

Welcome to our second interim newsletter, which we send out during the summer to keep committed supporters and regular donors up to date with progress.

We make no apologies for focusing on our support for the secondary education of women in this issue. Afghanistan is the poorest country in the world outside Africa and we're convinced that educating women is the most important factor in the improvement of quality of life there. It's the front line in a battle against the subjugation of half of the population.

As always, it's the human stories which bring home the reality of the struggles of Afghan women. When we write these newsletters and blogs, we sometimes experience an uneasy feeling that we get in the way of the human stories by using western language: cleaning, sanitising and thus desensitising the raw material we receive.

This week we've been reviewing applications for scholarships from the Gawharshad Institute. We found choosing to be a harrowing experience, knowing as we do that the decisions taken here in our comfortable home effectively shut down the lives of some women.

Like so many charities we may have been guilty of concentrating on success stories and highlighting the 'real differences' that we've made. So this time, in our piece about the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Learning, we have reprinted the student profiles of some of the girls who didn't get a scholarship because we think that it's important that you appreciate the problems we're unable to change.

Maybe we're being too negative because, at the end of the day, we're giving scholarships to some rather than removing something from anybody. You should bear that in mind because it'll help - it helped us.

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John and Louisa

The Linda Norgrove Foundation is an award winning UK registered charity. Charity Number: SC041843



### Panto

Over 40 children and adults took part in *Snow White and the Seven-ish Dwarves* in Uig's first ever pantomime and half of the proceeds raised were donated to LNF. As this was over 10% of the population you can imagine the interest generated in our small community.

### UK Embassy in Kabul Raise Funds

Carolyn Robson, a lawyer, slept (well maybe not that much!) overnight in a snow hole at -8 degrees Celsius in the British Embassy grounds in Kabul raising over £1,500.

### the FIT people

A number of running and cycling feats have been undertaken this year already: Angus Coutts ran the Bupa 10k in Edinburgh, and Laura Donaldson, who previously volunteered for us in our office in Uig preparing publicity materials and newsletters, ran her first ever half marathon in Edinburgh.

72 year old Mike Holland cycled solo the 296 miles between his home in Troon and the Butt of Lewis this spring.

Stuart Simpson is proposing to run up the highest hill on each inhabited island in the Outer Hebrides on Midsummer's Day, starting from Vatersay and finishing on the top of Mealisbhal on the Isle of Lewis close to our office in Mangersta. A total of 20

miles with 10,500 feet of climb. Sponsor him on his fund raising page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StuartSimpson3>

### World Wide 10K

The fourth Linda Norgrove Foundation 10K will be held on Saturday 4th October. Join us and run or walk round the Valtos Peninsula or plan to take part wherever you live in the world to raise funds for our projects. We'll keep you updated on our facebook page and website on how you can get involved.

### Buy online?

Then why not register for easyfundraising. By registering you ensure that a small percentage of your purchases goes towards our funds. This works when you buy from Ebay, Amazon, John Lewis and a whole range of other outlets. It doesn't cost you anything and you only need to set it up once. To do this visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel)

### Linda's Photographs

An exhibition of photographs taken in Afghanistan by Linda is to be held later in the year at the Apothecary Gallery in London. Keep an eye on the website for details.

For information and updates on all the above, check out our website or facebook page, or email us.

## Thanks for all your support

If you would like to make a donation to help transform the lives of women and children in Afghanistan, please complete the form below together with your donation and send it to:

The Linda Norgrove Foundation, 3 Mangersta, Uig, Isle of Lewis, UK, HS2 9EY.  
Your help is greatly appreciated, however you choose to help the foundation.

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

E-mail: .....

I enclose a donation of: £ .....

If you would like to know more about setting up a monthly donation please tick this box:

Please check contact details are correct (full name and address), and sign the Gift Aid Declaration below if you wish for your donation to be treated as Gift Aid:

*giftaid it* I want the Linda Norgrove Foundation to treat all donations and all future donations as Gift Aid donations. You must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently worth 25p on every £1 you give).

Signed:..... Date: .....

Please leave us a message, we'd love to hear from you!



the linda norgrove foundation

Summer 2014



[www.lindanorgrovefoundation.org](http://www.lindanorgrovefoundation.org)

## Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies

The south of Afghanistan has the poorest security in the country. Kandahar, the southeast's capital, is the home town of the Taliban and, even by Afghan standards, known as a traditional and conservative place.

Canadian forces were stationed there and imposed some order within the city area, although security outside the city walls was always fragile. But as foreign boots leave Afghan soil, the aid money they brought is moving with them and security is down to the Afghan police and army.

Late last year we received an emergency appeal from the Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies (KIMS), who offer employment-oriented education to both boys and girls. From 2007 to 2012, 2,278 students graduated from KIMS professional training programmes, most of them women studying business management, information technology,

English and communications. Of these students, at least 1,157 were able to secure jobs or obtain promotions. However, KIMS was rapidly running out of money as Canadian and US government aid had dried up and it was going to have to shut down. They had a funding gap but, longer term, were optimistic about an application to a new programme.

Small is nimble and we were able to coordinate with our partner charity, *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan*, and come up with enough to tide them over the rest of the winter. It's cheap - \$14 (£8.50) a student per month. The staff have remained

employed, although they've agreed to teach for 10% of their time free. Students have had to pay increased fees. But they continue to learn, and demand for the courses far outstrips supply.

The future for KIMS remains uncertain and this is far too big an operation for us to continue to fund from our limited resources. Eventually it comes down to government funding or a much larger charity, and that is out of our hands, but, with our help, they didn't close this year which is something we can be proud of.

