



REZA

FUNDS RAISED

Total \$\$ Since Inception:	\$1,078,692.18
Grants Awarded in prior years:	\$781,091.18
Grants Awarded in 2006:	
AINA World	\$90,000.00
American Friendship Foundation	\$77,000.00
Creating Hope International and Afghan Institute of Learning	\$130,610.00
TOTAL PAYOUT IN 2006	\$297,601.00

A CONTINUING NEED

Despite the success and achievements made in Afghanistan and by these incredible young women, the daily dangers and struggles they must endure for the chance to learn have not disappeared. At least one teacher is killed or one school is burned each day. The lack of electricity at night in homes around Kabul reduces the number of girls able to borrow library books for home use.

Generous contributions received over the past five years continue to make a critical impact on the educational opportunities for women and girls who were once denied this basic right. National Geographic's long-standing ties to Afghanistan through poignant editorial coverage and the Afghan Girls Fund will continue so long as the country remains in a tumultuous state and the need remains.

To those who have supported the Afghan Girls Fund, National Geographic thanks you for your generosity. Your continued dedication means so much to the courageous women of this war-torn nation.

Visit the updated website for the Afghan Girls Fund at www.nationalgeographic.org/afghan_girls_fund.html.

To make an additional gift, visit the website or call Kathleen Rauschuber at (800) 373-1717 (U.S. and Canada only) or (202) 828-6686. For information on applying for an Afghan Girls Fund grant, please contact Karen Gibbs, grants manager, at kgibbs@ngs.org.



THE AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION

What began with the rediscovery of one world-famous woman from Afghanistan five years ago has led to the improvement of educational and life opportunities for hundreds of Afghan girls and women today. Since the creation of the Afghan Girls Fund, more than \$1,078,600 has been raised. You have been a direct part of this outstanding support, and National Geographic thanks you. We are pleased to bring you up-to-date on recent grants made from the Fund and on future plans.

OVERVIEW

The Afghan Girls Fund was established in response to a tremendous eagerness from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine readers to help Afghan women after photographer Steve McCurry tracked down the name and person behind those famous and haunting green eyes that graced the cover of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC in 1985. The woman whose eyes captivated people for more than 17 years is Sharbat Gula. She, like scores of other Afghan women, was denied the opportunity for an education and advancement in life when her country was invaded by the Soviet Union and later ruled by the oppressive Taliban regime. After surviving a refugee camp in Pakistan as a teenager, Sharbat returned to Afghanistan, where Steve McCurry located her. Her unforgettable eyes continued to tell a story of hardship and loss.

Sharbat Gula told McCurry and others with the Society her greatest wish was that her daughters not be denied an education. This desire helped fuel the impetus for National Geographic to establish the Fund and launch its first project, the National Geographic Society Girls' Education and Training Center (ASCHIANA) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Thousands of concerned individuals responded generously.

A GROWING SUCCESS

The initial goal of one school has turned into much more because of the overwhelming response and corresponding needs of the people of Afghanistan. By partnering with The Asia Foundation and working closely with the Afghan Ministry of Education, National Geographic was able to reconstruct a second school for young girls in Kabul (the Rabia-e-Balkhi Girls' School); establish a library resource center at the school; and fund the production of *Parvaz*, a children's education magazine designed specifically for Afghan youth. Generous contributions continue to come in to National Geographic, enabling the Society to move ahead with other projects on the ground in Afghanistan. Inside is a snapshot of projects the Fund has supported over the past four years, followed by an update on the most recent grants made from the Afghan Girls Fund.



THE ASIA FOUNDATION

National Geographic Society Girls' Education and Training Center (ASCHIANA)



THE ASIA FOUNDATION

Since the launch of ASCHIANA in October 2002, more than 270 girls ages 12-17 have received an accelerated primary education, giving them the equivalent of a 6th-grade education over three years of study. Empowered with knowledge, these ambitious young women now have the skills necessary to earn an income. In addition to their education, girls received simple necessities, including meals, hygiene instruction, and basic medical care. These achievements were made possible by National Geographic's partnership with The Asia Foundation, a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to programs in Asia that help improve governance, law, and civil society; women's empowerment; economic reform and development; and international relations.

