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Development and Relief  
FOUNDATION

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# The Hope Tribune

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Save Lives, Educate  
the Underserved,  
Help Orphans and  
Empower Women

Issued by Development and Relief Foundation, Fall 2020

## Message From DRF President

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has impacted the DRF family on both ends. You, our generous donors, and the people we offer support to. DRF was not able to organize in-person fundraisers this year, and our revenues have dropped significantly, while the demand for relief assistance and services DRF provides has increased even more. We appeal to you, our generous donors, to continue your support and contributions as you did in the past.

By the time you get this newsletter, students that attend DRF schools will be getting ready to head back to class. These students won't be packing their book bags, or their lunchboxes, because DRF has proudly and successfully transitioned to 100% online learning this year. As you know, 93% of the students that attend DRF schools are orphans. Especially in the age of COVID-19, many of these beautiful orphans don't have the means to purchase virtual learning devices. We especially need donors like you to sponsor the purchasing of these devices, so that you may ensure the continued success of these children. The DRF family is immensely proud of our young women and rising stars at al-Salihah Academy for their achievements in the past school year, as they placed in the top 1% of Iraq on their high school exit exams. Many of these rising stars will go on to be accepted into some of the top medical schools, pharmacy schools, nursing programs, engineering universities, and law schools. The DRF family is also looking for a generous sponsor to contribute \$5,000 to fully equip the school library with all the books and learning materials it requires. This library will be named after yourself, or in memory of your loved one. We are proud of these amazing young women, and if you would sponsor the tuition of any of these rising stars you would be ensuring that a young woman stay in school. You can make an unforgettable impact on these girls.

Sayed Ali Ghazvini  
President

## Enduring Tough Times With Zero-Interest Loans

About five years ago, the DRF family started a successful relief project targeting underserved communities through providing zero-interest micro-loans for financially stricken families, along with student loans for our rising stars. 636 individuals, and counting, have received these loans and used them for their dire needs. Many individuals receive these loans because they lack proper funding for necessary medical treatment, getting an education, crucial home repairs, and much more. Many of our rising stars and outstanding students go above and beyond in terms of academic achievement.

However, most of the time they are unable to continue their higher education because they simply lack the funding for their tuition and books, sometimes even having to choose between eating dinner that night or paying for a book they need or paying off a class. So far, over \$820,000 has been distributed till date and this figure will continue to grow by the grace of God. The DRF family would like to especially thank our partners, the Sepaus Foundation, and the Khaki Foundation for their grants. This project was able to reach more individuals because of donors like them.



Eman Ali Habib Karar Ahmad Sajad Ali Habib Fatimta Kathem

Be a Sponsor to  
Orphans in the  
WaitingList for  
Only \$60/month

### DRF Partners

Sepaus Foundation



Hardin Memorial Hospital



Michigan State University Institute

### Development and Relief Foundation

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Development and Relief Foundation Presents  
Virtual Fundraiser  
**Accomplishments During  
Difficult Times**  
Save a Life, Sponsor an Orphan or  
Educate an Underserved Child

Sayed Jawad Qazwini  
Sheikh Dr Usama Al-Attar

SAVE THE DATE  
Saturday November 21, 2020 at 3 PM PDT/ 6 PM EDT

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## IHH on the Frontlines in the Battle Against COVID-19

Imam al-Hujjah Hospital has achieved valuable accomplishments within the past nine months, but the most important is the rapid response to join the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19 in the holy land of Karbala. Although we witnessed the loss of two beloved physicians, IHH is still fully dedicated to bringing healing and support in this time of dire need. From offering all staff, including security staff, cafeteria staff, and even custodial staff full PPE, IHH also has limited the spread within the hospital thanks to the stringent protocols taken to ensure the safety of all staff and patients. Firstly, IHH installed multiple outdoor triages and entry points where all individuals who enter the hospital are subjected to thermal scans. Secondly, custodial staff works tirelessly around the clock to sanitize surfaces, doors, elevators, waiting rooms, and anything that comes in contact with any individual with medical-grade 70% ethanol and disinfectant detergents sprayed using pressurized pumps. Thirdly, the exit points are also marked, all seats are arranged to observe social distancing, and the flow of patients is directed away from individuals entering the hospital. IHH has also undergone information campaigns and seminars to educate the residents of Karbala on how to slow the spread of COVID-19. IHH donated, free of charge, class II laboratory safety cabinets to the city of Karbala's central laboratory for their testing of COVID-19 patients, as well as donating HEPA air filters to the main public hospitals for their COVID-19 isolation units.

In light of more positive news, we are honored to share that IHH has received ISO-15189: 2012 accreditation from Iraq's ministry of planning in the clinical chemistry laboratory. This will ensure that IHH labs can offer standardized and reliable tests for diseases, viruses, and many different ailments. This, in turn, enables IHH to begin the process of accreditation by world renowned organizations such as Joint Commission International and Canadian Accreditation Council and pave the pathway for medical research, and collaboration with global organizations such as WHO.

### Help prevent mail theft!

Although mail theft is an extreme rarity, we kindly ask our DRF family to alert staff if you have not received a receipt for donations after 4-6 weeks from the date donations were mailed.

## Al-Salihah Academy's Shining Stars

Since the beginning, the DRF family has held female education as one of our core tenets and principals to fostering a better future for the next generation of Iraq. Many young women are expected to get married early, drop out of school, and raise a family at a young age. The DRF family is actively seeking to ensure that young women are given a chance to achieve their dreams. After graduation, many of al-Salihah Academy's students are accepted to medical schools, pharmacy programs, engineering universities, law schools, and nursing programs. We are extremely proud that al-Salihah's 12-grade students placed in the top 1% of all of Iraq in their high-school exit exam scores. This would not have been a reality unless these young women worked tirelessly to build a future for themselves and to support their families.



## Food Distribution During COVID-19

Thanks to the generous contributions of donors like you, thousands of hungry families were fed since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak and specifically during the holy month of Ramadan. The Development and Relief Foundation offered a variety of services to stricken families during this time. Tons of food packages, hundreds of hot meals, Eid gifts for orphans, and home appliances were distributed to over 4,400 families. These nutritious food packages consisted of rice, oil, chicken, lentils, beans, flour, pasta, eggs, tomato paste, tea, sugar, dates, and dry milk, along with face masks and sanitizers. Altogether, over 12 tons of food and counting was distributed! Furthermore, 630 orphans received toys and Eid gifts. These beautiful children went home with giant smiles. The Eid gifts ranged from toys and figurines to outfits and shoes and even bicycles for older orphans. Being able to replace the love of a father is impossible, but simply putting a smile on these orphans innocent faces gives us a sense of achievement. On certain Ramadan nights, hot meals and Iftar was also provided. Over 970 meals were passed out to the less fortunate. The DRF family will continue to distribute thousands of food packages along with PPE for the next few months. You can make a difference, support one of these distribution packages for only \$25, this would feed and protect an entire family.

The DRF family would like to thank you, our amazing donors, from the bottom of our hearts. Without you all, these achievements would not be possible.

