

Coptic Orphans

...transforming generations



Boys receive personal hygiene kits at a Coptic Orphans workshop on health.

How to Save a Life in Egypt

You may be familiar with the so-called "AIDS orphans" in Africa, and the programs funded by sponsors all over the world to help them. But were you aware about the countless children in Egypt who are losing their fathers to another deadly disease that infects up to 20% of the population*?

Hepatitis C claims the lives of many fathers at an age most would consider their prime, leaving countless children in Egypt without a father to provide for the family.

Mina, a youth in *Not Alone*, lost his father to Hepatitis C. But he is determined not to become a victim of the silent killer himself. Both Mina and his mother learned how to protect themselves from the blood-borne disease at workshops organized by Coptic Orphans. He now takes his own razor with him whenever he goes to the village barber. Mina takes care not to share razors, toothbrushes, or other personal hygiene items with others, as is common practice in families with limited means throughout Egypt, and tells his family and friends to do the same. Mina and his friends are doing their best to ensure that their future children won't end up as orphans.

But sometimes nothing can prevent an illness. When a child without a father falls ill, the family has often already exhausted what little they had tending the father's illness and burial. Because surgeries cost money even at government hospitals, those who cannot pay suffer tragedies.

Nadia might have suffered this fate. Nadia, a fatherless child from Southern Egypt, was born with one leg slightly longer than the other. This condition has caused her constant pain and discomfort, and made the "growing pains" of adolescence excruciating for her. Coptic Orphans was able to arrange for surgery for Nadia through a special fund set up to pay for the urgent health needs of children in the *Not Alone* program. Today, Nadia stands straight and without pain.

Whether by supporting special surgeries for children with grave conditions, or supporting health education activities for youth and mothers, your contributions are making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children in Egypt, one child at a time.

*National Committee for Control and Prevention of Viral Hepatitis, Egypt 2009

Your Health is Your Wealth

In Egypt, we have the saying "Sabetak, Tharvetak." It means your health is your treasure. But too often, we take it for granted. Too often, children die or are disabled for life because they lack access to proper health care, or worse, because of preventable diseases.

As a mother, I know that good health starts at home. That's why we help widowed mothers acquire the information, skills, and resources they need to prevent their children from getting sick in the first place. But we are also prepared—thanks to your support—to meet the urgent health needs of our children.

When you donate to our special health fund, you are protecting one of the most valuable assets a child has: health.

- *Nermien Riad*

Sponsorship: It's about relationship

With all the child sponsorship programs out there, we want to make sure you know how sponsorship works with Coptic Orphans. For one thing, know that that the child you sponsor will not have another sponsor so long as you are there. That's because we recognize that our children and donors alike benefit from the blessings of personal relationship. We set up our sponsorship program to encourage this, that we may all grow together as one.

2009 Coptic Charities Conference

Coptic Orphans is bringing together leaders of the Church and several Coptic charities along with international development experts to discuss the future of the Coptic Diaspora and its role in Egypt's development on May 15th in Washington, D.C.

Coptic Orphans

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All donations are tax exempt: 54-1637257

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Matthew 14:14

I want to make a contribution in the amount of:
 \$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

This contribution is for the Coptic Orphans Health Fund. 05/09

This contribution is for where it is most needed.

I want to sponsor a child at the **monthly** amount of:
 \$100 \$75 \$60 \$50 Other \$ _____

Donate Online (and help cut overhead) — www.copticorphans.org

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 or 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: ____/____/____

Coptic Orphans

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