

Operation Outreach Afghanistan

HEALING HEARTS AND MINDS

OCTOBER 2011

OUR MISSION:

Operation Outreach Afghanistan (OOA) will empower the Afghan people through compassionate humanitarian assistance.

OOA is a volunteer organization. It is not affiliated or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.

WHO WE ARE:

We are a group of deployed U.S. service members and civilians working to bring relief and aid to the Afghan people. We volunteer our "off-duty" time to help provide commonly needed items to those in need.

LEADERSHIP

TEAM:

Lt. Col. George Harrington
Chairman/President

Staff Sgt. Holly Gilmore
Deputy Chairman

Capt. Tyler Field
Treasurer

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Ingrid Henry
Secretary

Capt. Allison Bailey
Medical Treatment Advisor

Lt. James Holstein
Medical Supplies Advisor

Senior Master Sgt.
Shaun Crusha
Logistics Advisor

Chief Warrant Officer 2
Christopher Ramsey
IT Advisor

1st Lt. Kelly Souza
Public Affairs Advisor

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Outreach at an Orphanage



TOTAL GIFTS AND DONATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Gifts: \$3072.68

Postage: \$1041.23

Cash: \$858.55

TOTAL AVAIL-
ABLE
FUNDS:

\$8147.77

Total gifts and
donations re-
ceived
since Sept. 2010:

\$94,541.41



Outreach Quick Facts

- OOA volunteers have participated in 72 meetings since March 2010.
- Volunteers have donated 4,376 man hours and collected more than \$141,962 in gifts.
- 51 volunteers have participated in 43 humanitarian missions.
- OOA active membership is 406.
- OOA has held 63 conex work days to organize humanitarian assistance gifts.
- More than 20,950 Afghans have benefited from OOA's humanitarian assistance and medical aid this year.
- 165 volunteers have earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.



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**SCHOOL SUPPLIES
NEEDED**

From the Chairman

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” – Mahatma Gandhi

This may sound a little out of place in a combat zone, thousands of miles from home, but it is relevant wherever we are. Change can come in large gestures, such as committing oneself to the Military, or in small gestures, such as devoting free time to helping others.

Here at Operation Outreach – Afghanistan, I am proud that our membership has committed to both. In the six months I’ve been associated with OOA, our members have devoted over 4,000 hours of their personal time, which is in very short supply. Our friends, family and associates from home have donated school supplies and clothing valued at over \$140,000. This spirit of giving has impacted the lives of over 20,000 Afghans, most of them children. Thank you to all who have made this possible. Working together, we will change the world.

Respectfully,
George Harrington
Chairman/President
Operation Outreach

PS: Our Military partners have done an incredible job of finding schools, orphanages and other opportunities for school kit drops. We are now short in all categories of school supplies. Please help us replenish our stocks.



Supplies needed:

- **Pencil Sharpeners**
- **Scissors**
- **Small Toys**
- **Glue Sticks**
- **Small Rulers**
- **Small Notebooks**
- **Pens**
- **Color Pencils**



**OPERATION OUTREACH
AFGHANISTAN**

Marastoon Orphanage Visit

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Kabul is a city of about four million residents and about a third are school-aged. As a result, **OOA** is **MOST IN NEED OF BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES**, especially pencils, pens and notebooks. They will continue to accept shoes, clothes, blankets, children's books and first aid kits. Please mail your gifts to:

**OOA - George Harrington
26th Yankee Brigade
Camp Phoenix
APO, AE 09320**

Outreach at NKAIA

By: Capt. Charles Shaw, NKAIA

KABUL , Afghanistan — With the support from OOA at Camp Phoenix, the OOA at NKAIA made their first delivery to the Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC) in Kabul.

The AWEC is a donation run school focusing on working children and providing them with an education. The volunteers distributed a total of 200 school packs to students.



**OPERATION OUTREACH
AFGHANISTAN**

Women from the Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC) in Kabul pose with a U.S. service member during a humanitarian assistance drop in September.



Afghan children sit with U. S. service members during an Operation Outreach Afghanistan school supply kits drop.

The volunteers visited a number of classrooms to hand out supplies. The students generally greeted them with interest and smiles.

One classroom teacher had her students recite the alphabet and numbers in English. After seeing the classrooms, they were invited to stay for a traditional Afghan lunch of sticky rice and spicy lamb.

Everyone who received them was friendly and appreciated the donations. It was clear that the school was well run, but benefitted greatly from even the smallest of donations.

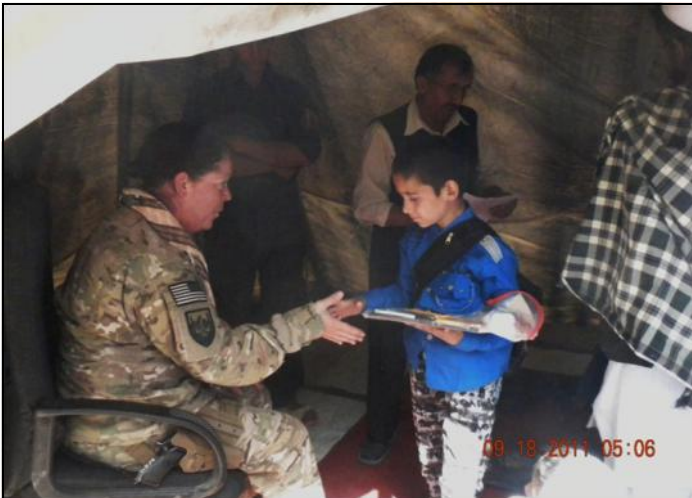
Amad Bahar School Drop

By: Staff Sgt. Sharon Kellner, USFOR-A J-9

KABUL, Afghanistan — Service members from U.S. Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) visited the Amad Bahar School on Sept. 18, 2011 and distributed OOA school supply kits.

The children of Amad Bahar attend a school comprising of two small tents on the side of a steep hill. The school is surrounded by trash and running sewage.

They can only attend class until 10 a.m. because of the severe heat during the day.



Staff Sgt. Sharon Kellner, a civil affairs sergeant with USFOR-A hands an Afghan child an Operation Outreach school supply kit on Sept. 18, 2011.

The tents are extremely small and the ability to do classroom assignments is very minimal.

When the team arrived the kids were already out for the day and home. But when word got out that there was a supply drop, around 100 kids rushed back to the school.

The kids were very emotional and appreciative for everything we gave them.



An Afghan child from the Amad Bahar School with his Operation Outreach school supply kit during a humanitarian assistance drop on Sept. 18, 2011.



The local ANP Police Chief of Amad Bahar helping to distribute Operation Outreach school supply kits to the Amad Bahar school on Sept. 18, 2011.



INTERESTED IN JOINING OOA?

OOA holds full meetings every two weeks in the Camp Phoenix warehouse — Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. — and committees meet every other week to organize humanitarian assistance missions, hand-write thank you notes to donors, plan social events, coordinate medical missions and handle information technology issues.

Volunteers sort donations for future missions every Friday at 4 p.m. in the container yard in the northwest side of Camp Phoenix. Servicemembers donating 80 hours of their time will be eligible for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.



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