This is especially true when you hear the human stories associated with the Institute:

*"Extremists threw acid on my face and my body. They burned me but they could not burn my determination to education,"* said Arezo, a young Afghan girl, remembering the painful day in 2009, when three men attacked her on the way to school in Kandahar.

Thirteen-year-old Arezo defied the attacks and



five years later is studying English at KIMS. *"Education is important for me,"* Arezo said. *"I want to continue my education."*

None of us knows what the future will bring in Afghanistan, or indeed in Syria, Ukraine or Libya but that's no excuse for turning our backs on people who are struggling.

As Arezo's story shows, many Afghan women face cruel opponents. Small contributions make a difference and these women need support.



## Degree Scholarships at the Gawharshad Institute

Last year we funded scholarships for seven girls to study for the first year of a degree course at the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Learning in Kabul together with a class prize of \$250 for the best academic performance of 2013.

We are committed to supporting these girls through their four year course and will fund another intake this year.

Mostly because the pound is relatively strong, the cost of a scholarship has reduced from £382 last year to £270 this. Interviews were held last month and, during the week that we wrote this newsletter, we had to choose from the successful candidates from the short list. It wasn't a pleasant experience because, inevitably, one homes in on the ones left out rather than the chosen few.

We decided to sponsor ten rather than seven, both because the costs, a little over £1000 for a four year degree course, seem totally incommensurate with the results and because we just couldn't turn some of these girls away.

To see how hard it was, here are the summaries, replicated as they came to us, of some of the girls who won't receive scholarships this year:



**Mursal**, age 19, has experienced many hardships in her life after her father got terrible disease; her family is consist of 6 people (2 brothers, 2 sisters, Mother and Father). They lost their whole money in their fathers treatment; thus Mursal is wondered how to hold on her educations at a university; wherefrom, a high amount of money is required for her to study at a private university. Since she saw her family is running out of money, she has looked for a sponsorship opportunity and since she heard about Gawharshad sponsorship, she has become hopeful. She has experienced problems in her school life, too. As she was not allowed to continue her high school by her relatives; she was told that it is unnecessary for girls to be educated, but Mursal have always fought for her right and despite all these obstacles, she finished her school and would like to get her bachelors, too.



**Shakilla Atayee** was born in an open-minded family comprised of 9 members. Her family lives in Ghazni and she lives in Kabul. Her father is jobless. Her three brothers are younger than her; they are students. *Shakilla says: "I have never wanted to apply for this scholarship and waste an other needy girl's right but I really need it as I am needy and disable. I won't be able to continue my studies unless I don't obtain this scholarship."*



**Hafiza Qarabaghi**, age 21, lives in a family comprised of 22 members. She has 4 sisters one brother; the remaining 15 people are her cousins. Her two uncles are martyred during the war. Hence her father has to head, feed and accommodate their children, which is a difficult task for a man with low income. Hafiza hopes that she can have a scholarship to study Economics. Hafiza is a polite and intelligent girl.



**Rahima** has finished school five years ago but due to not being economically achieved, she couldn't go through undergraduate studies; her father is constantly sick ever since he left drugs. Rahima points out her poor economy the biggest obstacle on her education; she understands the importance and rule of education in building peace. She wants to prove that women are not incapable. She believes that women can work in every field and they can have important rule in Afghanistan's welfare in every aspect but only in case they are supported. Rahima is looking forward to be sponsored. She seems to be a hardworking girl.

In our newsletter in November we listed all our ongoing projects so this time we're listing only those funded since then.

- **£12,375** A grant to COAM, an Afghan-run charity focusing on environmental work in the mountains south of the remote city of Bamiyan. Following the success of the project funded last year to introduce a more efficient and safe cook stove to the villagers in the area, this year we are funding a 'seeds for seeds' programme where women collect seeds from wild rangeland plants. These are then exchanged for vegetable seeds, implements, training and support to establish village kitchen gardens and tree nurseries, whilst the rangeland seeds will be used to regenerate degraded areas of grazings.

- **£123,000** Two further payments to our partners *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan* who are running the 'Afghanistan Reads!' women's literacy and library project, undertaking work in both rural and urban locations throughout the country. Project funded by USAID.

- **£1,000** Grant to the UK based charity ASET towards a school construction project. Although we tend to shy away from funding buildings this was too good an opportunity to miss as each £1 we gave was matched by £9 from the German government. Our grant enabled ASET to reach the funding total required for the end of March.

- **£9,375** The successful *Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies* was in danger of closing when they approached us at the end of 2013 to bridge a gap in their mainstream funding. We have funded scholarships for 100 young women for 10 months of training in English, communications and computing, enabling them to remain open.

- **£9,375** Help towards the operating costs of the *House of Flowers orphanage in Kabul* which gives both a refuge and an education to the children who live there. A model school run using the Montessori education system, it's used as an example to train teachers from other orphanages across the country.

- **£7,500** Two month-long summer schools, one for youth aged 18 to 25 and another for Pashto speakers, and a series of weekly school-based training sessions for teachers. All involve storytelling skills - so important in a country with low levels of literacy - based on traditional Afghan stories and run by the Italian charity *Plain Ink*.

- **£7,500** Another 6 months of funding for the *SCAWNO initiative*, an Afghan-run charity. SCAWNO provide training in literacy, calligraphy and art, computing, tailoring skills, Koran instruction, and a very popular judo club. Located in a poor area of Kabul with its many homeless, SCAWNO employ 8 staff, and LNF is the sole funder.

- **£5,500** *Afghan Connection's Rasool Shaheed School building project*. Our donation put them halfway towards their funding target at the start of 2014 and was doubled by National Geographic magazine.

