WHERE THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS HOPE

LIFE Link

2012 NEWSLETTER

Working to Save Lives in the Horn of Africa

Life for Relief and Development was already on the ground in Somalia helping the needy when famine struck the Horn of Africa last summer.

Life doubled its efforts and moved quickly to provide food relief to those who were literally starving to death in and around Somalia.

At the same time, donors from the US and across the world generously and enthusiastically answered our appeal for the Horn of Africa. Thanks to our donors and partners, Life was able to provide assistance to over half a million famine victims *See page 8*

Responding to the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis

Life has responded to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria on a number of fronts. Life's success in Syria has been due in large part to the fact that Life has had an office in Damascus since 2004 and thus is one of only a handful of international organizations that operates in the country.

Not only has Life been providing assistance in Syria, but the organization has also assisted Syrian refugees who fled to Turkey and Jordan

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Letter from the CEO

This past year has been one of the most challenging ever for Life for Relief and Development. The famine that devastated the Horn of Africa, along with the humanitarian emergencies that arose in Libya, Syria, and Yemen all put Life's staff around the world to the test.

This was the most successful year in the history of the organization. We broke a record for in-kind donations which reached over $50 million, the number of water wells dug in the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan reached over 50 wells and the number of people who received Udhiyah meat exceeded 1 million in 25 countries.

Thanks to the strong support and trust of our donors and partners we were able to help millions of people around the world. I am proud of the work and accomplishments of the employees of Life throughout the world.

Lastly, let me express my appreciation for all of Life's donors who, despite these hard economic times, continue to generously fund our humanitarian work. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mujahid alfayadh

Dr. Mujahid Al-Fayadh
President & CEO, Life for Relief and Development

Employees of the Year

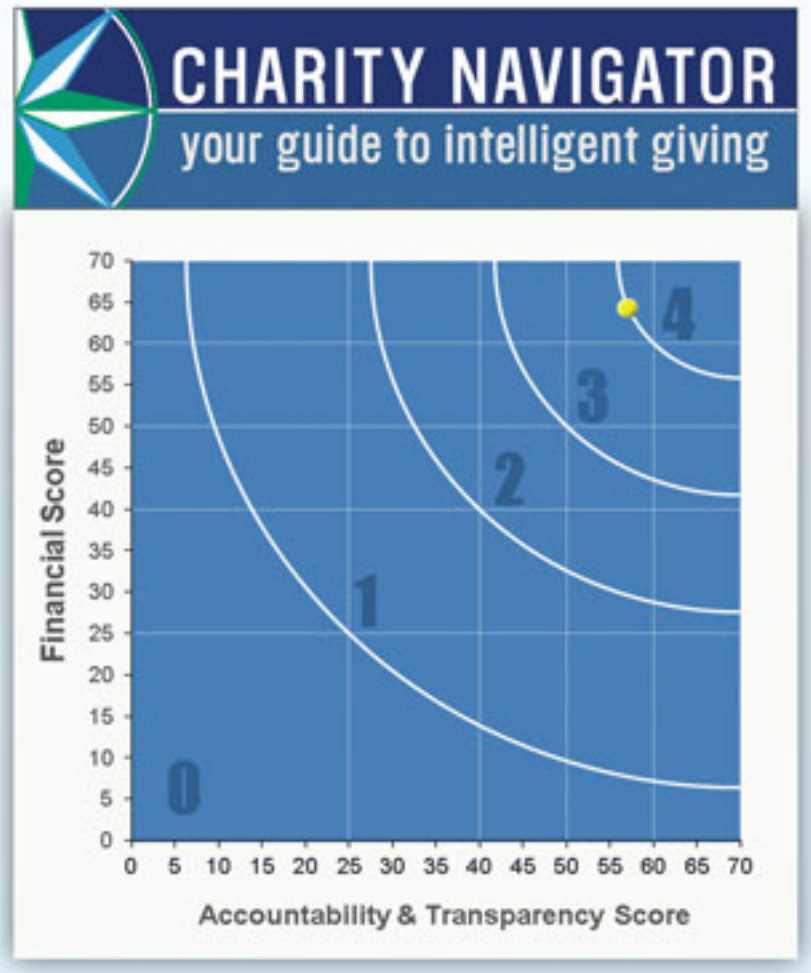
WALID QANAH
Regional Director
Life Jordan

ANWAR QASEM
Regional Director
Life Syria

EZRETA NIKOCEVIC
Database Assistant
Life HQ in Michigan

Life Ranks Among Top 4% of American Charities

Life for Relief and Development retained its 4-star rating for its sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator, America's leading independent charity evaluator, works to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability and Transparency of America's largest charities.



