



Afghan Well Project

Help Mir Taqi Shah, an Afghan village south of Kabul, rebuild after 30 years of war by beginning with a well for clean water for drinking and irrigation.



The need for Human Security

Poverty and human security are the major issues facing Afghans. Eighty percent live in rural areas that have received little aid compared to cities. Mir Taqi Shah, Musayee District, Logar Province is a very poor village south of Kabul. There are 120 families of 30 to 50 people per family living with no clean water, health clinic or school for their children. Without clean water the most vulnerable village members—children and women—suffer greatly. Twenty-five percent of children die of preventable diseases such as dysentery from unsafe water before they turn five. The literacy rate for both girls and boys is very low. The mother mortality rate is the highest in the world. As these factors improve so does the quality of Afghan lives and they are less likely to turn to conflict to better their lives.



Model Development Project:

Determined in consultation with the village elders.

- ◆ **Well** (for drinking and irrigation) \$10,000 constructed spring 2010 in time for planting
- ◆ **Women's Literacy Classes** -\$4000 for one year
- ◆ **Women's Shora** (cooperative) for 40 to 50 women \$5000 start up, continues from proceeds of their sales
- ◆ **Health Clinic** (small) \$25,000
- ◆ **School** (for girls and boys) 12 class room school \$140,000 built so later can expand as needed

Sponsored by:
Women Against War
Global Village Photographer/ Connie Frisbee Houde
Women for Afghan Women/ Afghan Women's Fund

Send Tax Deductible Donations to:
Afghan Women's Fund
22 Elm Street
Albany, New York 12202

For more information:
lilyconnie@verizon.net 518-465-0582

Afghan Well Project

A real friend is one who takes the hand of his friend in times of distress and helplessness.

— Afghan Proverb

Goals

The goal of the Afghan Well Project is to support Afghans through local development drawing on the double meaning of well. The village of Mir Tagi Shah had been controlled by a warlord and was completely demolished during the factional fighting. This left the village members in devastating poverty.

Confronting the underlying causes of humanitarian crises rather than relying on a military solution is a more effective way to address the deep rooted and multi-faceted problems inherent in these crises. It offers a more long-term resolution for the security of individuals. “Freedom from want” and “freedom from fear” are phrases often associated with human security which includes economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security.

An important first step in development aid in Afghanistan is to meet with the village elders and ask what *they want and need* to rebuild their community to achieve a sustainable stability.



Village affected by war and drought.



From her own knowledge as an Afghan American, and from meetings with village elders, Fahima Vorgetts, project advisor, has learned that clean drinking water and irrigation is the first step of rebuilding a village. Developing women’s literacy classes and a

women’s *shora* (cooperative for women’s employment utilizing their skills), constructing a health clinic, and a school for both girls and boys can follow. The villagers take a major role in the ownership of each project by providing expertise and labor. Because of their personal involvement combined with the direct positive results, the villagers protect *their* investment and the community begins to prosper.



About the Sponsors:

Women Against War advocates for replacing the US military occupation of Afghanistan with development and diplomacy. WAW members work to educate themselves and others in the Capital District about Afghanistan, Pakistan & the need for a negotiated, regional peace settlement.

Global Village Photographer/ Connie Frisbee Houde: Seeing the humanness of the Afghan people helps us understand that war is not the answer. Connie feels compelled to tell the Afghan story through the images she takes. Using her cameras, she will travel to Afghanistan to document the project. She will share her experiences including voices of the villagers as the project progresses.

Afghan Women’s Fund/ Fahima Vorgetts: Fahima directs the AWF which operates under the auspices of Women for Afghan Women, a 501 c (3) not-for-profit organization headquartered in New York City. As part of her long-term commitment to the women and children of Afghanistan, Fahima raises funds to support projects in Afghanistan where she has helped villages build wells, clinics, open new schools for girls and literacy classes for women. She will be negotiating and overseeing the Afghan Well Project in Afghanistan.

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Make checks payable to:
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Take action to shift US resources from military action by supporting this project. Development assistance for Afghan-led projects such as the **Afghan Well Project** combats the country’s desperate poverty and war-destroyed society.

I wish to contribute to this model project:

- Well Wisher \$50**
- Well Being \$100**
- Well Spring \$200**
- Wishing Well \$500**
- Well Beyond \$1,000 +**

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