

June 18, 2010
Rotary activities in Jalalabad, Afghanistan
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Shortly after the incidents of Sept. 11, 2001, Rotarian Fary Moini, a relatively new Rotarian in my club, asked if I could help her work with Afghan refugees. She spent two months in refugee camps near Peshawar, Pakistan. Upon her return she suggested our club build a school in Afghanistan. I was skeptical but with encouragement from some Pakistani Rotarians and a grant from the Donner Foundation to help pay for the building of a school, Fary and I traveled to Jalalabad in November of 2002 to explore this idea. This turned out to be the first of ten trips I have taken to Afghanistan in the last 8 years and was the beginning of a chain of events I could never have imagined.

Upon arrival, we met with the Governor of Nangarhar Province in Jalalabad just on the Afghan side of the Khyber Pass which we had traveled through with some Rotarians from Pakistan. The Governor advised there would soon be many Afghan refugees returning to the Jalalabad area and he would set aside a site for us to build a school. We went to the site and found two UNICEF tents where boys studied under one tent and girls under the other. We were sufficiently encouraged that we contracted with an Afghan NGO to oversee the work and held a groundbreaking ceremony.



We returned in early 2004 for the dedication of the school. It was built in two phases and, with its 20 classrooms, was designed for 1,000 students. It presently has about 5,000 students running in three shifts with some classrooms outside under tents and some classrooms just in the shade of its walls.





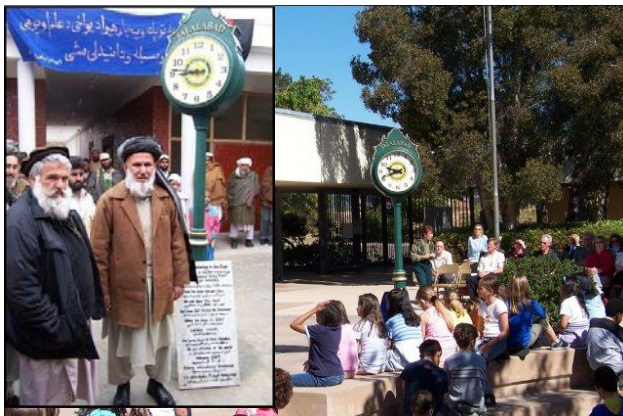
Pictured above is opening day at the school.

We have been in touch with a gentleman by the name of Gopa from the country of Oman regarding this school. When he learned about the need for more classrooms, he was able to raise \$95,000 from colleagues and businesses in Oman which will be sufficient to add at least seven classrooms. Gopa is not a Rotarian nor is there a Rotary Club in Oman. Yet, Gopa advised that when prospective donors learned that Rotary was involved, they expressed confidence that the money would be properly handled and utilized.

We have learned it is easier to build a school than it is to assure the quality of the education provided therein. For example, this girl could find California and Afghanistan on the world maps we provided to each classroom but her teacher could not. The typical



primary school teacher may not even have a high school education let alone instruction on how to teach. We also learned that girls were not going to go to school after the sixth grade for lack of female teachers. We asked how many would attend if we could supply female teachers and all raised their hands. For the cost of \$600 per year we were able to hire eight female teachers and next year-2011- we will have the first graduating class of females who have completed grade 12. This year we graduated the first class of boys. We also sent 12,000 English dictionaries for schools and universities in Afghanistan.



Our club's centennial project was to set up a clock at the Afghan Rotary School and one at a sister school in San Diego. On one side of each clock is the time in San Diego and on the other side the time in Jalalabad.



My wife, Susan traveled with Fary and me in March of 2008 to meet the Afghan friends we have developed and experience the warm welcome we always receive. We also make a point to meet with the elders while there to be certain they are comfortable with what we are doing to support education and our other endeavors.

In working with the local Afghans they became curious about this Rotary organization. The idea that we were unpaid volunteers who kept returning to help them was a bit mystifying. However, they expressed an interest in becoming involved in Rotary so during our trip of January, 2005 we chartered the Rotary Club of Jalalabad.



We have since brought two Afghan GSE teams to San Diego. The first in May of 2005 was made up of college professors, three from the medical school, two English professors and one agriculture professor. The second team came in the summer of 2009 made up of three English teachers and a Rotarian team leader who is a surgeon—presently working on his fellowship in neurosurgery in the Ukraine.



