

HANDS ALONG THE NILE

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

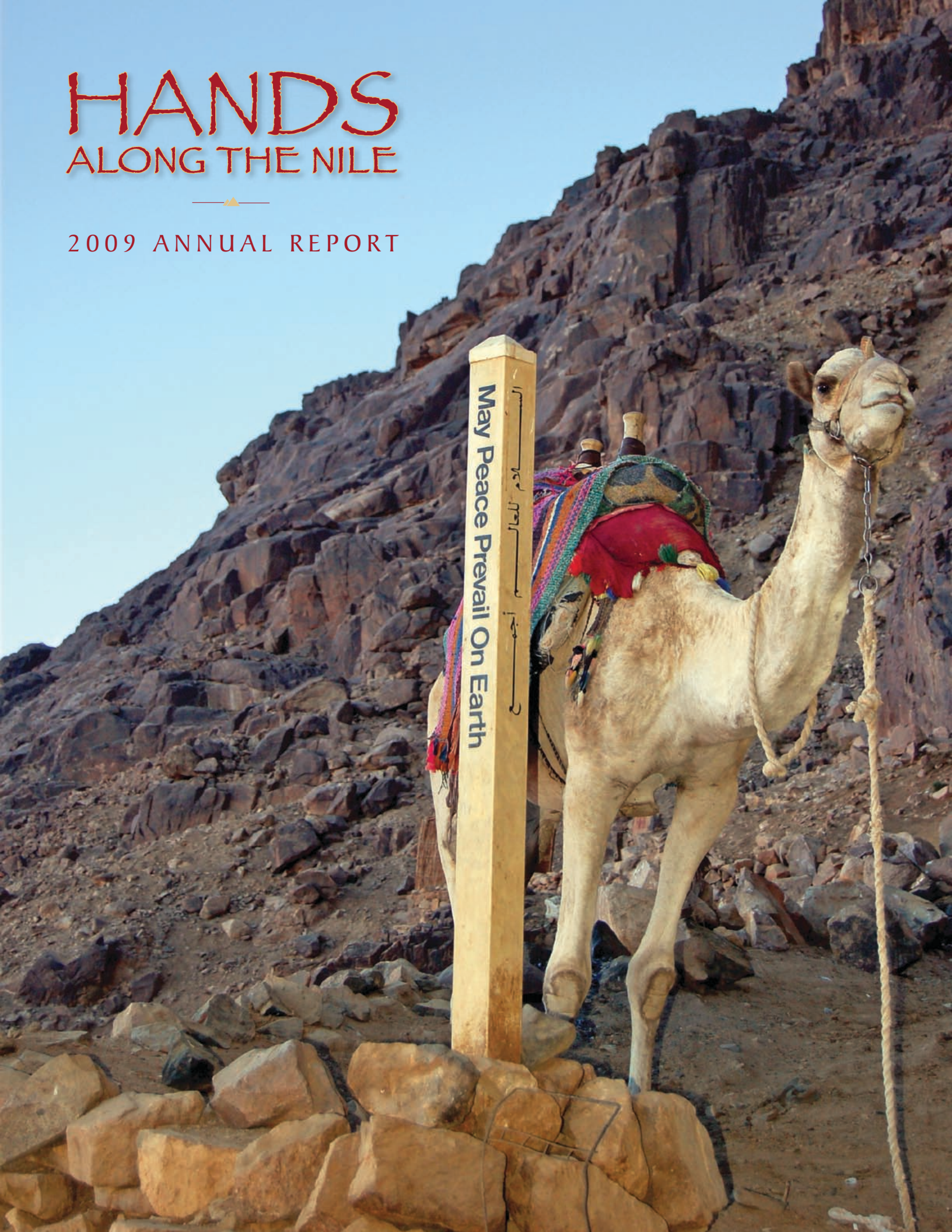


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Dear Friends of HANDS,

For the past 20 years, many of you have been faithful partners in providing opportunities for underserved men, women and children in Egypt. You have become an invaluable part of a growing team of Egyptians and Americans working to match resources, both financial and human, to needs in communities throughout Egypt.