Afghan Girls' and Women's Library and Resource Center at Rabia-e-Balkhi Girls' School

The Afghan Girls' and Women's Library and Resource Center continues to be an important resource to the students at Rabia-e-Balkhi Girls' High School. When the school was reconstructed in partnership with The Asia Foundation, it was the only public school in Afghanistan with an information resource center. It serves 108 teachers and more than 1,500 students, and is available to other women in Kabul.

Highlights from 2006 include an increase in the library's book collection from 2,250 books in English and 50 in Dari and Pashto to 3,689 books in English and 600 in Dari and Pashto. The number of students borrowing books increased from 10-12 per week earlier in the year to approximately 20-25 students per week. Also, the enrollment of students in the computer classes has increased from 159 to 227, with the addition of an IT assistant, two new computers, and a new LCD projector that enables the instructor to teach to the entire class at one time.



Parvaz



REZA/AINA WORLD

Created by the humanitarian association AINA in August 2002, *Parvaz* is the first and only children's magazine in Afghanistan. A grant from the Afghan Girls Fund in 2003 enabled 25,000 Afghan girls to receive their first issue of *Parvaz*, which means "to fly." The magazine covers education, geography, health, history, and information of particular interest to Afghan children, such as the danger of land mines. It is equally divided into Dari and Pashto, the two official languages of Afghanistan. Costs can run high for the 64-page, full-color magazine, which is distributed six times per year to children in more than 16 of Afghanistan's 32 provinces. AINA largely funds the production of this educational magazine; grant support from National Geographic gives as many children as possible access to the publication.

2006 GRANTS AWARDED

After careful consideration and review of submitted grant proposals, the Society selected three organizations to support in fall 2006. The groups and programs selected enable and enhance girls' education in Afghanistan, and provide other creative tools and resources to help them develop their own life skills and sense of self. Below is a brief background on each applicant and information on the funded project.

1. Organization: AINA World

AINA contributes to the emergence of civil society through actions in the areas of education (particularly focusing on women and children), information, and communication. Founded by longtime National Geographic photographer Reza, AINA promotes independent media development and cultural expression as a foundation of democracy.

PROJECT TITLE:

Initiative to Promote Afghan Girls' Education

AINA will embark on a media-driven national awareness campaign for girls' education in Afghanistan. The campaign is intended to reach all girls and select audiences of decision-makers, from parents to religious, political, and community leaders. Funding from National Geographic will support a mobile cinema and radio program in the first phase of the campaign.

2. Organization: American Friendship Foundation

The American Friendship Foundation (AFF) encourages and promotes cross-cultural friendship and goodwill in developing nations. By collaborating with highly skilled American development workers committed to serving the poor, speaking the local language, and knowing the people, these AFF partners develop programs that address pressing human needs for clean water, education, health-care, and economic opportunities.

PROJECT TITLE:

Journey with an Afghan School - Roshana Balkhi School

The AFF's "Journey with an Afghan School" will foster cultural exchanges between Afghan and American

students through presentations across the U.S. The AFF has secured matched funds through U.S. schools and students, generating resources to rebuild a school located along the ancient Silk Road, one of the hardest-hit areas during the past few decades of Afghan conflict.

3. Organization: Creating Hope International and Afghan Institute of Learning

The Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) is committed to bringing peace and dignity to Afghan people as they struggle to overcome poverty, oppression, devastation, and injustice wrought by the past quarter century of war and instability.

Creating Hope International (CHI) provides education and health assistance to people around the world with the greatest needs. CHI works at the grassroots level responding to community requests, fostering community participation, and empowering people through culturally sensitive education and training.

PROJECT TITLE:

AIL Women's Learning Center Project in Afghanistan

Creating Hope International and Afghan Institute of Learning have been working as project partners since 1996 to provide education and health services to Afghan women and children. Presently, CHI and AIL support 19 Women's Learning Centers (WLCs) for 7,900 women and children annually in five provinces in Afghanistan. The project's goal is to increase the number of WLCs to 27, serving an estimated 9,350 students. The students will participate in classes on human rights, peace education, and health.