

Coptic Orphans

...transforming generations



While many of their peers may be wasting time in the streets after school, these boys get together to help each other with their studies.

Back to School, Forward to Life

It was a proud day when Irini accepted her award for outstanding academic achievement from the governor. She was the best student in her village.

But Irini wasn't always at the top of her class. After her father died a few years ago, Irini had all but given up on school and barely passed to the next grade.

When asked what made the difference, Irini is quick to credit her involvement in the *Not Alone* program. "It was more than just having the materials I needed. It was having someone stand beside me, someone who believed in me. My Rep brought me to a workshop on study skills, and suddenly, learning was something fun. I loved it."

Yacoub, like Irini, is another top achiever. It's hard to believe that Yacoub couldn't even read just a few months ago. He was so far behind in school that he seemed destined to drop out. His teachers and everyone around him had already labeled him illiterate and a failure. Under the weight of their labels, Yacoub came to believe that he could never learn to read.

Then, an older child from Not Alone volunteered as Yacoub's tutor in a program to help children like Yacoub catch up. His tutor used phonics to help

"Once I figured out that I could learn, I knew I could do other things, too."

Yacoub connect sounds to the strange markings he saw on paper.

Before long, letters started to emerge from the markings, and Yacoub was reading.

Yacoub shared a secret with a group of educators, volunteers, and other adults last May. "It's confidence," he said. "Once I figured out that I *could* learn, despite what everyone had told me, I knew I could do other things, too."

This August, Coptic Orphans will again distribute school supplies to thousands of children who would otherwise go without. At the same time, these children will learn good study habits at workshops all over Egypt. No doubt there will be many Irinis and Yacoub's there, just waiting to discover the key to their own enthusiasm for learning, and life.

School Supplies are Not Enough

I recently read an email from the sponsor of nine-year-old Heba from El-Minya. He was curious about her special interests and talents, wanting to help her grow into a "talented and independent person by the time she goes to college."

Anyone who has heard me talk about Coptic Orphans knows the value I place on education. It's why I'm strict that all children in the Not Alone program reach appropriate literacy levels before they are eligible for sponsorship, and why they are required to stay in school.

This year, like every year, the nearly 7,000 children currently enrolled in the Not Alone program—out of the more than 16,000 children reached over the last 20 years—will all get notebooks, pencils, and backpacks thanks to your contributions. But we know that—more than school supplies—our children need love, care and encouragement to succeed. Please pray with us that our children go back to school with everything they need.

- *Nermien Riad*

Sponsorship: Did you know

Almost 2/3 of fatherless children in the Not Alone program don't have sponsors. Those who do are blessed with knowing that there is one more person in the world who knows them by name and cares about their hopes and dreams.



Fr. Paul Girguis of St. Marks Church in DC joins Their Graces Bishops Tadros and Picienty from Egypt at the 2009 Coptic Charities Conferences hosted by Coptic Orphans at George Washington University in May.

Coptic Orphans US Headquarters

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All donations are tax exempt: 54-1637257

...I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children. Matt 11:25

- I want to make a **one-time** contribution in the amount of:
 - \$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____
- I want to sponsor a child with **monthly payments** of:
 - \$100 \$75 \$60 \$50 Other \$ _____

Yes, I want to pray for the children and the work of Coptic Orphans.. Sign me up to receive praises and prayer requests weekly by email.

Email address: _____

07/09

Payment Info (kindly note that direct debiting helps us reduce administrative costs)

- Please find my check enclosed. (**note: not for new sponsorships**)
- Please debit my bank account for the amount specified above. (**Attach a VOID check** for authorization)
- Please charge my credit card. **credit card number:** _____ **exp:** ____/____/____

Please include your phone and email in case we need to contact you about your contribution:

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

For New Sponsors: I authorize Coptic Orphans to set up a monthly contribution using the information I provided above.

Signature: _____ **date:** ____/____/____

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