

MASTER TEACHERS BY SATELLITE FOR AFGHANISTAN (MTSA)

December 2009

Dear Friend of MTSA and **the little girls of Afghanistan:**

If ever there was doubt that their children's education is a high priority of the illiterate parents in rural and war-impacted areas of Afghanistan, the brilliant new adventure / documentary / polemic by Greg Mortenson (author of Three Cups of Tea), sets it straight. Given the chance for education for their children, they will move mountains – they will make **Stones into Schools**, as this new book describes, for little girls as well as for little boys.

MTSA is an independent volunteer organization dedicated to a **vision:** that we can provide **literacy and elementary education** through distance learning technology **to all of the forgotten children of Afghanistan -- those who have no schools, no teachers.**

There are more than an estimated four million **un-schooled children** in Afghanistan today. Under the most optimistic results of the education strategic plan published by the Government, they will never get schools or teachers before they grow into illiterate adults. Most are **girls in rural areas**, but include **also impoverished street children in the cities, disabled children** and **orphaned children**. (Today, only 14% of female Afghans can write their name, or read a street sign.)

With your help, MTSA is working to deploy for these un-schooled children the low power, small, rugged laptop computer developed at the MIT Media Labs for **One Laptop Per Child**, known as **the XO**. Our colleagues in Afghanistan, OLPC-Afghanistan, have already placed thousands of these computers in local urban schools for the Ministry of Education, and they expect to expand those placements. But at best, only half of the children of Afghanistan will be in a government school.

We are a US 501(c)(3) charity and all donations to MTSA are tax deductible. We are asking for your financial help now because we have been given the opportunity to purchase at cost the XO in units of 25 laptops, each unit approximately the right number for a home school or Community Based School.

Unlike the rote education provided in existing schools, the XO captures a child's natural curiosity-based learning experience, to create mastery of numbers and letters, elementary science, art, creativity and critical thinking – a process known as “constructionist” learning. These will be the little girls who strive to become nurses and teachers and President, instead of mothers at 14. These will be the little boys who will ask the hard questions, envision themselves as mechanics and engineers and entrepreneurs, and not be sucked in by fanatics.

For the sake of the children of Afghanistan, and for the sake of all of the children of the world, please join us in giving generously to this effort.

Sincerely, Carol Ruth Silver, Project Director, MTSA

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A project of World Family Development & Educational Program Inc, a 501(c)(3) California corporation, Tax # 93-1048117

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Yes, I want to contribute to the exciting project of making literacy and constructivist learning available to the still un-schooled children of Afghanistan.

My gift of \$60 will pay for training a teacher in the XO technology.

My gift of \$100 will pay for converting five of the XO computers to a keyboard for Dari (Farsi) and Pashto, and to load special software and books on the XO.

My gift of \$220 will fund part of the solar installation for the whole class, which is expected to continue to produce electricity for approximately ten years.

My gift of \$5,000 is to make it possible for a class of about 25 children to receive the XO laptop who have never before had the opportunity to achieve literacy or other education, and who because of my contribution will be on the path.

Every contribution assists in fulfilling our mission, in actualizing our vision – that with educational tools presently and readily available, no child in Afghanistan needs to be denied an education.

My check is enclosed.

I will use PayPal on the MTSA web site,
www.afghan-satellite-teachers.net.

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Postal Address: _____ ZIP _____

Day Phone: _____ Night Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email Address: _____

Comments / Feedback / Further involvement:

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