

## **Report to The Donner Foundation**

# **Jalalabad Rotary School Phase 2 Completed**



**\$40,000 Grant to  
The La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Foundation**

**A Middle and Secondary School in Jalalabad,  
Afghanistan**

**August 7, 2005**

## The Grant

In 2004, The Donner Foundation awarded \$40,000 to the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Foundation (LJGTRCF) to construct a new wing of six classrooms, adding middle and secondary school capabilities to the successfully completed primary school<sup>1</sup> in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. The primary and upper schools also serve refugee families returning to Jalalabad.

## The Project: New Wing of Six Classrooms Creates an Upper School

In a second request to The Donner Foundation, LJGTRC proposed to raise \$20,000 to create an upper school. Construction began shortly after receiving The Donner Foundation's \$40,000 gift. Overseen by the Abdul Haq Foundation, a local Jalalabad NGO, the project was completed ahead of schedule: Six new classrooms were ready for occupancy in January 2005, at a cost of \$60,000. The proposal's estimated costs proved accurate.



The new middle and secondary schools – the Upper School – are a separate and segregated wing adjoining the previously constructed primary school. Brown and Moini visited the facility a few days before its dedication. School administrators advised that current combined enrollment for the Primary and Upper Schools was 1,350 students. Grades 1 through 7 were in session; two of the recently completed classrooms were in use by 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, with some overflow from the primary school. A head count that day revealed the number of students physically present to be closer to 950. One third of the students are female: The proportion of female students declines substantially as the grade level increases. As the school year closed in late spring of 2005, the Upper School enrolled students in Grades 7, 8, and 9.

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<sup>1</sup> The primary school project received \$50,000 from The Donner Foundation, as detailed in an April 2004 report (see [www.stevbrownrotary.com](http://www.stevbrownrotary.com) , Jalalabad Rotary School Project, Donner Report).

## The Upper School Dedication Ceremony

In January 2005, the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Foundation Chair Steve Brown and LJGT Rotarian Fary Moini traveled at their own expense to the new Upper School's dedication ceremony. Dignitaries officiating at the ceremony included Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Education, the Governor of Nangarhar Province, Mayor Arsalai of Jalalabad, representatives from several NGOs, village elders, parents, and students, about 250 people in all. Local leaders emphasized the importance of education in their remarks: Specifically, the access opened to local residents as a result of the new school facilities.



**Dedication ceremony: Governor of Nangarhar Province**

## Construction and Furnishing

The schools were constructed and furnished through grants from The Donner Foundation and The Rotary Foundation, and also received assistance from the military.

The Donner Foundation underwrote two-thirds of the costs of construction, materials, and labor for the new wing of six classrooms. Classrooms are sturdily constructed, and finished with windows, floors, and painted walls. The School is often noted by locals and visitors alike as one of the most well-constructed, functional, and beautiful facilities in Nangarhar province. Students are drawn to it, even while it was still under construction.

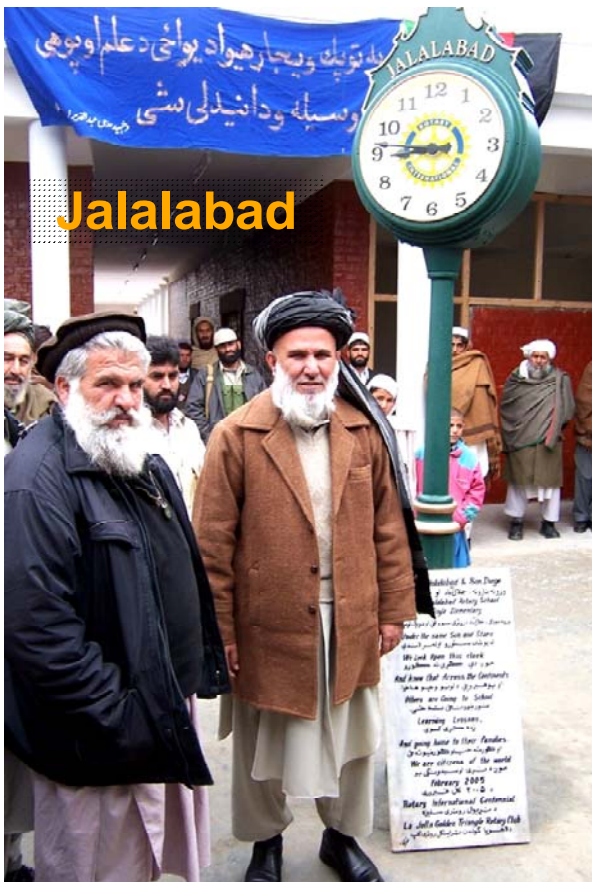
The Rotary Foundation funded concrete interior courtyards and sidewalks for the building perimeters. Furniture and equipment funded by The Rotary Foundation includes corkboards and world maps for each classroom, sports fields and equipment, an outdoor post clock identical to

