

# Copts: A People of Service



Coptic Orphans

2012 Annual Report

## From the Executive Director

Copts are a people of service. As the new Patriarch of Alexandria we welcomed this year, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, said,

“We are a part of the soil of this nation and an extension of the pharaohs and their age before Christ. Yes, we are a minority in the numerical sense, but we are not a minority when it comes to value, history, interaction and love for our nation.”

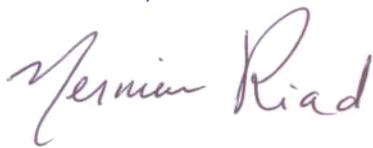
Coptic Orphans is the fruit of Egypt’s own soil. It is the fruit of the love of Copts abroad for Egypt.

Twenty five years ago, a psalm we sing in church wouldn’t leave my heart: “how can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?” (Psalm 116:12) That is why I started Coptic Orphans. As a ground-breaking survey revealed this year, it may also be why so many other Copts support Coptic Orphans with their time, talent and treasure. Their hearts compel them to give back so richly for the sake of the Egypt we all know and love.

In 2012, that survey—the very first large-scale survey of the Coptic Diaspora we commissioned with George Washington University—revealed that there is still so much more potential among us as Copts living outside Egypt to give back for all the bounty that God has given us so generously.

Meanwhile, our 400-person volunteer workforce in Egypt showed that Copts in Egypt can overcome obstacles of all sorts. Copts Got Talent fundraising events unfolded the momentum Copts have to impact Egypt. His Grace Bishop Angaelos revealed that we can bring all sorts of players together for our cause. Now, let’s prove what we can do.

One Body in Christ,



*Founder & Executive Director*

### About Coptic Orphans

When most people think of “orphans,” they think of children in orphanages who have no family at all. In fact, many orphanages in Egypt are filled with children who have living family, only because their widowed mothers cannot afford to feed them. This is an injustice that Coptic Orphans is dedicated to eradicate.

Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization that works through a grassroots volunteer network to unlock the God-given potential of fatherless children in their own homes and families. We equip them to break the cycle of poverty and become change-makers in their communities. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans has transformed the lives of over 27,000 children in underserved villages and urban areas throughout Egypt, from Alexandria to Aswan.

### Top 10 Highlights:

1. 2,000 new children join our *Not Alone* program, gaining access to educational support for the first time
2. Volunteer workforce in Egypt continues to take risks for children
3. First ever in-depth survey of the Coptic Diaspora reveals potential to impact Egypt
4. His Grace Bishop Angaelos brings Copts before government, scholars
5. Even more children get free high-quality health insurance in *Not Alone*, our flagship program
6. "Walking With the Wounded Child" training equips volunteers to address trauma
7. Newly ordained priest is 23rd Coptic Orphans Rep to enter Egypt's clergy
8. "Copts Got Talent" Sydney, Toronto fundraising events show Copts have many talents to bless Egypt
9. Better Life Praise Team unites Egyptian Christians in North America for orphan cause
10. Pilot phonics program success; Coptic Orphans expands education tools



# A People of Service in Egypt: Village Volunteers Who Brave Unrest, Risks

## The Troubles of 2012

Lack of police presence in many neighborhoods, especially throughout rural areas

> Kidnapping rumors and threats

> Local mafias stepping into the security void

Villages protecting themselves by blockading roads, and becoming extremely wary of outsiders, making field visits difficult

Increased religious tensions on the street, and harassment of non-Muslims

Increasing scarcity of fuel and periodic sit-ins on railroad tracks make transportation expensive and difficult

Runaway inflation on the basics, like food and cooking fuel

Frequent and prolonged power outages

Photo by Mark Voss

## Volunteers Adapt, Bring New Hope to Children

Reps continue to visit children and create workarounds for the many new obstacles in Egypt.

When fuel prices rose and villagers blocked roads, they took to foot and motorbike. When walking to school became dangerous for children, they arranged transportation themselves, or helped children learn at home. When criminals started breaking into more homes, Reps helped families install secure roofs, front doors, windows, and locks. As widowed mothers began to fear, they shared words of encouragement and led by their own examples.

The results?