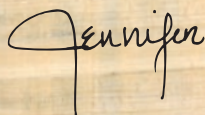
We know that you share our excitement about new opportunities that have opened up for HANDS. We are thrilled to announce that we can now provide sponsorship at more significant levels for several of our partners in Egypt. We're especially thankful for new grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the US Department of State, the US Agency for International Development and the Ford Foundation. Each of these organizations is helping HANDS support a major initiative in Egypt — programs and outreach that you will read more about in this annual report.

What is especially noteworthy is that each of these funders decided to join our team because of you. Major donors such as these organizations are looking for ongoing programs with a history of loyal donors who will help sustain the organization's work once their involvement is finished. Your generosity has enabled HANDS to secure larger sources of support. Thank you!

With much appreciation,



Harrison M. Goodall, Jr.
Board President



Jennifer A. Cate
Executive Director



On the front: Photo taken by a member of a HANDS
Insight Trip while climbing up Mount Sinai.

Nursing students inspired by HANDS' medical volunteers

We are so proud to host you in our faculty of nursing. Really, I haven't the words to express my great happiness and pleasure to see you here in Egypt, your second home, and in our university.... You have conveyed to all of us and to every Egyptian a good impression about America. You are the messengers of peace and the birds of love."

—From a thank-you letter written by Ahmed, a student at the Nursing College of El Minya University to members of HANDS' Medical Mission



Children in workshops strive for a better future

I am a working child with two brothers. My parents work, but our income is not sufficient to meet our basic needs. To help provide food and clothing for my family, I had to take a workshop job despite it being dangerous and difficult for someone only 14 years old.

I continue to attend school, but afterward I go to work for about six hours before coming home for dinner. I love school so much. Unfortunately, I don't have enough time to study or to play soccer with my friends.

Things have gotten better thanks to [staff from CEOSS, one of HANDS' partners] working on a project to protect the rights of working children like me. The staff brought inspectors to our workshops and provided us with first aid boxes and a fire extinguisher to ensure our safety. They also gave the workshop owner a big sign with all our legal rights written on it, which he hung up in the shop. I understand now that I am entitled to many things such as medication and education and that I must be allowed breaks and be paid fairly for my hours. No one can cheat me now that I know my rights.

We also have a "Kids Club" to attend each week, where I play [soccer] and draw.

In the future, I plan to own a large workshop, but I will never recruit children. And I will never ask my children to work at an early age. I know that this is depriving them of other important things in life."

—From Gamal, age 14, who benefits from HANDS' support of a program for working children in Cairo



Empowering Local Organizations: The Key to Sustainable Development

“Sustainability” is the one word that best describes HANDS’ development philosophy. Our goal in Egypt is to help communities sustain their own development efforts rather than relying indefinitely on outside support. With this in mind, HANDS is committed to building the capacity of local community based organizations in Egypt by providing funding, training and technical

assistance. Our desire is to empower those in underserved areas to provide for themselves, their families and their community members. In doing so, they will help stabilize local economies and better the overall living condition of many marginalized people.

The following are examples of such programs with which HANDS was involved in 2009.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT (APE)

provides an alternative educational model for women and girls in one of the garbage collector communities of Cairo. Participants are taught marketable skills such as weaving, quilting and paper-making and are fairly compensated for each piece they produce. There are currently 90 women in the program and 230 graduates who make products at homes. In 2009, HANDS held eight craft sales in the US selling pieces made by the women of the APE.



THE COMMUNITY EYE CARE CENTER IN MINIA

is being built in cooperation with the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) to provide affordable eye care services to the poor, coordinate patient and screening referral, organize preventative campaigns and serve as a regional training center for health care workers. A mobile health unit already in service provides care to the surrounding villages. Thanks to a grant from USAID’s American Schools and Hospitals Abroad and other HANDS donors, the center



continued acquiring top-of-the-line eye-care equipment in 2009.