one at the School's sister school in San Diego; cabinets, folding tables and chairs, audio/visual equipment; scientific lab tables, equipment, and supplies; medical equipment and supplies, and a state-of-the-art ten-station computer lab. The US Army's Civil Affairs Division established a clean water well at the site, and furnished armed desk chairs for 1,000 students.

### Subsequent Opportunities

Schools on Line, a California-based NGO, selected the Upper School as a computer training site via a US State Department grant. An internet-based Sister School pairing with a school in San Diego will also occur. The School receives 1.5 FTE administrators to implement the program.

A formal Sister School relationship was established between San Diego's Doyle Elementary School and the Primary School. Doyle received a courtyard clock identical to the one at the Primary School in Jalalabad. Following a dedication ceremony attended by 25 La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotarians and 200 Doyle students, Doyle faculty and students viewed detailed slide shows about Jalalabad's school and students. LJGTR's International Service Committee purchased 36 National Geographic two-sided maps of Afghanistan, one for each classroom, and faculty are encouraged to include Afghanistan and Jalalabad in the curriculum as appropriate.



## Sister Schools

### Future Challenges

**Upper division enrollment.** In May 2005, the end of the 2004-05 academic year, the Upper School enrolled students only through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We intend to enroll through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Refugee families continue to stream into Jalalabad, posing an exceptionally high demand for students to enroll in lower grades. There may be local reluctance to turn away lower grade students for those in the upper levels. We continue to dialogue with local administrators on this issue. The Upper School was finished mid-term; it is too soon to know the problem's impact. The quality equipment provided -- more appropriate for an Upper School -- may provide additional incentive to enroll students in Grades 7-12. Both schools can operate in two shifts, for a total capacity of 1,400 students at the primary level and 600 at the upper level.



**Students at the Upper School's Dedication Ceremony**

**Gender.** We seek to understand the low proportion of female enrollment. We want to address what can be corrected, with the objective of having equal numbers of female and male students enrolled in Grades 1-12. Our findings to date:

- *Lack of female faculty.* Some parents are reluctant to have girls taught by male teachers, particularly as girls get older.
- *Lack of age- and grade-appropriate preparation.* Many girls missed the education cycle under the Taliban. Some families and students are reluctant start 10 year old girls in 5<sup>th</sup> grade without prior education
- *Loss of labor.* Girls typically help with household chores. Families lose resources when girls go to school.
- *Lack of perceived value.* Some Afghans simply do not value the education of girls.

The shortage of female teachers seems to be the root of low female enrollment. Local civic leaders are placing increased importance upon girls' education. We continuously and proactively advocate the placement of more female faculty in our school, but it is not an easy gain. There is a

