

Issued by Development and Relief Foundation, Sammer 2022

The President's Message

Development and Relief

Keeping the Momentum

Last Ramadan season was a very busy one for DRF, thanks to your generous contributions. DRF was able to distribute 4731 food packages for low-income families, including widows and orphans, during the month of Ramadan.

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Also, DRF distributed 837 Eid gifts to young children or orphans during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday. Your contributions create a positive impact in the lives of thousands at critical times.

During my trip to Iraq, I had the pleasure to meet again with brother Hajj Mukhtar Karim, the CEO of the Lady Fatima Charitable Trust (LFCT), and his team. LFCT is doing a tremendous job in Iraq and in many other countries. They are focused on empowering women, especially widows and improving the quality of their lives by teaching them income-generating skills and providing them with a verity of workshops to enhance their abilities. DRF is very proud to partner with LFCT in many charity projects including "MOM" or Mothermonics which helps hundreds of widows maintain a sustainable life with dignity and honour.

Finally, for our dear supporters who live in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and surrounding cities, we look forward to seeing you at the DRF fundraising dinner on Sunday October 30, 2022, at Bint Jbeil Cultural Centre at 14201 Prospect St. Dearborn.

Stay safe, stay healthy Seyed Ali Ghazvini





DRF Hits Record for Distributing Ramadan Baskets & Eid Gifts



DRF Awarded GuideStar Platinum Award Transparency Award for 5 Years in a Row



Platinum Transparency **2022**

Candid.

DRF has been selected as one of the 2022 top rated non-profit organizations in its area.



LFCT Mothernomics – A Journey not a Destination

Over two years ago, the Lady Fatemah Trust in Karbala embarked on a radical project to empower the disenfranchised widowed mothers and their orphaned children who were sponsored by the generosity of donors. The key issues were simple:

a. How can we focus on the empowering the widowed mothers to make them the champions of change in their family? Restoring hope and dignity was the key focus in the outcomes we desired.

b. How can we make the support holistic for the mothers and their children, so we understand their needs on an internationally recognised scale and address the complimentary areas of their needs?

c. How can we make the whole program self-sustaining though generating skills and products of value and benefit to society? The mothers supported need to go from the fringes of society to key players within its function.

Today with over 200 mothers having passed through the mothernomics skills training and producing a whole range of garments that supply schools, hospitals, restaurants as well as the mam Hussain Shrine for theatrical costumes let alone be sewing university graduation robes for the finest and creative young minds in Iraq. A range of their products can be viewed on our social media pages: https://



be/NuV2z8kOJcl

These and many other pleasant surprises along the journey have been an amazing part of realising that the journey of empowerment is just that, it's a journey that you undertake and the more you travel the now horizons open for all those travelling with you. The need for sponsorship is now at 1/3 of what it was three years ago and the journey to grow self-sustainability is well underway.

So, whether the mothers on mothernomics now chose to study to wear the graduation robes they are sewing or they expand this enterprise further, so their children have wider choices is a decision they are now able to make, thanks to your support.

Thank you for restoring dignity through agency and choice. May Allah bless you and reward your families.

Ophthalmology Team from the UK Visits Imam Al-Hujjah Hospital

A team of renowned ophthalmologists from London, UK has recently visited Imam Al-Hujjah Hospital to provide treatment services for underserved patients. The team consisted of Dr. Riaz Asaria (BM, MD, FRCOphth) and Dr. Jignesh Patel (BM, MD, FRCOphth). During their 5 days stay, they cared for 284 patients, most of them suffering from refractive error, a



common vision problem in Iraq. Additionally, the team examined many patients under the age of 10.

Dr. Asaria commented: «We saw more cases in Karbala that we usually see in a year in London, in just one day. The rate of eye cases among children is alarmingly high."

He adds: «We>II do our best to improve the quality of ophthalmic services in Iraq in collaboration with the administration of Imam AI-Hujjah Hospital. Our next goal is to establish an ophthalmology school here where we can train medical students."

The administration of Imam Al-Hujjah Hospital expressed their gratitude to the visiting team for their great efforts in treating a wide range of cases and collaborating with the hospital in developing its healthcare services.

www.instagram.com/p/ Ca6dCCnqDrr/?utm_ medium=copy_link

There is even a retail store where pilgrims and local customers visit to see the products that the mothers have produced. Pilgrims can, by prior appointment also visit the training and workshop suites in the building. You can catch a glimpse of these here: https://youtu.

Human Resources: Commitment to Skills Development



As DRF grows, so does our team of educators and hospital staff. To date, DRF- Iraq employs 776 individuals. In order to keep up with the many programs and initiatives of the DRF schools and hospitals, DRF provides education and training in order for staff to continue to develop their skills. We provide ongoing workshops and lectures for all teachers and administrators covering topics such as student development, how to handle hard situations, and the latest in teaching techniques.

Imam AI-Hujjah Hospital has made a qualitative shift in Iraq, particularly in the holy city of Karbala, where it has activated comparative medical seminars and lectures to spread medical awareness and develop the competencies of doctors and nurse professionals. In 2021, Imam AI-Hujjah Hospital held nearly 25 seminars and medical lectures lectured by clinicians and professors from Iraq and many other countries. The hospital also welcomed students from medical colleges and universities and allocated lectures and practical and qualitative training to develop their professional competencies and qualify them for the



labor market. This initiative has achieved a constrictive breakthrough in medical awareness and created a wave of interaction among professionals and specialists.

These educational opportunities have been well received and appreciated by the DRF team of staff. All DRF projects require dedicated and well-trained staff in order to function optimally. Between quality staff and generous donors, DRF is able to achieve the goal of delivering hope, education, and support services.

DRF welcomes any profession and specialties to volunteer and lecture our team.



Dear Supporters,

Many corporations match their employee's donations to charities. Please check if your employer offers a matching gift program and double your donations to DRF. If you need 501 (c) documents or any other information, please let us know. email <u>us: drfcharity@gmail.com</u>

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