During our first trip in 2002, I was surprised to see the Rotary logo on this sign in Kabul. As I looked more closely, I saw that this billboard was promoting the polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan. Since that time we have assisted in having Jalalabad Rotarian Dr. Pardis, become

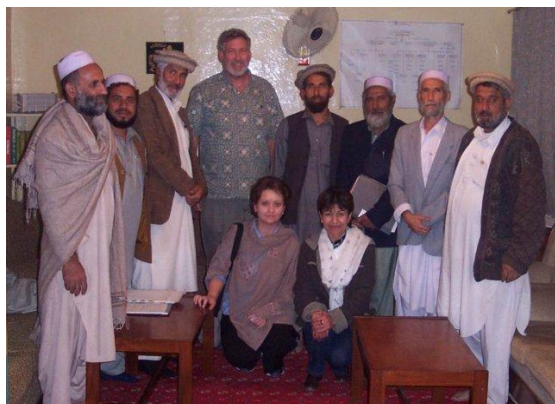
Rotary's representative for polio eradication in Afghanistan. He is director of Public Health in Nangarhar Province and we did bring him to San Diego for one month in early 2009.



During one of our trips, Dr. Pardis arranged a meeting of the mullahs to have a discussion about the importance of supporting the immunization efforts. The gentleman in the middle of this picture is Abdul Wakil a local moderate Taliban leader. He talked eloquently about how, under Islam, adults have an obligation to protect children and thus the message must be provided through the mosques regarding the importance of supporting the polio immunization efforts.

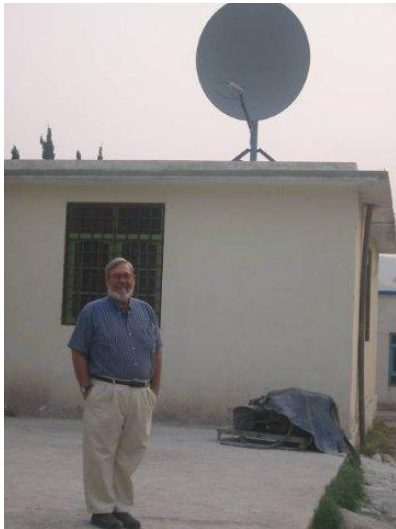


Dr. Pardis has assisted in the setting up of a vaccination station at the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan-pictured above. It is estimated that approximately 4,000 children of an appropriate age for immunization pass through this border daily and they are taken aside for immunizations. When they have NIDs in Afghanistan over 55,000 local individuals are mobilized to support these efforts.



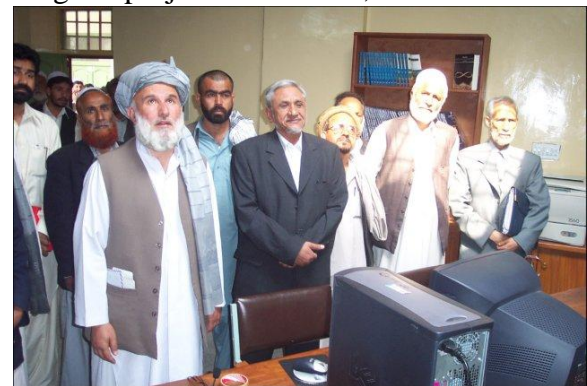
On our first trip to Jalalabad back in 2002 we asked if there was a local university. We were advised that Nangarhar University is one of the top universities in Afghanistan and our hosts arranged a visit. We met with the Chancellor and the various department

heads. We were advised the university had 4,000 students, 250 faculty-only few held advance degrees. They did not have a relationship with any other university; they did not have a single computer and no useable textbooks. The professors taught off of 20 and 30 year old lecture notes. They asked if we could help. We made no promises nor raised expectations.

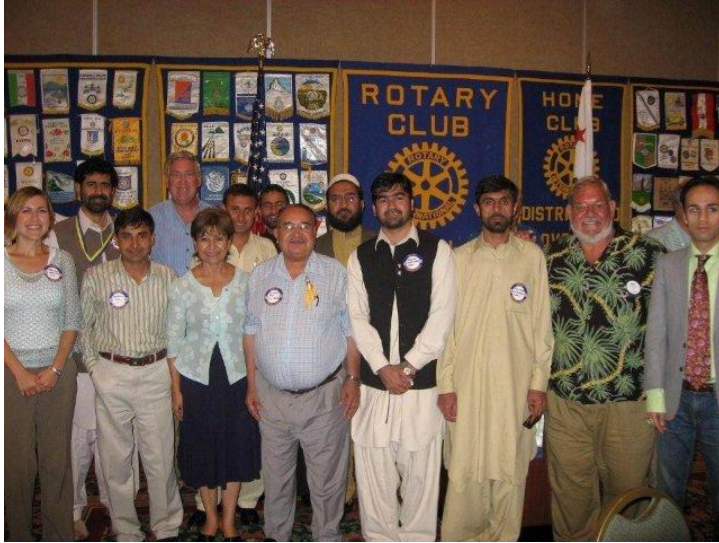


When we returned in March of 2004 for the dedication ceremony for the Rotary School we also had a dedication ceremony for a computer lab at Nangarhar University. Fary Moini, the Rotarian I mentioned earlier from my club, spent two months in Jalalabad in advance of this visit to help oversee the work needed to be done to complete the Rotary school and set up the computer lab at the university. For this trip we also brought Steve Spencer, a professor from San Diego State University who oversees some distance learning programs in the Pacific. At the dedication ceremony for the computer lab he provided a lecture about the internet and later helped set up some of the professors with e-mail accounts. Steve brought a projector with him, did a web search and displayed the Koran on the wall of the lab. Later, the head of the Veterinary medicine

department advised that he could bring some tetracycline to help with the computer virus problems Steve had discussed. Six months later I received an e-mail from that same professor advising that through the use of the internet and e-mail communications he had obtained a \$300,000 grant for his veterinary medicine department.