Families have found new hope. "I always know that there is someone who cares about what happens to us, who I can call for any problem," one widowed mother says. Others see their children continuing their education, when just a year ago it seemed like they might have to accept a dead-end to their futures.

## 2012 Troubles Cause Big Changes in Education

In 2011, around 1% of our children studied at home. In 2012, that number grew to 20%, according to field staff.

Egypt families are searching for new ways to cope with rapidly changing circumstances, especially ones that affect a child's education.

# A People of Service in Egypt: The Fruit of the Coptic Church

## Another Rep Becomes a Priest

Volunteer Reps, the backbone of our workforce, often work a full day and then spend all their evenings and weekends—up to 20 hours a week—visiting fatherless families. That is an extension of the volunteer ethic nurtured by the Coptic Church, from which Coptic Orphans draws its Reps.

Ayman Zohair was always a faithful son of the Church. He poured himself out for 15 years with Coptic Orphans and a number of the other services his diocese offered. For Coptic Orphans alone, he spent 10-20 hours every week visiting fatherless families in neighborhoods all around.

One day, Ayman took the 15 children he mentored for Coptic Orphans to see His Holiness, the late Pope Shenouda III, at a Cairo audience. The Pope asked the crowd for nominations to the priesthood.

The children submitted Ayman's name, the crowd voted him in, and within the week His Holiness ordained him as Fr. Mikhail, making him the 23rd Coptic Orphans Rep to become a priest.

Copts are a people of service. Coptic Orphans is a fruit of the teachings of the Church, and so fosters opportunities for Reps to put those teachings into practice by pouring themselves out for the fatherless.

His Grace Bishop Estefanos of Beba and El Fashn Dioceses in Middle Egypt says that church servants who volunteer with Coptic Orphans display eight skills that make the transition easy for those selected to become priests: organization, detail-orientation in documenting, problem solving, integrity, discretion, compassion, commitment, and holistic thinking.

The Church nurtures the virtues behind these traits, and Coptic Orphans, Her fruit, develops them in unity with the Church. Faithful sons and fathers like Fr. Mikhail are the fruit of both.



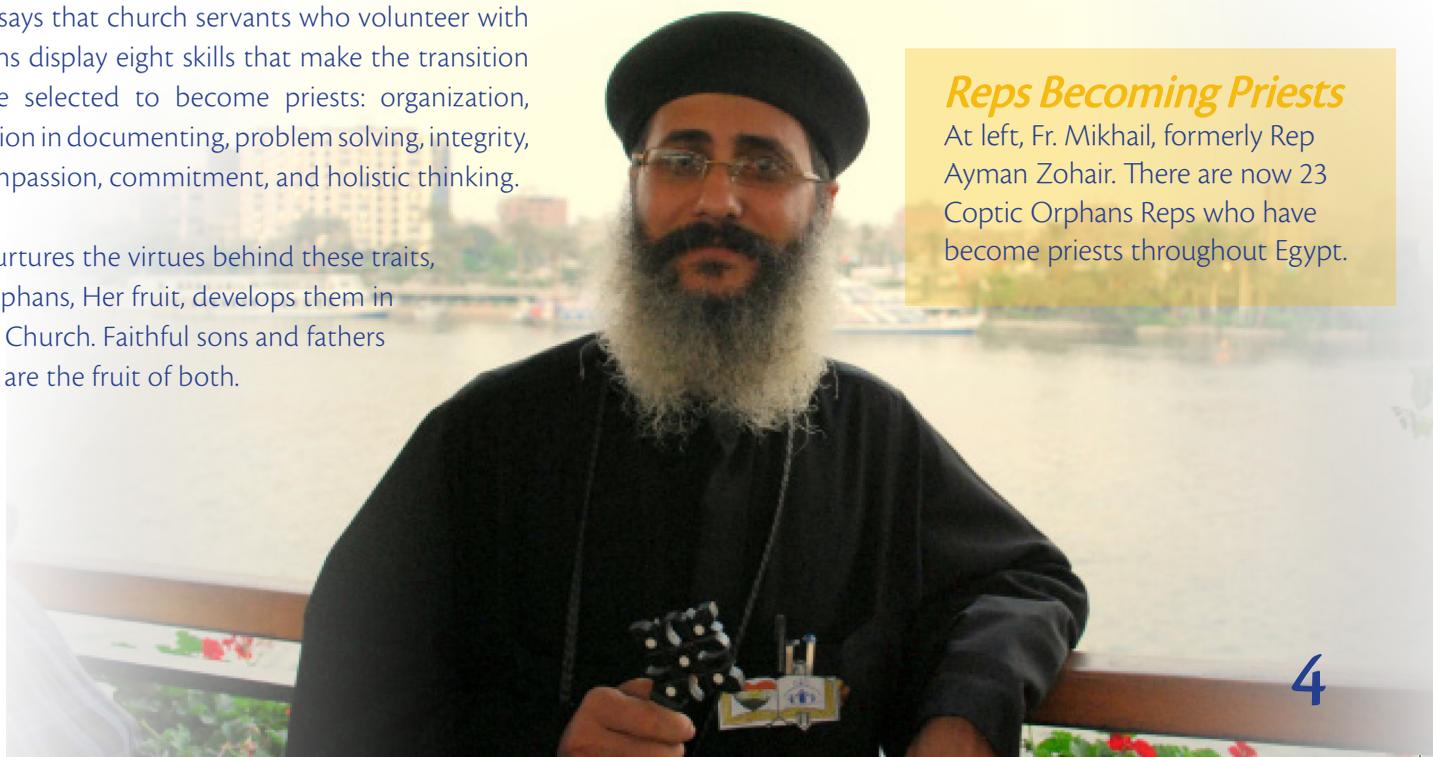
## His Holiness Pope Tawadros II: A New Shepherd with a History of Service

