

HANDS ALONG THE NILE



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends of HANDS,

Through its selection of Cairo as the location for the President's speech to the Muslim world, the US government not only reaffirmed its awareness of Egypt as a key player in the Middle East, but also reminded us of just how pivotal the work of HANDS really is.

In that speech, President Obama noted, "Around the world, we can turn dialogue into interfaith service, so bridges between peoples lead to action" This is something HANDS has been doing for 20 years, both by bringing together Americans and Egyptians to cooperate in helping underserved communities in Egypt, and by building bridges of mutual respect between our regions.

One of the unique aspects of HANDS' approach to development is that, rather than imposing our own solutions or sending Americans in to do the development work, we provide financial and technical assistance to local Egyptian organizations. Empowering Egypt's civil society to address its own country's challenges decreases long-term reliance on outside help and builds the capacity of local organizations to function democratically, transparently, and with accountability.

The work of our Egyptian partners in providing microcredit loans to start small businesses, offering job-skills training, and educating women in underserved areas—to name just a few of the many projects we support—gives the hope of creating a better life to folks in needy communities. This is a hope that lessens the appeal of extremists, who have been known to look for new recruits among the marginalized and the disenfranchised.

Another important component of HANDS' approach is providing the opportunity for Muslims and Christians to focus on issues of common concern. In the context within which our Egyptian partners work, bringing the different faith communities together to tackle their common challenges is an important part of creating stable communities.

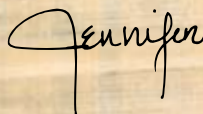
Just as we support efforts at interfaith cooperation in Egypt, we also create spaces for interaction between Egyptians and Americans. Through our Medical Mission, Insight Trips, Egyptian-American Intercultural Dialogue, and volunteer and technical assistance programs, we provide opportunities for citizen diplomacy in the belief that peace does not come only through government intervention but also through person-to-person interaction.

Thank you for joining HANDS in bringing empowerment and hope to the people of Egypt!

With much appreciation,



Harrison M. Goodall, Jr.
Board President



Jennifer A. Cate
Executive Director



PROJECT PROFILE

Technical Assistance Program

AUSTIN, TEXAS IS A LONG way from the Mukattam Hills of Cairo. Yet Michelle Bayer and the Design Student Association (DSA) from the University of Texas at Austin had few qualms about bridging the 7,000 miles between the two cities when they enthusiastically proposed to collaborate on a design project with a HANDS partner in Cairo. After months of preparation, Michelle and her team found themselves observing the weaving, quilting and paper-making skills of a handful of young women in a garbage collectors' community in Egypt.

These Egyptian artisans train at one of HANDS' partner organizations, the Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE), which provides literacy classes, vocational training and sources of income to young women who would otherwise make a living by recycling city trash. The APE focuses on teaching its participants skills that allow them to create marketable products, such as stationary and rugs, out of recycled materials.

Inspired by the creativity of the girls, Michelle and the other HANDS volunteers organized workshops to teach a wider variety of artistic techniques, including embossing and screen-printing. They also demonstrated innovative design methods through which the young women at the APE created, among other products, more viable gift bags, stationary sets and party favor boxes.

The workshops aimed to provide these young women with a new set of skills intended to grant them greater independence and income-generating power in their artistic production. Now having established this creative and practical partnership, HANDS volunteers and the APE continue to collaborate on educational programs that will help to expand future options for these young artisans.

This is one of several technical assistance programs that HANDS has made possible for our partners in Egypt. Such programs enhance local Egyptian development efforts while creating links between Americans and Egyptians.



HANDS volunteer Michelle Bayer works with an artisan at the APE to create new designs for recycled paper products.

HANDS' PHILOSOPHY OF DEVELOPMENT

In our work of building bridges between Egypt and the United States, HANDS seeks to unite citizens of both countries in a collective effort to improve the quality of life in underserved regions of Egypt. We support local development initiatives in several crucial areas, including healthcare, employment and education. In doing so, we strive to ensure that direct benefits, such as access to medicine, increased income, and new jobs, are accompanied by capacity-building for local

organizations, helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the work we support in Egypt.

HANDS also believes in the importance of empowering local organizations in Egypt to shape the course of their own community development. We support projects financially, connect our partners with American volunteers, and provide training in areas such as fundraising, project management and volunteer mobilization in order to strengthen efforts in our partners' respective communities.