A few months after that trip, Steve Weber, President of San Diego State University, learned about our activities in Jalalabad. When we met with him he advised he would like his university to become involved. Fary and I met with a representative of World Bank which organization had just launched a program to fund partnerships between universities in Afghanistan and universities in other countries. We were able to facilitate putting together a partnership between the Nangarhar University and San Diego State University to build an English language program at Nangarhar University. World Bank provided \$2,000,000 in funding for that partnership and we were able to follow that with a second partnership between the two universities to build a civil engineering department at Nangarhar University again with another \$2,000,000 in funding from World Bank.



Related to this, we were able to assist in obtaining Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships for four Afghan professors. Two of these have been funded by Rotary Districts in Michigan, Mohibullah Israr and Fazal Rabanni –both English professors, and two have been funded by the Rotary Foundation’s Scholarship Fund pool for low income countries-Rafi Sayad an English professor and Isahq Hassan a Masters student at the University of San Diego’s School for Peace and Justice. From time to time we have had a collection of Afghans visit our club

under these various programs.

We have also built some buildings at Nangarhar University and furnished them with Rotary Foundation matching grants. One is a guest house for visiting professors We stay there when in country and have a constant parade of guests since we know so many folks there. Afghans take pride in their warm hospitality and we always feel safe and comfortable in their presence. We have never experienced any problems nor have our projects or the school we have built.



We also built an international Learning Center with a technology rich environment. It can be used for live video conferencing among other things.



District L.A. JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUBS L.P. PALM CALIFORNIA STEPHEN BROWN & FAMILY FOUNDATION SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA	Project WOMEN'S DORMITORY NANGARHAR UNIVERSITY JALALABAD, AFGHANISTAN	District B	Rotarian RICK D. CLARK, A.I.A. MARCO AL AMIAD, DEVELOPER SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.	Date 03/12/07 Item No. AD-0
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We have built a dormitory for females on the main campus. Very few females attend the university since in that culture females are not comfortable walking or being transported without a male relative. This dormitory will open this fall and will allow for more female enrollment and hopefully eventually result in better qualified female English teachers at the high schools.

Our Rotary Club Foundation has been able to enter into a variety of partnerships that have resulted in overlapping programs. Some of these partnerships are with the U.S. Department of State, NATO, USAID and Washington State University. A common theme for all of these partnerships is to use technology to enhance learning in education and to enhance relationship building. Different partners provide funding for different aspects of these objectives.

For example the U.S. Department of State provides funding for us to set up computer labs to serve high school students in Jalalabad. In addition to providing basic computer training, the programs we have underway are used to have students in Jalalabad communicate through technology with students in the U.S. The students take an English exam to participate in this program. We also use Skype for live video conferencing with the students. Judith McHale, U.S. Undersecretary of State participated in one of these conferences.



We were also able to obtain funding for some small grants programs at the Jalalabad high schools. The funding came from the San Diego~Jalalabad Sister Cities Foundation. The Sister Cities relationship was established through Rotarians in both cities. Examples of small grants projects include a program put on by Afghan female high

school students talking about violence against women. The audience included male and female high school and college students. Other projects included clean up and vegetation planting at a high school and another example was to build a water cistern at the school. The students needed to raise additional funds in the community and obtained in kind donations from vendors. Students not initially involved in these projects have since initiated follow up projects. The idea is quite new to take on social responsibility for their own schools.

Rotarians in Canada have partnered with Canadian International Development Agency to undertake a project in Afghanistan. Because of our involvement in Afghanistan we were asked to help find and oversee a project. Fary and I met with the Nangarhar Director of Education and he recommended building a school at the Nasrat II School site. Presently there are about 4,000 students attend classes mostly by sitting under trees. We broke ground on the building in January of this year and the facility should be ready for occupancy by this September. We copied the plans of a school building recently finished so we know the facility will look like the below school when completed.



We have funding from USAID to pay for internet connectivity at the high schools and to add additional computer labs at other high schools.



We also have USAID funding to build a College of Education Learning Center at Nangarhar University. It is the largest college at the university with over 1,000 students but without any classrooms for computer training for the students. We held a groundbreaking ceremony for this in April of this year.

