

DEF Organizational Structure

The Diversified Educational Foundation, established in 2008, is a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the IRS and the State of Michigan. We work with our sister organization in Bangladesh, the Manab Kalyan Foundation (MKF), which is registered with the NGO Bureau and the Social Services Ministry of the Bangladeshi government. We operate these organizations with no overhead costs; 100% of our funds raised are used on our projects. DEF is subject to yearly audits conducted by a certified accountant and monitored by the government for an annual renewal of certification. The MKF payroll includes one full-time resident teacher, one imam, three part-time teachers, one coordinator/ caretaker and a cook.

MKF NEWS

Currently 63 students are staying at the MKF facility. The table below shows the number of students per grade.

Grade	Students
1	1
2	4
3	4
4	7
5	5
6	10
7	12
8	5
9	4
10	8
11	1
12	1

Diversified Educational Foundation Education, Food and Shelter for Orphans & Poor

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Our Mission

DEF offers a comprehensive and effective approach towards helping orphans and impoverished children break the recurrent cycle of poverty and illiteracy through education. The effects of poverty and the deprivation of basic human needs on young children are devastating. We are dedicated to providing them with an unwavering, cherishing, and enriching environment to help create better futures. We provide opportunities for either education or vocational training so they can reclaim their human dignity and become productive members of society.

New Facility



Alhumdullillah, all the students and a resident-teacher moved into two newly purchased buildings. This 24,000 square feet facility is big enough to provide accommodation for about 100 students. The buildings also consist of a prayer room, dining room, a library, computer lab and a game room. The facility is located in the heart of the city of Sirajong. The students attend different public schools in the city. Currently the facility provides the services to 63 orphans and impoverished students. Together, we can continue efforts to break the cycle of poverty that affects so many destitute children in Bangladesh. With your generous contributions, not only are we supporting the dreams of these students, but also maintaining a facility in which they can enhance their future.

Game Changer

Last year I visited the Manab Kallyan Foundation (MKF) facility in Sirajongj, Bangladesh which takes care of underprivileged children. I spent some time getting to know about their past history, current activities and their future goals. It's incredible to see how much their lives have changed, from not having shelter and knowing where their next meal would come from, to setting goals for their bright future ahead.

One day, I conducted a debate among a group of students. They passionately discussed how poverty cannot stop them from fulfilling their dreams, as long as they are determined. The students shared their own stories, and vowed that adversity of any sort will not deter them from their final goals: to make positive changes, and become an essential and successful person in society. It was very emotional listening to their aspirations. I felt with proper guidance, and such high ambitions, they will surely make an impact in their community.



With your generosity, we are able to provide them with shelter, education, food and health care. They excel not only academically, but also in sports and other extracurricular activities. It is pleasant to see their smiling faces, enthusiasm and the confidence they have built in themselves. The children will be grown as valuable members of the society (Inshallah).
- *Shafiq Islam*



Importance of giving charity

The legacy we leave behind when we depart from this world is written for us while we are still living in it. Our lives are a story, and for those who we have helped, a story they will continue to tell after we are gone. The best of us leave behind stories and legacies that impact others, allowing our time in this world to be a ripple with effects that linger further than we may fathom.

Of the best legacies is that of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Hardly a soul lives today that is not inspired by his character. He spent his early years largely alone, born without a father and losing his mother and caretakers shortly after. Despite his losses at a young age, he carried empathy for those without their protectors into his adult life. As an orphan himself, he loved orphans and taught humankind to always remember them. He stated, "Blessed is the wealth of the Muslim, from which he gives to the poor, the orphan, and the wayfarer." (Muslim).

'A'isha said, "A woman came to me who had two of her daughters with her. -See column 3

COVID-19 and Ramadan

Ramadan Mubarak! Ramadan, the best time of the year, the month of Allah, has come with blessings, mercy and forgiveness. We are lucky to see another Ramadan when hundreds of thousands of people worldwide passed away from the COVID-19 virus in the last few months and millions are currently suffering. Humanity, all seven plus billion of us, has been impacted by this virus in one way or another. It has disrupted our normal way of life! Humanity is suffering from extreme physical, financial and mental hardship.