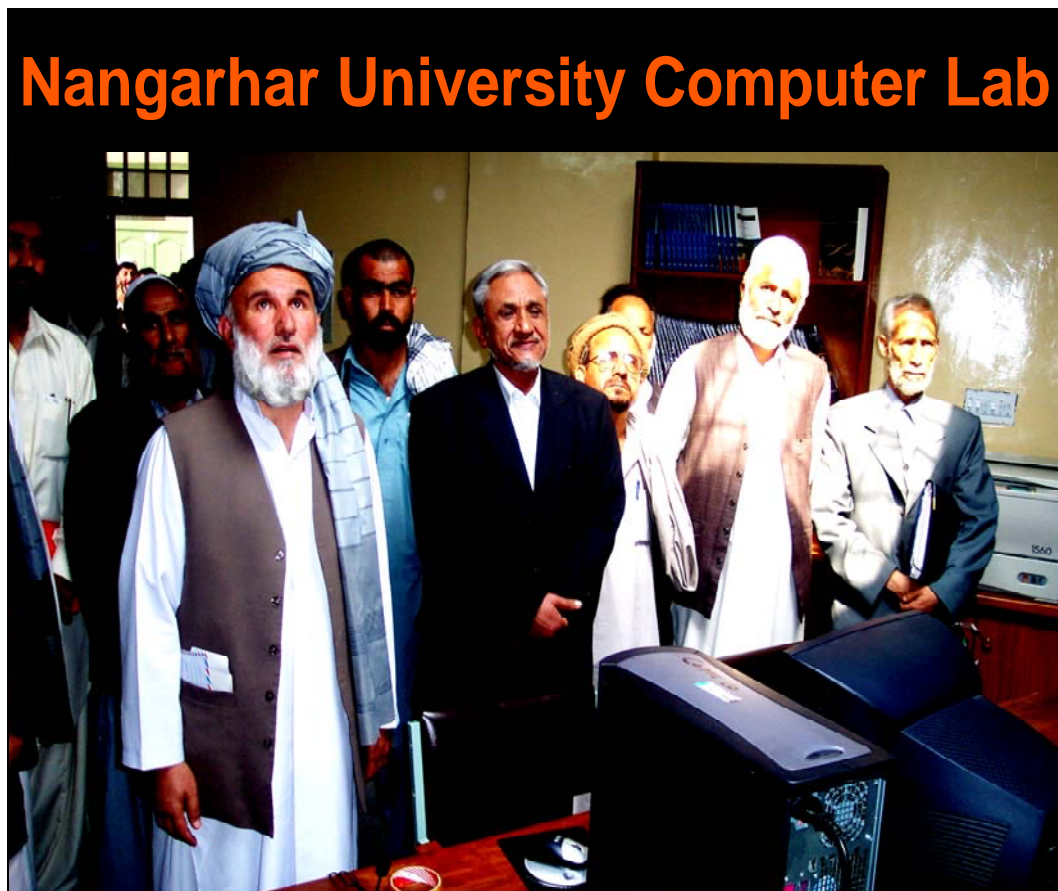
shortage of female teachers throughout Afghanistan; they are in high demand. We seek to develop a financial incentive program, backed by US funders, for female Afghan teachers to teach in comparatively rural Jalalabad. Local cooperation is imperative in implementing the program; it must be sensitive to the school's current compensatory structure for teachers

The quality of teacher preparation is an additional dilemma. Local administrators and teachers themselves candidly identify minimally-prepared or ill-prepared teachers. Collaboration with the faculty of Nangarhar University's School of Education could create the training. The school's large multipurpose room is an ideal site. We have facilitated collaborative relationships between San Diego State University and Nangarhar University, and with the University of San Diego. It may be that these relationships could improve teacher training at NU. The Rotary School could pilot such a program.

### **The Donner Foundation Grants: Collateral Outcomes**

Without the first Donner Foundation grant, members of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club would not have undertaken the school project. The relationships between San Diego and Jalalabad would not exist. It is important to note them in their richness and complexity.

**Nangarhar University Computer Lab.** A state-of-the-art satellite-based high speed internet computer lab was established by members of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club at Nangarhar University. It primarily serves 250 faculty who had never before used a computer.



In a recent interview, Nangarhar University's Dean of Veterinary Science advised:

*Dr. Haleem informed me that last year at the same time he did not know what is internet and how to use a computer. However, he has his own email address now and every day he spends 1 or 2 hours in the Rotary computer lab using the internet. He said that using computer lab and sending emails resulted in obtaining about \$300,000 for construction of a building for the use of veterinary faculty at the NU.*

*He had spoken to some donors in 2002 regarding construction of a building, but later he lost his contact with them as the team left Afghanistan. However Dr. Haleem had their email addresses. He used Rotary internet lab at the NU and reestablished his contact. Finally, he got the money through USAID and the construction of the building started at the NU. In addition, he could find his old articles through the internet which had been published in magazines in Iran in 1977.*

**Collaboration between San Diego State University and Nangarhar University.** President Steve Weber of SDSU has taken personal interest in the initiatives. He sent SDSU faculty and staff on extended site visits to NU in Jalalabad. He also implemented a formal protocol agreement between the two universities, emphasizing SDSU's assistance to NU in 1) developing an English as a Second Language program, and 2) in technology training. Steve Brown has continued to advise President Weber of opportunities to collaborate.

