood.

A Saturday camp exploring the arts, math and science is keeping these kids engaged through the fall. ■



*A creative camp  
student explores in ZF's  
community garden.*





*"She loved the garden. She explored and asked questions about gardening. She was really passionate about it..."*

*—Laila Muhammad*



**ZAKAT**  
FOUNDATION  
of AMERICA



PO Box 639, Worth, IL 60482 | 1.888.ZAKAT.US | ZAKAT.ORG | [info@zakat.org](mailto:info@zakat.org)  
A 501(c) (3) Non-Profit Organization. Donations are U.S. tax exempt. ID#: 36-4476244



## Warm a Heart with a Winter Coat

Join ZF in distributing coats to those in need around the world and in the US through the Warm a Heart with a Winter Coat campaign. Donate, then post an unselfie outside in the cold without a coat on social media with the hashtag #ZakatUS.

For more ways to Warm a Heart with a Winter Coat, go to **ZAKAT.ORG**.