THE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM (YEP)

is an exchange program that empowers young Egyptian entrepreneurs to perform successfully in their line of business. Participants will attend numerous workshops, seminars and networking events held in both Egypt and the United States. In 2009, much work was done in preparation for our first exchange to be held in the summer of 2010. This program is funded by a generous grant from the US Department of State and other HANDS donors.



THE ZABALEEN LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

helps provide more job opportunities for the waste collectors of Cairo while encouraging the spread of their remarkable recycling practices throughout the city. Living in several “garbage cities” surrounding Cairo, the “zabaleen” make their livelihoods by collecting, sorting and recycling the city’s trash. In 2009, HANDS received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the Spirit of Youth in their efforts to raise the quality of life for this marginalized group.

THE MEDICAL MISSION

aims to provide equal access to quality health care for all Egyptian citizens through offering training to healthcare providers working in underserved communities. In April 2009, a group of American medical professionals held workshops on numerous medical topics for their Egyptian colleagues in poor Cairo communities as well

as in Upper Egypt. Grants from USAID's Volunteers for Prosperity through Global Giving helped to make this trip possible.



THE CENTER FOR HOPE AND A

CURE is a clinic that provides health and dental care to an underserved community in Alexandria, including African refugees. About 1,800 people are served monthly.

A conference entitled **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS** brought together leaders in development from across the Middle East to reach a deeper understanding of the role of human rights in development work. Organized together with CEOSS, HANDS spent the year preparing for this conference, which was held in January 2010. Funding was generously provided by the Ford Foundation.

MICROLOANS

are distributed through one of our local Egyptian partners, CEOSS. The small loans are given to socio-economically disadvantaged people to start a small business or make their existing business commercially viable.

Through **THE SPIRIT OF THE YOUTH (SOY)**, working children in "Garbage City" are able to take courses in math, literacy and computers and enjoy various recreational activities. A job skills training program is also available for willing participants. The SOY reaches 100 boys in their job skills program and a total of 20,000 children on an annual basis.



CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAMS

are offered annually to our partners in Egypt. In 2009, training sessions focused on various aspects of fundraising.

THE VILLAGE OF HOPE, located in Alexandria, provides care and training to young persons with mental disabilities. On top of offering basic education and recreation, the center is active in advocating for the rights of these groups with local and national policy makers.

THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF HANDS

connects volunteers from the US with service opportunities in Egypt. The volunteers have the opportunity to learn more about the Middle East while sharing their skills with our partner organizations there. In 2009, 15 volunteers were partnered with potential service sites.

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED

serves mentally- and physically-challenged youth in Alexandria. Students participate in activities that improve their academic performance, promote self-care, strengthen physical capacities, improve expression through speech therapy and train them for vocations. There are currently 185 students in the program.

THE WORKING CHILDREN

PROGRAM, run in conjunction with CEOSS, seeks to improve the lives of

child laborers. While the children are encouraged to reenroll in school, their parents are offered small business loans so they can afford not having a child in the labor force. Children who choose to keep working are given safety equipment and retrained for safer jobs if necessary. Workshop owners are also taught to protect the rights of the young people they employ. In addition, sports and drama programs give the kids a chance to enjoy their childhood after long days in workshops. CEOSS provides assistance to 1,500 working children each year.

Engaging Communities on Both Sides of the Atlantic

As a result of Egypt's prominence in the Middle East, it is of increasing importance to build bridges of mutual understanding between our two countries. Many misconceptions currently exist between citizens of the two countries, and a dose of exposure to the other culture works wonders at challenging preconceived notions. Developing strong, personal relationships can be the catalyst toward change that our world desperately needs. One way HANDS seeks to achieve transformation is through implementing Track Two Diplomacy efforts, which bring together non-official but influential members of our two societies to discuss issues of mutual concern. Such dialogue can be a remedy for distrust and a tool for promoting peace and understanding. HANDS also provides opportunities for students, teachers, congregations and other "ordinary Americans" to experience the culture, history and people of Egypt.

