

Coptic Orphans

...empowering children, transforming generations.



May/June 2007

How Hanan Overcame Injustice in School



In the face of the injustices that they face in school, children need special motivation to learn.

When Mina was in grade school, his teacher tried to extort money from him for lessons: one Egyptian pound each day that he would come to school. "Where can I find even one pound when my mother sells vegetables on the street?" asked Mina. Because Mina refused, his teacher began to beat him.

Every day Mina had to muster more and more willpower to walk the long block to school and meet whatever awaited him. Mina was determined to stay in school: he knew it was his only hope of success. Still, one day Mina left school and never returned: "I finally left when the teacher broke my arm with one of his beatings."

What hope is there for children like Mina when the very place that was built to equip them for life is the place that stands in the way of their success?

Even children who are not severely abused in the classroom like Mina need special support to successfully graduate from school with the skills that they need to succeed.

For example, children in Egypt must overcome an educational sys-

tem that provides plenty of rote recitation but few opportunities for genuine learning. Classrooms are crammed with so many children and even a good teacher cannot give each child the attention that he or she deserves. Still, children show their resilience and overcome.

By the time Coptic Orphans reached him, it was too late for Mina. But with your help we can reach many others. Take Hanan. Hanan also left school after suffering abuse, but with the help of Coptic Orphans Hanan is now studying at home for the exams that will allow her to graduate from high school and move on to college. Hanan has chosen not to give up despite her horrendous experiences in school because she has not given up on learning.

Coptic Orphans helped Hanan the same way we help every child: we show them that learning can be fun and engaging so that they find their motivation, we teach them their right to learn so they can take responsibility, we give them the opportunity to earn free books, and we give them tutoring and mentorship.

On Being a Prayer Partner

At Coptic Orphans, our work gets done in two arenas: the physical and the spiritual. On the one hand, there is the highly visible work of caring for the widow and orphan that gets done in bustling cities and dusty villages. On the other hand, there is the hidden but even more real work of prayer that gets things done even before a volunteer sets foot in a village or a child sets foot in a classroom.

Being a Coptic Orphans Prayer Partner means getting things done together in heavenly places.

Prayer Partners receive prayer updates and resources via e-mail and commit to pray daily for the children and the other partners who do the physical work of Coptic Orphans. Prayer Partners keep all prayer communications confidential.

Join this growing army of intercessors today and or e-mail us at prayer@copticorphans.org or reply with the tear-off below.

Help us empower other children like Hanan so that all children in Egypt can overcome the obstacles of injustice and transform the way a generation learns.

See News on Reverse Page

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

05/07

Yes! I want to become a Prayer Partner. E-mail me bi-monthly prayer updates at: _____@_____

I would like to set up a recurring donation of:
 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

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

OR

Please charge to my credit card on the 1st of every month
credit card number: _____ exp date ____/____/____

Enclosed is my check for a one time donation

Coptic Orphans
P.O. Box 2881
Merrifield, VA 22116

**Coptic Orphans Honors Yousra, Serve to Learn Volunteers
at 2007 "International Passport to Change" Gala.**



Actress and UNDP goodwill ambassador Yousra receives the Leading by Example Award from Coptic Orphans executive director Nermien Riad

On Saturday, April 28th, Coptic Orphans held its 4th Annual Gala, "An International Passport to Change." Internationally acclaimed actress and United Nations Development Programme goodwill ambassador Yousra received the Leading by Example Award for her outstanding humanitarian work. "Of the over fifty awards that I have received, this is my most touching," Yousra said as she accepted the award.

Yousra urged the audience to give of their time, effort and money so that vulnerable children in Egypt could overcome their obstacles and live out their dreams. She recounted her visit to Coptic Orphans' Not Alone Program and the Valuable Girl Project in Egypt and described her pride and awe about the children she met. As she appealed to the audience on behalf of the children, Yousra told them that "because of the work being done by Coptic Orphans... Egypt will be great again."

Yousra praised the sacrifices of Serve to Learn volunteers and presented awards to the twenty one who were present. She shared moving accounts of the perseverance of the Serve to Learn volunteers and joyful resilience of the children, for whom education is their only way out of the cycle of poverty. She recounted how a child said of his Serve to Learn teacher, Kevin, "I feel my father is alive when Mr. Kevin hugs me."

The Memory Project Brings Hope and Self-Confidence to Children in Egypt



A girl in Lower Egypt blushes as she receives a painting of herself.

The room was a tossing sea of squirming children and barely contained anticipation. They had been waiting for months. Ben Schumacher called them up one by one and gave them a picture of themselves, hand-painted by a high school or college student from North America. A picture is worth a thousand words, but no number of words could describe the sense of worth that these pictures gave each of the one thousand children who received them. Ben recently traveled throughout Egypt distributing portraits to Not Alone children. He hopes that the portraits will be "a special memory of their youth and honor their heritage and identity."

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.