Life Distributed Over $50 Million in In-Kind Donations

Life distributed over $50 million dollars worth of medical, educational and agricultural aid this year, making this a record breaking year for Life's In-kind Donations Program. Life provided books and educational materials to non-profit schools in the US and Africa, medical aid to the Philippines, Mexico, Pakistan and Iraq and agricultural seeds to Mexico, the Philippines and Sierra Leone.

Agreement Signed with Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Life signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (formerly Organization of the Islamic Conference), the body that represents 56 majority-Muslim countries. The two sides agreed to work together in responding quickly and efficiently to natural disasters and other emergencies throughout the world.

Several Projects Benefit Iraqi Orphans

Life carried out the following projects in 2011 for the benefit of Iraqi orphans and widows:

- Held two large ceremonies for over 500 people to commemorate World Orphans' Day
- Arranged a special art competition for 25 orphans and their relatives to paint a family portrait after the loss of their parents
- Distributed food, toothbrushes, purses, watches, toiletries and hygiene kits to hundreds of Iraqi widows
- Helped an Iraqi widow living in Abu Ghraib, start a small business that now allows her to care for herself and 8 children and grandchildren

Beds Given to Orphans and Disabled in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, Life distributed 400 beds to orphans, the handicapped and extremely poor families. Each bed came complete with frames, mattresses and box springs.

Life collaborated with Feed the Children and the International Recycling Network in implementing this project.

Toys Given to Sick Children in the Philippines

Life, in cooperation with Another Joy Foundation, delivered a shipment of toys to the Queen City Hospital in Manila, the capital of The Philippines. The toys were distributed to child cancer patients as well as children with severe physical deformities.

The Queen City Hospital is in a very poor area and many of the child patients have been abandoned by their families, who cannot afford to care for them because of their special medical needs. The shipment also included two new wheelchairs that were given to the handicapped.

Sponsoring Orphans Across Syria

Life facilitates an orphan sponsorship program in Syria, in which sponsors donate $50 a month to provide food, clothing, education and other support to individual orphans.

The number of orphans sponsored in Syria at the beginning of 2011 had shrunk to 57 but by the end of the year that number reached 350. A large number of these children were orphaned over the past several months and they quickly found support from Life and its generous donors.

There are hundreds of orphans that are still on a waiting list. Those interested in sponsoring an orphan should call Life at 1-800-827-3543 or visit www.lifeusa.org.

...Syria Crisis Continued (from cover)

Below is a sample of the projects that helped Syrians in 2011:

$2 Million Medical Shipment

Last summer, Life partnered with the Syrian-American Medical Society (SAMS) and Medwish International to send a shipment of medical supplies from the United States to hospitals in Syria.

The shipment, valued at over $2 million, included hospital beds, walkers, surgical instruments, operating room beds, gauze, IVs, tubing, medications and much more.

Among the hospitals that received the supplies was Al-Bir Hospital in Homs. Al-Bir is a non-governmental charitable institution that has a long history of caring for the less-fortunate in Syria.

Refugees in Turkey

In Turkey, Life provided humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees camped out in the border town of Altinozu. During the month of Ramadan, a Life official traveled to the camp after hearing about the efforts of a Syrian-American doctor who was working around the clock to provide medical care to the refugees and pledged to fund the doctor's humanitarian efforts and work with him to help refugees in other areas.

Refugees in Jordan

Life provided food, clothing and help with rent to dozens of families that fled Syria and took refuge in the north of Jordan near the Syrian border.

Humanitarian Emergency in Libya

Last year's Arab Spring sparked a major revolution in Libya. Soon after, a humanitarian crisis developed as people fled the violence that spread across the country.

Life responded to the crisis in Libya by sending food and medicine into Libya and into the refugee camps established on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

Also, in partnership with the Qatar-based Al Thani Charity, Life delivered five shipments of food, medicine and medical supplies to nine hospitals in Benghazi, Ajdabiya, Darna, Al-Bayda' and Tubruk. Life also worked with the Union of Arab Doctors to deliver food and medical care to people trapped in the remote Western Mountain regions of Libya.

$1.25 Million Medical Shipment Reaches Yemen

Life sent a medical shipment valued at $1.25 million from the United States to Yemen amidst growing violence in Yemen, which impacted the lives of tens of thousands of innocent civilians in a country already suffering from very high poverty. The shipment included medicine, medical supplies, diagnostic equipment, wheelchairs and walkers. The shipment was distributed among hospitals and clinics in the city of Taiz.

...The Horn of Africa Famine, continued (from cover)

Aside from the special Ramadan and Udhiyah programs where Life fed nearly 500,000 famine victims, Life implemented and continues to implement, a food distribution program in the Horn of Africa.