VILLAGE PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH CEOSS

- **WORKING CHILDREN** in Salam City (Cairo)

HEALTH CARE

- **COMMUNITY EYE CARE CENTER**, Minia
- **CENTER FOR GERIATRIC SERVICES**, Cairo
- **CENTER FOR HOPE AND A CURE**, Alexandria
- **CAIRO PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL CENTER**
- **THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL OF TANTA**
- **GREEN PASTURES MEDICAL CENTER**, outside Cairo

SOCIAL SERVICES

- **ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT (APE)**, Cairo
- **SPIRIT OF YOUTH**, Cairo
- **THINK AND DO**, microcredit loan program
- **LILLIAN TRASHER ORPHANAGE**, Assiut
- **FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED**, Alexandria
- **SHARABEYYA CLINIC AND DAYCARE CENTER**, Cairo
- **FAGGALA COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
- **VILLAGE OF HOPE**, center for the mentally challenged, Alexandria



RETREAT CENTERS

- **BEIT EL SALAM**
- **NEW MINIA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
- **BEIT EL WADI**
- **EL KHASHA'A CAMP**

DONOR-DESIGNATED CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

- **HELIOPOLIS PRESBYTERIAN**
- **SECOND MINIA**
- **ABUTIG**
- **FOURTH EL EKSAS**
- **ROD EL FARAG**
- **THIRD MINIA**
- **HERZ**
- **NAZLET EL ABEED**
- **ATTARINE PRESBYTERIAN**
- **ROD EL FARAG PRESBYTERIAN**

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- **EVANGELICAL (PRESBYTERIAN) THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN CAIRO**
- **SYNOD OF THE NILE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

PROJECT PROFILE

Spirit of Youth

IN THE CAIRO NEIGHBORHOODS KNOWN as “Garbage Cities,” entire families survive by recycling the city’s trash. Referred to as *zabbaleen*, these households are dependent on the income generated by all family members, so they are often unable to support further schooling for their children. In 2004, the Spirit of Youth Environmental Services (SOY) was founded to assist these children by providing them with non-formal learning and vocational programs, thereby expanding their future opportunities. Through SOY, about 155 boys and girls who work as *zabbaleen* attend classes in literacy, math, computer skills and the creative arts. A similar program is offered to children who work in the brick-making industry, while another 2,500 girls have been enrolled full-time in local schools.

SOY’s programs also aim to promote environmental and health awareness. Boys in the school program, for example, learn how to grind plastic shampoo bottles according to industrial safety guidelines. Such work not only generates income for these young men, but also allows them to spread awareness in their communities about important safety standards. In addition, students speak to their peers in city schools and to various businesses and organizations about the environmental benefits of recycling.

SOY also oversees wider outreach initiatives. A waste segregation project provides jobs and further promotes the practice of recycling in Cairo communities, while a solar water panel initiative helps to heat homes.

SOY is one of the many HANDS-supported programs that are helping to raise the quality of life for the people of Egypt.



Above, a student at the Spirit of Youth practices her Arabic alphabet by working on a puzzle. Below, a young boy at SOY practices his skills in weights and measurements.



OVERVIEW OF DIALOGUE & EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Despite a degree of political and social friction that exists between the United States and the Middle East, HANDS is encouraged by new developments in this arena. Recent calls on the international stage for greater discourse between the two regions highlight anew the importance of intercultural dialogue and exchange in reducing tensions. This, of course, is something HANDS has long pursued: working to bring together Americans and Egyptians in a variety of forums, all aimed at the goal of achieving greater mutual understanding. To this end, we believe that face-to-face interaction is key to building more mutually beneficial ties.

As mistrust and tension mount between these two regions of the world, it is striking to find that despite the widespread negative opinions, there has been little direct contact between the two groups. Studies have found that the majority of Middle Easterners have only indirect or received knowledge of America, with the principal source of that knowledge being the media. Of those Middle Easterners who have had direct contact with Americans, and vice versa, the perception of the other is dramatically more favorable.



At top, Insight Trip members explore an ancient temple in Upper Egypt. Below, an Insight Trip member meets two young men who have attended a HANDS-sponsored educational program.

PROJECT PROFILES

Egyptian-American Dialogue

AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE Middle East and the US turn a new page, HANDS works to dissolve many of the misperceptions that hinder a constructive relationship. Our Egyptian-American Dialogue program gathers opinion-shapers from both communities for spirited discussion on a number of critical topics ranging from the responsibilities of the press to the role of civil society. Through these conversations, face-to-face interaction allows participants to explore and ultimately come to a greater understanding of one another's cultures.