We will provide for the technology and training at the university. With funding from Washington State University we set up a computer lab at the medical school and with USAID funds we have also brought the internet to a medical clinic where we are working to set up a telemedicine network involving use of the internet to distribute imagery to a network of physicians we are working with in San Diego. We have also set up a computer lab at the university's computer science department.



And we are working with NATO. NATO has agreed to provide internet connectivity to six universities in Afghanistan but it does not provide directly for setting up the IT system to manage and distribute the internet signal. So we have obtained a grant from NATO where we just finished wiring fiber optic to sixteen buildings on the Nangarhar University main campus (pictured left) and now are in the process of relaying that signal to four remote

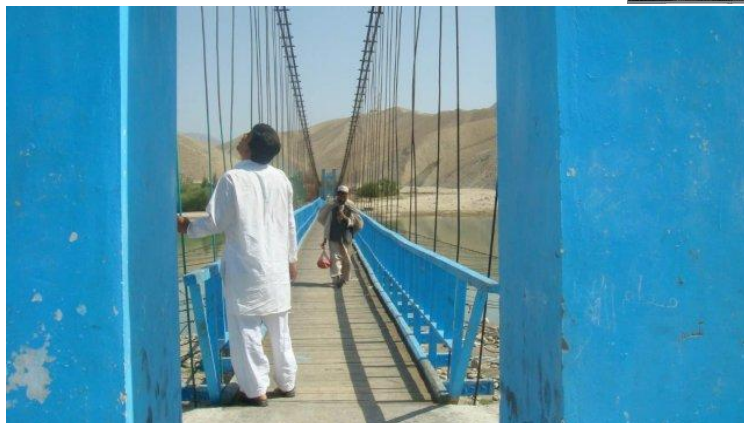
campus locations. At these remote locations we have ongoing programs that are internet based. These include the medical school, education college, teaching hospital and computer science department all affiliated with Nangarhar University. We have setup computer labs at these locations, are providing ongoing instruction and have worked out a short term solution for NATO to bring the internet to those locations until the longer term relay is in place.

Through the combined funding of US Dept. of State, USAID, Washington State University, and NATO we have provided computer labs, internet connection and training at the facilities in Jalalabad listed on this slide.

La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Foundation is supporting programs at the following schools/sites:

1. Nangarhar University College of Education Training Center
2. Rotary boys & girls High School
3. Bi Bi Zainab Girls High School
4. Wazeer Mohammed Gul Khan boys & Girls High School
5. Bi Bi Aisha Girls High School
6. Abdul Wakil boys High School
7. Bi Bi Mariam Girls High School
8. Professional Institute of Agricultural
9. Professional Institute of Technical
10. Mia Omer High School
11. Nangarhar University Medical School
12. Nangarhar University Teaching Hospital
13. Nangarhar University Computer Science Department
14. International Orphan Care School
15. Midwifery lab- Nangarhar Public Hospital
16. Nursing lab-Nangarhar Public hospital
17. Bi Bi Hawa Girls High School
18. Naazoo Anna Girls High School
19. Tajrobavie Girls High School
20. Chicknoawri Boys High School
21. Tajrobavie Boys High School
22. Shaheed Mohammad Arif Boys High School
23. NU Education Faculty female Students
24. NU Education Faculty Male Students

Our next new project is to build a footbridge over the Kabul River. Presently there are a group of villages where the children do not go to school although they can see a school on the other side of the river. Access to medical care is difficult as is access to commerce. We have obtained a Rotary Foundation grant for an amount of about half of what the bridge will cost. We have met with the U.S. Department of Defense and they agreed just two weeks ago to build and pay for the bridge



if we will use our funds to support needs in the community. Pictured is the type of footbridge the village needs. So at this time we are in the process of revising our grant parameters to build an irrigation system to help the farming, to put in a micro hydroelectric system to bring electricity to the villages, and to provide additional furnishings and equipment to the school the village children will soon be attending.

It seems to me the *Future of Rotary is in Our Hands* through working in partnerships with other organizations. At least that has worked for us in Afghanistan as set forth on this slide.

1. World Bank \$4,000,000
2. USAID \$851,000
3. Rotary Foundation \$452,000
4. NATO \$395,000
5. U. S. Department of State \$350,000
6. Canadian International Development Agency \$250,000
7. US Department of Defense \$170,000
8. Companies in Country of Oman \$92,000
9. Donner Foundation \$90,000
10. Washington State University \$50,000
11. Hansen Foundation \$50,000
12. San Diego~Jalalabad Sister Cities Foundation \$\$\$
13. Individuals-Rotarians and Non-Rotarians \$\$\$\$\$



We look forward to continued work in Afghanistan in *Building Communities and Bridging Continents*.



Thank you.