The following are examples of such programs that HANDS implemented in 2009:

THE EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

brings together Americans and Egyptians who are active in the media, academia, civil society and religious leadership. The objective is to open the channels of communication between groups and engage them in dialogue on topics of mutual concern. In 2009, HANDS collaborated with CEOSS and Kennesaw State University's Center for Conflict Management to organize an Atlanta conference focused on the role of media in affecting our images of the "Other."

INSIGHT TRIPS TO EGYPT are organized for groups of Americans interested in gaining a deeper understanding

of Egyptian culture. A trip with HANDS includes not only the famous historical sites but also encounters with groups of modern Egyptians, meals in family homes and visits to projects we support. In 2009, HANDS coordinated three such trips.

INTERNSHIPS AT HANDS' WASHINGTON D.C.-AREA OFFICE

allow American undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to learn more about development work in the Middle East and about the inner workings of a non-profit organization. In 2009, HANDS hosted eight student interns.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS, which HANDS organizes each year, offer numerous opportunities to enhance Americans' understanding of the Middle East. Speaking events and seminars can be arranged on a wide range of subjects based on the request of the host organization. Our hope

is that as Americans become more knowledgeable about the Middle East, they will develop more nuanced understandings of the region.



HANDS Profiles

Americans now see the Middle East in a new light

‘You know, you watch the news—and you hear about all the trouble over there [in the Middle East]—and you start to feel like they’re all the same. I admit I got a bad attitude; I know I shouldn’t, but these two women [speakers HANDS brought from Egypt] really made an impact on me. I’ll always remember them and never make that mistake again.”

“I’m just so glad they were here. And to think that one of them was Presbyterian. I never imagined that, I don’t know why not. I just enjoyed them so much; it really made an impression and opened my eyes.”

—From a member of Corydon Presbyterian Church (IN), which hosted two Egyptian speakers brought to the U.S. by HANDS



HANDS facilitates numerous dialogue opportunities between Egyptians and Americans, including this one just for women.

Egyptians find American hosts key to appreciating the culture

‘I realized that not only [do] the Americans not know enough about the Egyptians, but also Egyptians don’t know about Americans outside what the media promotes....I learned that the direct communication is the best way to know each other as people; we should not rely on the media because the media constantly builds stereotypes, images that are politically oriented....Unlike what the media delivers, I discovered that Americans are emotional, caring and pious....The people who hosted us in their homes were very kind; I felt that I had been living in their houses for a long time.”

—From Gihan Abu Zeid, a member of a HANDS’ exchange group from Cairo, Egypt



Gihan and Samira, two dialogue participants, enjoyed a rainy spring day with their American host family.

HANDS Profiles, continued

Insight Trip member becomes HANDS intern and trained development professional

Although it was breathtaking to experience the beauty of Mt. Sinai and the history of the Pyramids of Giza, I'd have to say that my most cherished memories [of my trip to Egypt] are filled with the faces of the Egyptian people that I came to know and love. During my two-week stay, I was able to interact with Egyptians from all walks of life.

I was . . . thoroughly touched by my interactions with the Zabaleen [garbage collectors]. It brought such joy to my heart to hold the babies at the Sisters of Charity Orphanage or gaze into the faces of the women and girls in "Garbage City" who were fighting for a new future. . . . I was blown away by their strength and happiness in the midst of difficulty. Sometimes the best thing our group could offer was a willing ear, an open mind or excitement for their accomplishments.

Witnessing such a lifestyle has caused me to think twice about what I feel I "need" to survive. When I'm tempted to complain about insignificant material things, I remember that I have been blessed with exceedingly more



than I need and I would be wise to remember the attitudes of the zabaleen people. It's funny; I entered the trip feeling as though I was the one who had something to give but was humbly awakened to the possibility that perhaps these people had even more to offer me in return.