HANDS has created several opportunities for dialogue between citizens of Egypt and the US. We annually bring together journalists, intellectuals, faith community representatives and other societal leaders who help shape perceptions in their respective communities. We have also expanded our programs to include youth dialogues, engaging the young Americans and Egyptians who will play a central role in molding the viewpoints and policies of the future. While in Egypt, members of HANDS' Insight Trips also participate in discussions with community members there.



Members of a recent Egyptian-American Dialogue event gather in Atlanta.

Insight Trips

WHAT BETTER WAY TO UNDERSTAND EGYPT than to visit the country itself and experience the renowned hospitality of its people? Every year, HANDS conducts Insight Trips which provide Americans the opportunity to delve into the region's culture and history. However, these trips offer more than just a tourist experience. They also provide visitors with an important glimpse into the activity of Egypt's modern day populace. Trip members not only ride camels around the Great Pyramids and sail on the Nile River, but also partake in dinners with local families and engage in discussions with community leaders. Outings to churches and mosques are accompanied by visits to neighborhoods where tour members witness the development efforts of HANDS' partner organizations. Through these experiences, Insight Trip members gain an understanding of both the country's rich past and the people and projects that work to build Egypt an equally bright future.

PROJECT PROFILE

Medical Mission

AS PART OF HANDS' efforts to bring together Americans and Egyptians in direct engagement, we offer an annual Medical Mission trip. This program, organized in conjunction with our partner, CEOSS, creates the opportunity for medical professionals from both countries to collaborate on improving the quality of Egyptian healthcare services.

Volunteer American doctors and nurses travel to underserved areas of urban and rural Egypt, including Cairo, Beni Suef and Minya, where they conduct workshops for local medical professionals and community healthcare volunteers. These sessions provide training in a number of issues ranging from first aid to the detection of breast cancer. In addition, as Egypt acquires greater access to medical equipment and technology, our volunteers update their counterparts in skills such as reading optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans and utilizing the Internet to access available medical resources.

As the Medical Mission program continues to generate positive feedback from the Egyptian medical community, HANDS looks forward to expanding this initiative.



Above, Laurie Roberts, a nurse from California, taught this group of community healthcare volunteers about CPR, early breast cancer detection, and the prevention and treatment of sepsis. Below, Lucinda Webb, a nurse practitioner from New York, delivers a lecture on breast cancer detection to community healthcare volunteers during a recent Medical Mission to Egypt.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION^(a)

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$37,853
Investments	1,035
Grants receivable	68,500
Promises to give	15,000
Prepaid expenses	41,760
Total current assets	164,148
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and fixtures	2,552
Computer equipment	3,551
Total	6,103
Less: accumulated depreciation	3,428
Property and equipment, net	2,675
OTHER ASSETS:	
Security deposits	1,455
Total other assets	1,455
Total Assets	\$168,278
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Grants in Transit to Egypt	\$ 65,716
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	5,150
Deferred income	31,010
Total current liabilities	101,876
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	(97,036)
Temporarily restricted	163,438
Total net assets	66,402
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$168,278

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES^(a)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ^(b)	TOTAL
Contributions	\$ 184,444	\$ 165,000	\$ 349,444
Interest and investment income	25	-	25
Program fees	21,945	-	21,945
Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(440)	-	(440)
Sales income	10,477	-	10,477
Net assets released from restrictions	85,697	(85,697)	-
Total unrestricted support and reclassifications	302,148	79,303	381,451
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Grants released from restrictions	215,374	-	215,374
Other program services	111,366	-	111,366
Supporting services			
Management and general	37,433	-	37,433
Fundraising	34,853	-	34,853
Net expenses	399,026	-	399,026
Change in net assets	(96,878)	79,303	(17,575)
Net assets, beginning of year	(158)	84,135	83,977
Net assets, end of year	\$(97,036)	\$163,438	\$66,402

SELECTED STATISTICS, 2008

Percentage of most designated gifts sent directly to projects in Egypt:

\$95%

Percentage of income contributed by HANDS Board of Directors:

11%

Percentage of expenses used for administration and fundraising (United Way guidelines: should be under 25%):

18%

^(a) For the year ended September 30, 2008. All figures are audited. The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

^(b) Restricted donations used for purposes designated.

SUPPORT

HANDS offers its heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and institutions, including those mentioned below, who have touched the lives of thousands of Egyptians through HANDS' programs. Please note that this list includes donations received between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008.

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(\$10,000 and over)

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HANDS ALONG THE NILE

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