This program is designed to provide families living in towns, villages and camps in East Africa who are at risk of starvation with large quantities of nutritious foods.

Life, through one of its partners, delivered a caravan of trucks full of rice, baby formula, flour and other life-saving food items to refugees on the Somalia/Ethiopia border.

The distribution of food in these areas is complicated by numerous factors, including safety concerns, corruption, unstable market prices and logistical problems. Nonetheless, Life continues to help those suffering from malnutrition and starvation in the Horn of Africa.

Additional information, including reports, videos and photos can be found at *www.lifeusa.org*.

Life Distributes Humanitarian Aid to Pakistani Flood Victims

Life in partnership with Another Joy Foundation and Al-Shifa Trust distributed medical and relief supplies to flood victims in Pakistan. Two forty-foot shipping containers of medical and relief supplies including food items, clothing and blankets were sent from the US to Pakistan and distributed to displaced individuals and families living in tent camps in the flooded regions of Pakistan. Life would like to thank the donor's from Toledo, Ohio who collected the items that were sent and distributed in Pakistan.

Dozens of New Water Wells in Horn of Africa

As Somalia and its' neighbors were hit by drought and famine, Life decided to work digging dozens of new water wells throughout the Horn of Africa.

Tens of thousands of people will benefit from digging these wells for the next 15-20 years. This new supply of drinking water is also expected to help boost local economies and help the local food supply as herders and small farmers will also have access to the wells for their animals and crops.

3 New Wells in Afghanistan

Last summer, hundreds of families in rural Afghanistan received the gift of water. Three water wells were dug in villages near the road that connects Kabul to Paghman.

These wells were funded by Life's generous donors, who understand the need for new sources of clean drinking water in a country like Afghanistan, which continues to strive along the path towards development.

3 New Wells in Ghana

In the center of Ghana, Life dug three new water wells for rural villagers and their animal flocks. These new fresh water sources came as a great relief to the residents, giving them hope of a better quality of life for themselves and their children.

Palestinian Families Receive Water & Water Tanks

In 2011, Life provided large water storage tanks to 330 Palestinian households in the West Bank and Gaza. These storage tanks hold hundreds of gallons of water at a time, and are essential for maintaining a regular flow of clean water for the residents. In addition to receiving a new water tank, each family also received a four-month supply of clean water delivered by tanker truck.

Improving the Education Sector in Iraq

Life distributed 12,000 textbooks and reference materials to 9 colleges and universities across the country. Two years ago, Life established libraries in 9 different Iraqi schools and through this project delivered 900 new books to each school for their libraries.

Life also distributed awards to a number of students for the good examples they set for their classmates. Another project was the "Cleanest Classroom Contest." Life challenged students and teachers in various schools to clean their classrooms and schools. The class that did the best job won toys and other prizes.

Canadian School Expands With Help From Life

Al Taqwa School in London, Ontario is rapidly expanding. The K-12 school now enrolls over 250 students thanks in part to the support it has received from Life.

Life has donated $2.5 million worth of textbooks and other educational supplies to Al Taqwa. The school was able to substantially reduce its operating budget and in turn reduce the cost of tuition because they received books from Life.

Thanks to the generosity of one of Life's very special donors, several children from working class families enjoy full or partial scholarships to attend school.

Over $5.2 Million in Books Given to U.S. Schools

This past year, Life distributed books valued at over $5.2 million to several non-profit Islamic schools, inner-city schools and Native American Indian schools throughout the US.

New High School Constructed in Iraq

Life constructed a high school in Jurf Al Sukher funded by Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Charity Organization (MBRC) in the UAE. The high school is "a dream come true" for many of the estimated 250,000 people who live in and around the city. The students were especially excited about the new computer lab and other amenities offered by the school.

Projects in Ghana Help Thousands

Life's signature project in Ghana is its Orphan Sponsorship Program. Dozens of orphaned boys and girls receive regular financial, nutritional and educational assistance thanks to individual sponsors. Life has also helped improve education by distributing thousands of new textbooks to schools and institutions in the capital city of Accra.

Still Helping Haiti

Life implemented several projects in Haiti in 2011, including:

- Distributed thousands of books printed in French and published specifically for the Haitian-Muslim community by an Imam in the United States
- Provided hot meals to hundreds of people, including 150 Haitians who literally live in a garbage dump
- Gave 50 female headed households baskets that contained nearly 100 pounds of food
- Distributed 600 dental health kits to schools, orphanages and residents of tent camps

550 Iraqis Receive Wheelchairs

Some 550 handicapped Iraqis recently received new wheelchairs as part of an ongoing effort to alleviate the suffering of those in need in Iraq.