After visiting Egypt, the country developed a special place in my heart. I didn't want my involvement to end just because I had

returned home. Interning with HANDS seemed like the perfect solution. As an intern, HANDS has provided me with many excellent learning opportunities that will be beneficial in my future vocational endeavors. I've started gaining a deeper understanding of what is required to run the social service and community development programs that grabbed my attention in Egypt."

—From Maria Huyser, who visited Egypt in May 2009 with a group from Olivet Nazarene University on one of HANDS' Insight Trips. Following her trip to Egypt, Maria interned with HANDS in our Washington DC office.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION^(a)

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	31,813
Investments	1,022
Grants receivable	1,043,500
Promises to give	—
Accounts receivable-other	24
Prepaid expenses	14,185
Total current assets	1,090,544
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and fixtures	2,552
Computer equipment	4,432
Total	6,984
Less: accumulated depreciation	4,560
Property and equipment, net	2,424
OTHER ASSETS:	
Grants receivable, net of current portion	600,000
Security deposits	1,455
Total other assets	601,455
Total Assets	1,694,423
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Grants in Transit to Egypt	97,731
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	6,460
Deferred income	24,050
Total current liabilities	128,241
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	(77,318)
Temporarily restricted	1,643,500
Total net assets	1,566,182
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,694,423

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES^(a)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ^(b)	TOTAL
Contributions	220,084	1,575,000	1,795,084
Interest and investment income	36	-	36
Program fees	114,132	-	114,132
Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(138)	-	(138)
Sales income	8,725	-	8,725
Net assets released from restrictions	94,938	(94,938)	-
Total unrestricted support and reclassifications	437,777	1,480,062	1,917,839
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Grants released from restrictions	122,260	-	122,260
Other program services	225,541	-	225,541
Supporting services			
Management and general	37,900	-	37,900
Fundraising	32,358	-	32,358
Net expenses	418,059	-	418,059
Change in net assets	19,718	1,480,062	1,499,780
Net assets, beginning of year	(97,036)	163,438	66,402
Net assets, end of year	(77,318)	1,643,500	1,566,182

SELECTED STATISTICS, 2009

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

95%

Percentage of HANDS Board of Directors who contribute to HANDS:

100%

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

16.8%

^(a) For the year ended September 30, 2009. All figures are audited. The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

^(b) Restricted donations used for purposes designated.

DONORS

The programs highlighted on these pages were made possible by the generous donations of organizations and individuals throughout the US, including the following. Please note that this list includes donations received between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.

CHEOPS CLUB

(\$10,000 and over)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Alternative Gifts International
International Ministries, American Baptist Church
Newman's Own Foundation
U.S. Agency for International Development American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



▲▲
Sherif and Susan Awadalla
Jim Copeland and
Debbie McFarland
Felix and Fouzia El Daief
Hany Girgis
Suzan Habachy
Mona Mason

GOLD CARTOUCHE CIRCLE

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Global Giving Foundation
(Volunteers for Prosperity; USAID)
The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York, NY)
First Presbyterian Church (Lake Forest, IL)

▲▲
Roger and Whitney Bagnall
Adel and Ghada Bassali
Ken and Aida Cass
Makram and Hetty Girgis

SILVER SCARAB SOCIETY

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
(West Chester, PA)
Calvin Presbyterian Church
(Ellwood City, PA)
Webster Presbyterian Church
(Webster, NY)
First Presbyterian Church
(Wooster, OH)
Tomoka Christian Church
(Ormond Beach, FL)
Wachovia Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Auburn and Whiteside Presbyterian Churches (Lakeland, FL)
International Monetary Fund

▲▲
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PAPYRUS CLUB

(\$500-\$999)

Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Bridgeway 242 A Church
Community
Corydon Presbyterian Church
The Woman's Association of
Fifth Ave Presbyterian Church

▲▲
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HANDS ALONG THE NILE

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