



Not Alone program families become self-sufficient through their own enterprising projects just like the one that Ramy now uses to support his sisters.

Family Gains Freedom through Internet Café

I climbed up a narrow set of concrete stairs in a dark stairway that led into the small flat. Ramy's mother and his sisters were waiting for us. His mother began telling me about her sleepless nights and how Ramy had made a dramatic turnaround only a few months earlier. She said that she often stayed awake crying inconsolably after his father died, wondering where she would get the few pounds needed to feed Ramy and his sisters.

Then, hope seemed to evaporate utterly when Ramy dropped out of school; he had never learned to read despite going from grade to grade, and finally just gave up.

After his first year in the *Not Alone* program, Ramy became literate and rejoined school with the help of Coptic Orphans. But because the *Not Alone* program is holistic, we were not content to rest with Ramy simply going back to school. We wanted to make sure that Ramy and his family had the opportunity to become self-sufficient and reach their full potential.

Before he died, Ramy's father had a plumbing business. He had a small storefront facing a dusty village alley

that he used as his shop. After passing, it sat unused for several years.

That's where Ramy was standing as I talked with his mother. Ramy had cleaned, painted, and opened it once again, but this time for a different use. He had purchased three computers and set up an internet café. Now he makes enough to ensure that his family has food on the table and his sisters can stay in school.

While running his new business, Ramy has also learned a lot about how to operate and repair computers. While other school children in Egypt rarely even touch a computer in their computer classes, Ramy is getting the hands-on experience that will open doors of opportunity once he graduates.

Today Ramy's mother says that she no longer lies awake at night worrying about how she will feed her children. "God sent this at just the suitable time," she told me. Her children now have access some of their basic rights, and have become an example of self-sufficiency for their entire neighborhood.

-Nathan Hollenbeck
communications Associate

Facing Egypt's Job Market With Big Dreams, Small Grants

Angie has a big dream. One day, this girl from a Nile Delta village says that she is going to work in the international fashion industry. Angie is part of the new Big Dreams, Mini-Grants Initiative, an initiative designed to encourage children in the *Not Alone* program to dream big and plan carefully.

Not Alone children applied by describing their dreams and then setting concrete goals to reach their dreams. On July 16, 10 *Not Alone* participants chosen from a wide pool of applicants gathered to receive certificates acknowledging the mini-grant awards that, with hard work and persistence, will help them make their dreams reality.

Angie is already on her way to making her dream a reality. She is taking a three-month course in perfume making, a course that will give her a head-start both in advanced study and in the job market after she graduates.

**Tickets Going Fast!
Saturday, October 18th, 2008**



**With Naguib Sawiris and Ola Ghabbour
Manhattan, NY
Call Tamara Martin for tickets or
sponsorship: 1-800-499-2989, x207**

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 ..."

09/08

I would like to sponsor a child with 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 one time donation contribution of: \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

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