



## Our Focus on the Family

Last weekend, my family and I dusted off our VHS machine to watch an old favorite: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." We aren't Greek, but it might just as well describe our Egyptian-American family experience. Just like Toula's family in the movie, everyone is so close, sometimes even too close for comfort. But like them we stay close because we know that it's tough on our own.

Everywhere I go I tell people that a large part of our mission to disadvantaged children in Egypt is our heart for "orphans." They often assume that I am talking about children taken from their families to be placed in orphanages or put up for adoption by families from foreign lands.

But in the *Not Alone* program, we agree with our favorite big fat Greek movie family: we can't make it without our own families. That means that families are the key to equipping children.

When I first gathered a group of friends to support an orphanage twenty years ago, I was shocked when mothers took their daughters to the orphanage.

They believed that their children would be better off in an orphanage than in their own family.

But they aren't. No matter how skilled and well-meaning the orphanage staff and no matter how overwhelmed the widowed mother, no one can take the place of real family.

That's why I started the *Not Alone* program soon afterwards.

Our philosophy of reaching out to orphaned children in their own families made a big difference to Hoda, a mother of three *Not Alone* children. Hoda once worried how she would feed her children and even considered sending them to an orphanage. Now we provide support for her children so Hoda can enjoy the simple pleasure of caring for them the way our mothers cared for us. And when they reach their potential, they will be ready to stand confidently on their own two feet secure in a family's love.

Just like in the movie, a child in Egypt needs his or her own family to succeed. We could never replace a child's family. Instead, we all become a sort of extended family for our children in Egypt. With a family like ours, it's good to be *Not Alone*.

-Nermien Riad, Executive Director

### Father's Day: Honoring Courage

This Father's Day, Coptic Orphans honors fathers of courage.

No one makes us ready for life quite like fathers. Yet all of the children who participate in the *Not Alone* program have lost their fathers, whether by death or abandonment. We can never replace a father, but Coptic Orphans steps into that equipping role for our children. When they are grown, we want all our children to go out confident for success so they will change the lives of others.

In honor of dad, send a gift for children in Egypt. We'll send a hand-made card to the dad or special man in whose honor you make the contribution. Call us at 1-800-499-2989.

### Food Crisis Rocks Egypt

The BBC reports that "20% of [Egypt] lives below the poverty line. Another 13% are just above it and... any wobble in prices means they go under."

In a nation where an estimated 45% of children suffer from anemia, access to nutritious food is critical. Yet soaring prices make even bread unaffordable.

Coptic Orphans is working as your partner on the ground to ensure that children in Egypt have access to their basic right to nutritious food. With our gift catalogue, you can help, too. Order at 703-641-8910.

### Coptic Orphans

P.O. Box 2881, Merrifield VA 22116

703.641.8910 or 800.499.2989

info@copticorphans.org

www.copticorphans.org

All donations are tax exempt: 54-1637257

A financial statement is available from the Virginia State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request. Information filed with the attorney general concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney of the State of New Jersey by calling 973.504.6215. Registration with the attorney general does not imply endorsement.

"So that in this and in all things Your great and holy name may be glorified ..."

05/08

I would like to set up a monthly contribution of:       \$50    \$100    \$200    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please debit my checking account on the 15th of every month (attach VOID check)

Please charge to my credit card on the 1st of every month

credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ exp date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

I authorize Coptic Orphans to set up a monthly contribution using the information that I have provided above.

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for a donation in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ . His address is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Coptic Orphans**  
P.O. Box 2881  
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