

2007 Rebuild Afghanistan Summit

Organization			
Organization Name	Afghanistan Relief Organization	Year Established	1998
Website	www.afghanrelief.com		
501(c)(3) status	Nonprofit	Tax ID	95-4822766
Contacts			
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About the Presenter			
1) Vice Chairman			
2)			
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Organization's Mission/Objective			
<p>The Afghanistan Relief Organization (ARO) is a non-political, non-religious, California 501c3 nonprofit, humanitarian organization. ARO provides an educational center for 1200+ girls, boys, women and men in Kabul, and delivers relief aid (food, medicine, school supplies and winter relief supplies) directly into the hands of those in need throughout Afghanistan.</p>			
List the organization's past accomplishments in helping the people in Afghanistan. Be sure to include start and completion dates			
<p>Founded in the United States in 1998—and registered as a non governmental organization (NGO) of good standing in Afghanistan—ARO is managed by Afghan and American volunteers, of all backgrounds and faiths. ARO provided relief and educational aid to Afghanistan during prior conflict years, and remains committed to the country's recovery. As a grassroots organization with no paid staff in the U.S., ARO minimizes overhead by requiring volunteers to pay their own way on relief trips. ARO organizes airlifts or relief supply shipments via humanitarian transports, and works directly with local community leadership to facilitate the direct distribution of relief aid. Our work is ongoing.</p>			
<p>Opened in 2003, ARO's educational center in Kabul, near Kabul University (Kartay Chaar) offers computer, Dari, Pashtu, English, math, science, and job skill training classes, along with a variety of programs offered by guest lecturers, including a poetry discussion class focused on the works of 13th Century Afghan poet, Rumi. The school has experienced rapid growth: the 1200+ students include girls and boys in academic programs, and men and women in vocational and literacy programs. Classes operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to accommodate those who wish to learn. The education center is an ongoing program.</p>			
<p>The first 30 students in the Introduction to Nursing program have graduated, and ARO is now providing two new classes with a total of 60 students. Their instruction is under the direction of three medical doctors, Doctors Azia, Rafi and Ghamarodin. The students in the Introduction to Nursing Program will complete their program with ARO in March 2008, and will continue with hands-on instruction and employment through Maiwand Hospital in Kabul. Also, in September 2007, Doctors Azia, Rafi and Ghamarodin provided free medical examinations and medications for Afghans in a rural area outside Jalalabad with ARO's assistance. ARO plans to continue this program, with funding.</p>			
<p>In June 2007, the ARO-Kabul relief team delivered two truck loads of basic relief supplies to the Logar Province, Sorkh-Aweo District. Relief supplies included clothing, hand-knit items from "afghans for Afghans" volunteers, shoes, socks, toys, infant care kits, and school supplies. ARO plans to continue distributing relief supplies to Afghans in need.</p>			

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In August 2007, a free dental clinic was established at ARO-Kabul, with the help of Colorado dentist Tom Grams, DDS. The clinic provides free dental care for the 1200+ students and faculty at the ARO center. With assistance from ARO, Dr. Grams extended his dental outreach to others in the Kabul area and Dr. Gram also provided them with an examination and treatment. The dental clinic joins the health clinic established at ARO in 2006, in conjunction with ARO's introduction to nursing program. The health clinic and dental clinic are ongoing programs.

What is your organization planning on doing to help the people in Afghanistan?

ARO received almost three-acres of land in June in an area of Kabul referred to as *Sharak-e-Sabz-e-Omeid*, or "The Little Green City of Hope". The land acquisition represents a long effort by volunteers to expand ARO's ability to provide free education, and teacher training programs. The new campus will feature multi purpose classrooms, and ARO plans to provide internet capability throughout the school for teacher training and distance learning programs.

ARO helps Afghans seeking higher education in an international setting by offering the Test of English as a Foreign Language™ (TOEFL) class, which provides student instruction in conversational English, grammar, listening skills, reading and writing. Twenty-five young men and women recently completed the TOEFL program successfully. TOEFL is offered in 180 countries around the world, usually at colleges and universities. More than 6,000 institutions and agencies in 110 countries rely on TOEFL scores to select students with the English skills needed to succeed.

ARO helps Afghans who need assistance learning Afghan Native Languages. Dari and Pashto classes were initiated in late 2006, with adult students enrolled in a one-year program. After one year, students are introduced to advance schools to continue their education. Most of these students are intermediate and high school students who come from low-income families and face language problems in school. Native language instruction assists students in their advancement to other educational institutions.

ARO offers a variety of vocational classes for adults, including: the Sewing Initiative program which teaches Afghan women sewing and home-based business skills, along with literacy training; an auto mechanics training program; an introduction to plumbing program; an introduction to carpentry program; an introduction to electrical / appliance repair; and a women's literacy program to fast-track adult women who need language skills to become self sufficient.

ARO provides healthcare services to 1200+ students and their families. Volunteer donations raised funds to pay salaries for visiting doctors for the first two-year period, as well as basic equipment and a pharmacy supply. Healthcare services are provided by Afghan medical doctors to ARO students at no charge. The ARO dental clinic also will continue to provide dental exams and treatments for ARO students and area residents at no charge.

ARO continues its outreach to refugee camps and underserved schools, beyond the distribution of relief supplies. ARO instructors are now teaching free literacy classes at the Afshar and Qambar refugee camps outside Kabul. Two different teachers are provided for these camps, offering two-hour daily programs for children. ARO English instructors also are providing free English instruction to students at the Rafigh High School in Kabul. ARO instructors are volunteering their classroom time and donating 60 English books to the High School for the program.

ARO offers a variety of activities for young students, including girls' karate, boys' karate, boys' soccer boys' tae kwon doe, and Wushu.. Sports activities generate teamwork, positive morale, self esteem, and good health. Student athletes now regularly compete in their respective sports, encouraging goal-setting and directing their youthful energy in a positive manner.

How can the Bay Area community get involved in helping your organizations?

ARO asks for your assistance, donations, financial contributions, suggestions and questions.

ARO needs funds on a continual basis to pay teacher salaries and maintain the education center in Kabul. *Your contributions help keep the doors open to free education for the future leaders of Afghanistan.*

Funds are needed to help ARO build its new school campus. Your contribution for can be made online (Papal) at our website donation page, www.afghanrelief.com, by check to the "Afghanistan Relief Organization", and by selecting Afghanistan Relief Organization to receive a percentage of sales when you shop at www.giveline.com.

The Wish List: In-kind donation needs include: support for education programs and teacher training in rural areas; building supplies; refugee camp and rural community water systems; portable, waterproof shelters for refugee camps; solar radios for information and education outreach; solar cooking, lighting and heating equipment.