## Planning for Future Connections San Diego State University President Webber with Nangarhar University Professors



**Sister Cities: San Diego and Jalalabad.** Mayors and citizens assembled in San Diego and Jalalabad to form Sister Cities in 2004. San Diego's City Council formally approved the relationship in June. Sister Cities International chartered the pair in September, and San Diego received Jalalabad's Mayor Arsalai in November. The Meeting of the Mayors, with 300 people

and 5 media mentions, celebrated the historic relationship at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. Aرسالai also visited civic and educational facilities...

## San Diego Mayor Murphy & Jalalabad Mayor Aرسالai



Sister Cities International recognized the work of San Diego~Jalalabad Sister Cities Society in July 2005. Chair Steve Brown keynoted on building relationships with cities in the Islamic world. Vice Chair Cynthia Villis, who is also president of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Club, received



the Sister Cities International annual Innovation Award in Youth and Education on behalf of San Diego~Jalalabad Sister Cities. SCI Board member and San Diego~Jalalabad Sister Cities Society member Kathleen Roche-Tansey was also part of the attending delegation.

**Establishing Rotary in Jalalabad and Herat.** Rotary International chartered the Rotary Club of Jalalabad (December 2004); Steve Brown and Fary Moini attended the charter celebration (January 2005). This Club formed when local leaders, including the Mayor, were motivated by the Rotary School outcomes. The Jalalabad Club's first project was to plant trees in a local city park. Afghans in Herat sought Steve Brown's expertise, and he assisted the chartering of a Rotary Club in Herat.



### **Nangarhar Medical School**

**Professional Development in San Diego: Six Nangarhar University Professors.** In March 2004, Brown and Moini interviewed 29 NU professors, six of whom were selected to travel to San Diego under Rotary International's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program. The six had specialties in obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, pathology, agronomy, the teaching of English as a foreign language, and veterinary medicine. One was a woman. They spent May 2005 in structured professional development opportunities, including site visits, in and around San Diego, and received laptop computers and computer training.

These six faculty have established long-term professional relationships with colleagues in the US. In particular, pathologist Dr. Khalil received a microscope and training that -- coupled with his laptop and computer training -- established Internet capability for pathology diagnosis and consultation from Jalalabad to any medical facility in the world.

## GSE Team from Jalalabad



**Prof. Hamid**  
ESL and  
Veterinary  
Professor



**Dr. Maryam**  
OB/GYN  
Professor



**Prof. Safi**  
English as a  
Second  
Language

## GSE Team from Jalalabad



**Dr. Khalil**  
Pathology  
Professor



**Prof. Torakay**  
Agronomy  
Professor



**Dr. Khan**  
Pediatrics  
Professor

The La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Foundation is establishing a high speed satellite-based internet lab at the Nangarhar Medical School campus in downtown Jalalabad. The central campus NU computer lab outside Jalalabad is not optimal for medical faculty use.

**Medical equipment.** Members of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club arranged for pediatric equipment to be located at three locations in Jalalabad and has arranged for two ultrasound machines to be delivered. Also, 100 boxes of medical books are being delivered to the NU medical school.

**Afghan Women's Development Center.** Through Rotary, the Center was equipped in Jalalabad to provide education to women who missed the education cycle. It was destroyed in the May 2005 riots, but is being rebuilt. No other project mentioned was affected by the riots, nor are they likely to be, according to local officials.

## Closing Thoughts

These activities and projects, which improve the quality of life for thousands of people in Jalalabad, would simply not exist without The Donner Foundation. As valued as these projects and activities are, most worthy of note are the relationships and friendships that now bond citizens of Jalalabad to their counterparts in San Diego.

Residents of Jalalabad now have positive impressions of Americans. Time and time again they thank us for our efforts, and advise that Americans are so very different from what they expected. They tell others that Americans are kind and caring, and will sacrifice to help those they will never meet.

We thank The Donner Foundation trustees for taking a chance with these two projects. There was no certainty that they would succeed. The risk-to-reward quotient must have glimmered potential.

The members of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, its Foundation, and those of us involved in the projects, are committed to helping the residents of Jalalabad. The number of people involved in this effort continues to grow, as does the number of organizations who provide their own assistance.

We hope that you are equally pleased in the success of these efforts.

Thank you for your faith, and for your action.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Brown  
President  
La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Foundation