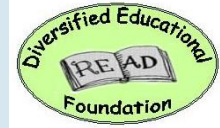


Diversified Educational Foundation

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 provide 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.

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, 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 subjected to yearly audits conducted by a certified accountant and monitored by the government for an annual renewal of certification. MKF payroll includes two full-time resident teachers, six part-time teachers, one coordinator-caretaker and a cook. Everyone else involved is a volunteer.

MKF Facility



Currently 67 students reside within the MKF facility, which provides food,

clothing, shelter, healthcare and tutoring. The students attend public schools and colleges within the city of Sirajganj. Currently, most of the students go to primary, middle, and high school. An additional four attend diploma engineering courses and one is taking undergraduate courses at the local college. This year, nine students plan on taking the SSC examination.

The teaching staff consists of two permanent and six part-time teachers to assist the students with mathematics, science, English and Arabic classes. The students also pray five times a day and learn Arabic and religious teachings at the Mussallah within the MFK compound.



The facility has recently upgraded the computer room to facilitate remote learning capabilities. In addition to their everyday studies, this year the students enjoyed an excursion to the Green Valley amusement park located in Natore.



Athletics

Students are encouraged to participate in physical fitness to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They engage in various sports both inside the compound and in nearby open fields. This year, the students competed in multiple meets throughout

the city. Nine of those who participated placed in the top three positions within their individual categories. The students seem to enjoy being physically active, and often have a very competitive nature.



Students, and Their Stories

My father passed away when I was fourteen years old. Our family's only source of income was his earnings. Faced with a very difficult financial situation, my mother was forced to maintain the family expenses ongoing. She started working as a maid on a day-by-day basis. On the days she could not go to work, we weren't even able to eat a proper meal, merely snacks. Fortunately, our neighbors would occasionally help.



Mohammad Al-Mahmud Ahmed

One day a respected individual from our village provided us with information regarding the MKF and their ability to care for underprivileged children. I now reside at the MKF dormitory, where I receive regular meals and my education. Additionally, due to my disability, I am also the recipient of a government assisted grant. I feel very fortunate to be able to continue my education. I am

currently in 6th grade, and I want to be a government employee when I grow up. I have always dreamt of building an institution like MFK and am happy there is one available for people in similar situations to mine.



Mohammad Ismail Sheik

When I was six years old, my father, who was battling cancer, passed away. It was not only shocking, but a very sad time for my whole family. My father was the sole wage earner leaving my mother to face a huge financial burden. My mother started working as a maid for someone in town. Our family could not sustain itself on her earnings alone, it was barely enough to keep food on the table. I was a first grader at the time, and the worst part of the already miserable situation was that my brother and I could not go to school anymore. One day a member of the union council from our village provided me with information about MKF facilities, and he soon helped me get admission.

GRATITUDE

“Shukr” is the Arabic word meaning thankfulness, gratitude or feeling indebted towards Allah Ta’ala for all the endless bounties showered on oneself. Being blessed with life is reason enough to remain thankful and submissive to Allah Ta’ala. Jabir RA reported that Prophet Muhammad PBUH said “Whoever is not grateful for small things will not be grateful for large things. Whoever does not thank people has not thanked Allah Almighty.” Source: al-Firdaws lil-Daylami 5962

Gratitude is shown in three ways: within our heart, our tongue, and our deeds. First are the people who are thoughtful and continuously indulge in self-reflection and contemplation, having a

deep sense of gratitude in their hearts. Secondly, there are people who frequently use the tongue to thank and appreciate everyone around them. And lastly, there are people who show their gratefulness to others and in a way, show gratefulness to Allah Ta’ala through their actions. All these qualities need to be interconnected to gain full rewards from Our Creator.

Shukr magnifies a blessing in a believer’s life. Whenever we receive a gift, it’s our moral duty to magnify that beautiful act of gifting and praise the giver, as well as Allah Subhanahu wa Ta’ala. This encourages the act of giving generously, which in turn, strengthens the bond between family members, friends, and neighbors.

Being grateful is indeed a noble act in Islam. We need to strive to establish this quality in every breath we take, thus bringing ourselves nearer to Allah Ta’ala. – *Nazneen Islam*

WCNSF - Wounded Child, No Surviving Family

A medical acronym, WCNSF (wounded child, no surviving family) has become the most haunting word within the past few months. This is the current situation in Gaza where children ranging from newborn to 18 years are found wounded and without any family members to care for them. At least 17,000 children have no immediate surviving family members and fall under this category. As of early March, 31,000 people have been martyred, of which 12,300 are babies & children under 18.

Gaza, according to the United Nations, is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child. Darin Al-Baya, a young girl from Gaza, lost her entire family except her little brother, Kinan. In her speech, the grief-stricken Darin explained, “People cannot live without their parents. My mother and father are not with me for the first time. Why didn’t I go with them? I really want to go to heaven and talk to them there. Why did this happen to me?”

Gaza’s healthcare system, local shelters, UN aid houses, and nearly all its infrastructures have been destroyed. One fourth of the population, i.e. 576,000 people, are “one step away from famine”

(UN). Children are dying from malnutrition and starvation. Life-threatening diseases like Hepatitis A and digestive illnesses are spreading rapidly in overcrowded, temporary camps. There is a severe lack of clean water, medical supplies, sanitation systems, amongst many other life-threatening issues. More than 10 children on average have either one or both of their limbs amputated every day, and the majority complete without anesthesia.

Every child must be treated the same, regardless of their ethnicity. All the precious children whose lives were stolen from them had dreams of becoming a doctor, teacher, architect, engineer, artist, athlete, and whatever else their heart desired. By reading their trauma-filled stories and witnessing the horrors occurring in Gaza, we must acknowledge our bountiful blessings. We need to do what we can to fulfil the dreams of these children by striving to make the world a better place; one where they are not targeted for being Palestinian and given the rights and opportunities that they deserve.

“... whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity” (Quran 5:32). What do we have the power to do for the people of Palestine? We must make genuine prayers for their ease and protection. We must send donations to active organizations dedicated to their survival. We must petition for a change and demand our elected officials to act. We are obligated to not only educate ourselves, but our coworkers, neighbors, and elected officials regarding Palestine’s struggle from oppression. Liberation of Palestine would establish peace and tranquility in Gaza and all around the globe. - *Shahjahan Mondol*

Please Donate Your Zakat / Sadaqah / Charity



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