The physical suffering is unbearable. There is no treatment and no vaccine against this virus attack. Billions of people are taking the only known precaution by socially distancing from others. The whole world is going through a lockdown unprecedented in human history to stop the spread of COVID-19. Everything is closed except the essential services. Ramadan will be different for us this time – no nightly prayers, no community gatherings for iftar, and even no Friday Jumma prayer!

Since the deadly 1918 influenza outbreak, the world has not experienced a pandemic of that magnitude. Millions, if not billions, have no financial safety-net and are headed towards a famine. The financial toll of this pandemic is indescribable for the day laborer and lower earning families. For many, there is no food at home, a deadly virus outside with no help available, and no end in sight. Many Muslims will have to fast with little food at dawn and will be forced to break their fast with next to nothing.

Anxiety is understandable – the fear of contamination, waiting to hear news about loved one, financial hardship, uncertainty about future, and missing fellowship have its impact! It would be against human nature not to be affected under these circumstances.

Islam instructs us to take every precaution to protect ourselves from a plague, the same way we would run away from a lion towards safety. However, a piece of good news, no infectious disease can touch a Muslim without the permission of Allah (Bukhari and Muslim). Allah has made plague a mercy for the believers. A Muslim who stays in his land at the time of a plague, bearing that with patience and seeking Allah's reward, knowing that nothing will touch him except that has been decreed for him will be given a reward that of a martyr (Bukhaari).

Let the hunger and thirst during Ramadan remind us about the suffering of our fellow mankind. Let's stretch our hand in this time of crisis to our extended families, neighbors, friends, and others in need. Charity will not go waste in the sight of Allah – it will protect us from calamities like the coronavirus. Allah will increase our charity in many folds in the hereafter. Let's remember that whenever a Muslim is afflicted by harm from sickness, Allah will expiate his sins like leaves drop from a tree (Bukhari and Muslim). Many Muslims have faced death because of this virus and many more may face the same. However, dying from this plague will be considered martyrdom for a Muslim (Bukhaari and Muslim).

Let's fast during this month of Ramadan out of true belief and in anticipation of Allah's Reward, Allah will forgive our sins. May Allah bless us in this holy month and protect us from this virus. May Allah put an end to this human suffering, Ameen! – *Ashique Zaman*

From Column 1

She asked me for something, but I could not find anything except for a single date which I gave her. She divided it between her daughters and then got up and left. The Prophet (SAW), may Allah bless him and grant him peace, came in and I told him what had happened. He said, "Whoever looks after these girls in any way and is good to them will have them as a veil from the Fire."

Oftentimes when we evaluate our wealth for charity, we determine how much we have in excess that we can give without affecting our daily lives. Rather than giving in excess, the Prophet (SAW) and his family gave from their best or whatever they had, ensuring those around him lived as well or better than he did. Generosity, especially to the orphans, is an incredibly beloved tradition in our faith. Charity is so loved that Prophet (SAW) even promises the believers, "Charity does not decrease wealth."

Whatever we give is multiplied for us in this world and the next, and the blessing of being able to give is something that cannot be quantified. Allah (SWT) ultimately is the provider and controller of our wealth, and while having wealth is a blessing, it is also an incredible responsibility. - *Maisha Rahman*

Donate to the Diversified Educational Foundation:



Please help us to break this cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and desperation for these 63 students as well as all future students. We cannot do it without your help. Thank you for your support.

Please Donate Your Zakat / Sadaqah / Charity

Please make your check payable to: **Diversified Educational Foundation**

Mail to: **P.O. Box 1453, Novi, MI 48376, USA.**, Email: info@diversifiededucation.org

Online donations can be made via PayPal or CREDIT Card: www.diversifiededucation.org