

## SUPPORT & NETWORKING PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



### ONE PERSON, ONE EMAIL, ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

CONNECTING WOMEN OF SOCIAL CONSCIENCE AND DEVELOPING PROJECTS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

#### Support and Networking on Martha's Vineyard

On August 23, 2010, CharityHelp International held its first gathering on Martha's Vineyard, a small island off the coast of Massachusetts. The theme for the evening was "Empowering Afghan Women". This event featured participants from the Support and Networking Program.

Hassina Sherjan, who has been participating in the SNP since October 2008, was one of the speakers. Hassina is the CEO of the textile production company, Boumi, based in Kabul.

The documentary film "Phantoms of the Zoo" by Afghan Filmmaker and SNP participant Mahbouba Ibrahim was also screened. Basia Jaworska Silva, an island resident and SNP partner to Mahbouba, presented a summary of Mahbouba's business plan to create the Cinematic Center for Afghan Women.

[link to the full story](#)



#### SNP warmly welcomes a new Afghan Coordinator, Nasrin Sultani. Read her message

I was living in Herat province in the west of Afghanistan and was a student of Economy faculty in Herat university. When AFCECO started an orphanage in Herat I worked with them as a volunteer for two or three months. After this I finished my college and moved to Kabul. I knew Andisha before so she asked me whether I am ready to go as an interpreter with a group of children to the USA for medical treatment or not, my response was positive and I travelled with the children in the month of June. When I came back I wanted to work somewhere through which I could help my people especially women, when Andisha told me about the SNP program I really got interested to work with this program . . . I think this is a golden opportunity for my people especially women who were the first victim in the 3 decades of war, this is the time to use from the technology (internet and mobile phone) and mentors ideas and experience which is available for them in free to improve and develop their own as well as their country's situation.

[Read Nasrin's full message](#)

#### Beauty in the midst of a Warzone: Gardens of Kabul

Baghe Zanana is for women, where women, girls and even children can go to relax and for picnics, this garden is the only place where you can see female shopkeepers, there are many women run tailor shops, they sew clothes and sell them which is a good job for

uneducated women and widows. In this garden you can see different trees especially lots of evergreen trees, flowers like roses, swings for the children, special places for women to sit and eat lunch.

[Pictures](#)

#### Women of Courage and Resolve

Shafiq's story was highlighted in the SNP Summer Newsletter. We continue with part two of the series with the story of Cassandra.

#### Part II: Cassandra

I was born in April 1960, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. My parents still live in the house in which I grew up. Dad was a mechanical engineer and Mum was a secretary. My mother has a passionate belief in education, and also in the importance of a woman's financial independence. After my brother and sister were born, she returned to full time work in the mid 1950's, at a time when it was still frowned upon to do this. My maternal Grandmother looked after us while Mum and Dad were at work.

. . . At 16 years of age I went to University to study history and law. By 1977 one third of the university's law students were women, a big increase over previous years.

During this time I travelled overseas during the Christmas summer holidays and was in Austria during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I remember trying to use my schoolgirl German to follow the news. [Read the full story.](#)

#### SNP supports Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation:

Razia Jan's foundation directly funds the Zabuli Education Center for Women and Girls in Deh' Subz, Afghanistan. With 260 girls in primary school, this program is an oasis in a small community. On October 7th in Wellesley Massachusetts, Executive Director of RRHF, Patti Quigley, held a fundraiser at her home directly benefitting the school. \$28,000 was raised. For more info, go to [www.raziasrayofhope.org](http://www.raziasrayofhope.org)

#### Support and Networking Program consultants

Afghanistan: Nasrin Sutani at [nasrin@afceco.org](mailto:nasrin@afceco.org)  
Canada: Rebecca Aikman at [aikmanr@charityhelp.org](mailto:aikmanr@charityhelp.org)  
US: Jenna Messier at [messierj@charityhelp.org](mailto:messierj@charityhelp.org)

[Links, resources and more information are available on our website](#)

[www.charityhelp.org](http://www.charityhelp.org)



