



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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



From left, Ghada and Naguib Sawiris, Mimi Geerges, and Nermien Riad.

Naguib Sawiris and Ola Ghabbour honored at Coptic Orphans 20th Anniversary Gala

Coptic Orphans was pleased to honor two internationally-acclaimed business and philanthropy pioneers, Ms. Ola Ghabbour and Mr. Naguib Sawiris, at its 20th Anniversary Gala, held at the Marriott New York Downtown on Saturday, October 18th, 2008. Ghabbour and Sawiris were recipients of the 2008 Leading by Example awards, conceived to honor those who have set an example for others by overcoming great obstacles to build a better future for children.

"Serving others is my way of praising God, of saying 'Thank you, God,' " said Ms. Ghabbour as she accepted the award. Ghabbour was the catalyst for the donor-supported establishment of Egypt's Children's Cancer Hospital, the first state-of-the-art hospital in the Middle East dedicated to children with cancer, which provides care to families completely free of charge.

This year's Gala was attended by close to 200 distinguished and diverse guests, a reflection of the growing significance of Coptic Orphans as an international development organization. The gala was the first public function attended by the new Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S., Amb. Sameh Shoukry. Also present were UN Ambassador Maged Abdel Aziz, Egyptian Consul in New York, Ambassador Hussein Mubarak, and President David Arnold of the American University in Cairo.

Ms. Manal Moussa, a participant in Coptic Orphans' *Not Alone* and *Valuable Girl Project* programs, came from Sohag to present Mr. Sawiris with his award. Manal's achievements (see page 2) earned her an award from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Partnership, presented at the gala by Ms. Dina Powell, Director of Global Corporate Engagement at Goldman Sachs.

Naguib Sawiris, Chairman and CEO of Orascom Telecom Holdings, recognized the power of a united Egyptian diaspora to solve the common problems of Egypt, and warned against relying solely on the great achievements of the past to keep the country strong. "Sometimes I think we should demolish the pyramids so that we will have to build something new to show the world what we can achieve," he joked, adding, "The roots of this civilization are in all of us. I am sure we will have our comeback—though it may take time."

Ms. Nermien Riad, Executive Director of Coptic Orphans, emphasized that while the organization was faith-based, development involved working together at many levels in service of humanity.

Sponsors underwrote the entire cost of the gala. The unprecedented amount of contributions from gala guests will directly support children in Egypt to reach their potential.

Thank You to Gala Supporters from the Executive Director

A heartfelt "thank you" to all who were a part of our 20th Anniversary Gala in New York, and to all who couldn't be there but supported us with your contributions, your prayers, and your encouragement.

With more money raised for Egypt than ever and with corporate and individual sponsors who underwrote all expenses, it was our most successful event ever. It was a fitting way to close two decades of achievement. The glory, as speaker after speaker noted, is God's.

The evening served to demonstrate how strong we, the Coptic Diaspora, are when we align our strengths for good.

Great things are underway, in Egypt and throughout the world, as we work together to restore Egypt to a place where children thrive and grow to be leaders in service of humanity.

Please keep Egypt and Coptic Orphans in your prayers. May you have a blessed Christmas, and may the joys of giving continue to be yours.

Sincerely,
Nermien Riad



From left: Fr. Mark Sorial of Brooklyn, New York; Egyptian Consul in New York, Ambassador Hussein Mubarak; and Fr. Bishoy Andrawis of Washington DC.

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All donations are tax exempt: 54-1637257

Gift Reply Form

11/08

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Photos from Coptic Orphans' 20th Anniversary Gala



From left, Ola and Raouf Ghabbour, Ambassador Sameh Shoukry.



Gala guests watch a short video reflecting on the past 20 years of the organization.



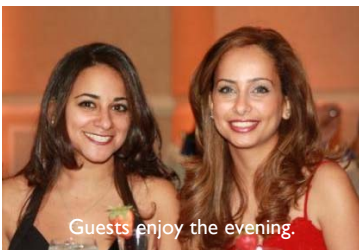
Naguib Sawiris accepts his award, exhorts the Coptic diaspora.



Dina Powell, Director of Global Corporate Engagement at Goldman Sachs, chats with Naguib Sawiris.



Jihan Mansour (right) of ART Television interviews Coptic Orphans executive director Nermien Riad.



Guests enjoy the evening.



Nermien Riad with philanthropist and Leading by Example Awardee Ms. Ola Ghabbour (right).

The Gala's Surprise Guest: Manal Moussa's Story



Manal (center) presents the Coptic Orphans Leading by Example Award to Naguib Sawiris.

"It is like a dream to be here today. Never did I imagine that I would one day be in New York, speaking to an audience like this!" said Manal Farhoud Moussa, smiling from the podium on the stage at the Coptic Orphans 20th Anniversary Gala.

Manal is from the small village of Hagr Meshta in Sohag, Upper Egypt: the same governorate as Naguib Sawiris. Manal's life was typical of that of many girls in her village until her father's death in 2001, when Manal was 14. Then the whole family moved in with relatives into a small, mud-brick home. Her family struggled to survive on the meager pension provided by the government and whatever her oldest brother, who had a wife and children of his own, could contribute.

With the support of Dr. Mahawid, a representative in the *Not Alone* program, Manal joined the *Not Alone* program and gradually grew hopeful about her future. "The visits of Dr. Mahawid made me feel special. I understood that I had value, and shared my opinions with people for the first time." She became the first girl in her family to stay in school. Her sisters, like many others in her village, dropped out of school, got married at an early age, and already have several children.

"I would have ended up like them," she reflected.

In 2005, she signed up to be a mentor with the *Valuable Girl Project* so she could touch others' lives the way her own had been touched. Today, Manal continues to be an inspiration for many in her village, as she nears completion of her bachelor's degree at Assuit University.

Manal made a surprise appearance at the gala to share her story and present Naguib Sawiris with the Coptic Orphans Leading by Example Award. Ms. Dina Powell, Director of Global Corporate Engagement at Goldman Sachs, announced that Manal was selected to receive a scholarship to a business certificate program at the American University in Cairo (AUC) in honor of Naguib Sawiris.

With the scholarship to AUC, Manal hopes to gain the skills to help others exercise their rights and reach their potential. "I want to help women and girls in my village to understand that they are important, and that they can achieve good things in life."

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