Dr. Abdulsattar Murad, a professor at Diyala University, was one of those recipients. Professor Murad has been unable to walk since 2007 after he was shot in the spine during a vicious attack on the University's faculty. With the help of the wheelchair, Professor Murad has returned to his academic circles and is once again focused on educating his students.

Surgery Helps Iraqi Girl See Again

One day, Nadam was walking down the street with her father when a bomb exploded near them. The husband and father of eight died on the scene. Nadam suffered severe injuries to her right eye. Nadam's mother couldn't afford to get her daughter proper treatment for her damaged eye. This delay in treatment led to a rapid deterioration in Nadam's vision and the appearance of her eye became deformed.

Things changed for Nadam after Life stepped in and sent her to Jordan for eye surgery. The surgery was successful and Nadam can see out of her right eye for the first time in years.

First Aid Kits Given to Iraqi Schools and Villagers

Life distributed 1,540 first aid kits in a number of locations across Iraq. Some 1,000 of these kits were distributed to villagers in rural parts of the country. Another 540 kits were passed out to schools in and around Baghdad. Over 16,000 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste were given to students attending schools in and around Baghdad.

New Clinic Constructed in Iraq

Life constructed and opened a healthcare clinic in Al-Ishaqi. The clinic is one of seven medical facilities across Iraq that was constructed by Life. The clinic is also the third to be funded by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Charity Organization (MBRC). This clinic is serving many poor families by providing them with low cost or free healthcare. The clinic provides maternal and child healthcare, general family care and emergency treatment for patients.

$6 Million in Medical Supplies Airlifted to Pakistan, Mexico and the Philippines

Last fall, Life sent medicine and medical supplies valued at $6.3 million to clinics that serve the poor in Karachi, Pakistan, Guerrero, Mexico and Manila, in the Philippines. The supplies were donated by the Oregon-based Medical Teams International and flown to Karachi, Guerrero and Manila by the Nevada-based Another Joy Foundation.

Life Sends Advanced Medical Equipment to Pakistan

One of Life's latest health projects involved the delivery of a specialized medical device known as a Cardiac Nuclear Camera to a hospital in Pakistan. The hospital specializes in providing free and low-cost healthcare to needy patients.

This state of the art imaging device is used to detect and treat heart disease, various forms of cancer and other complicated illnesses. Early detection of diseases can save lives as well as costly surgeries and rehabilitation. This device will allow Pakistani doctors to heal more people and save more lives.

1,000 Handicapped Palestinians Receive Wheelchairs

In the past year, Life has distributed 1,000 wheelchairs to handicapped Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

During Phase 1 of the program, Life delivered new wheelchairs to 281 handicapped children and young adults in both Gaza and the West Bank. These recipients were chosen particularly because of their difficult economic situations. Many of the recipients were both physically and mentally handicapped. During Phase 2, another 700 wheelchairs were distributed throughout most of Jordan's refugee camps.

Life Airlifts $1 Million in Aid to Iraq

Life collaborated with Another Joy Foundation and Iraq's Al-Naser Airlines in sending an airplane full of medicines, medical supplies, educational books, children's toys and other humanitarian supplies from the United States to Iraq. These supplies were distributed to hospitals, clinics, schools, universities, orphans and the less fortunate in Iraq.

Medical Supplies Help Lebanese Clinics

In December, Life shipped a container full of medical supplies to Lebanon. The supplies will be distributed among a number of clinics in and around Tripoli. The clinics that receive the supplies are known for providing free healthcare to impoverished Lebanese citizens

Feeding the Needy in Ramadan

This past Ramadan was a very busy time for Life for Relief and Development's staff, volunteers and partners, all of whom worked hard to provide food to needy families, widows and orphans across the globe. Some families received several weeks worth of food while other families and individuals were fed hot meals for iftar. Life provided food baskets and iftar meals to nearly 200,000 families in 19 countries during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Most Successful Udhiyah Season Ever!

Last November, Life completed the most successful Uhiyah/Qurbani campaign in its 19-year history. With the generosity of Life donors and partners, more than one million people in 25 countries benefited from the distribution of fresh meat from animals sacrificed during the days of Eid ul Adha.

500 Iraqi Orphans Receive Eid Gifts

In preparation for Eid ul Adha, Life Iraq distributed early Eid gifts to over 500 orphans and other Iraqi children living in poverty. Each child received new clothes, new shoes and a new toy. Gifts were also given to several widows as a gesture of compassion and support for their struggles as single mothers who are mired in poverty.

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Thousands of Orphans are waiting for Sponsors

Sponsor an Orphan Today

For $50 a month a donor will provide an orphan with food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare in ***Iraq, Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Ghana and Sierra Leone.*** *Due to global inflation, prices for food and other essential items have risen above $50 and may not be enough in some countries where Life is providing sponsorship to orphans.*