In 2012, we celebrated the enthronement of the new shepherd of the Coptic Church with particular joy, because the new pope has been a long-time partner of Coptic Orphans.

Coptic Orphans worked with His Holiness when he was managing the affairs of the Diocese of Behaira in Lower Egypt with His Eminence Metropolitan Bakhomious. Together, we developed a technology center to train over 100 youth with valuable skills using brand new computers.

His Holiness says: "The difference about the work of Coptic Orphans is monitoring and follow-up. Without those things, it is impossible to get such outstanding results."

We pray that God will grant many fruitful years to His Holiness, and look forward to continuing to serve Egypt's fatherless together.



## *Reps Becoming Priests*

At left, Fr. Mikhail, formerly Rep Ayman Zohair. There are now 23 Coptic Orphans Reps who have become priests throughout Egypt.

# A People of Service in Egypt: Transforming Generations through Education

## New Heights of Achievement

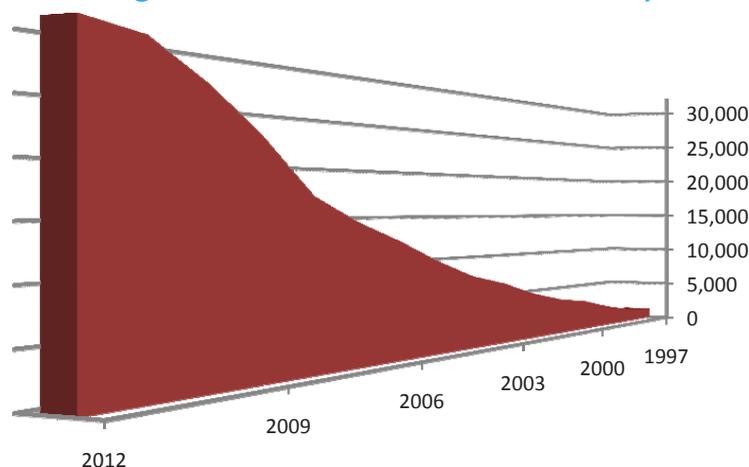
One of the biggest casualties of recent troubles in Egypt is education. At the same time, education is still the way to open doors for our children despite everything. We've always sown deeply into education, and have now reached over 30,000 children with better opportunities. 2012 has brought especially satisfying results as children surged to the top of their classes, earned top scores on exams, and gained admission to medical schools and universities. At the same time, trauma and difficulty can hinder education. That's why we've created new opportunities this year to help children overcome those trials, from free healthcare to scholarships, and are training Reps to address traumas before they hamper academic and vocational growth.

## Higher Leaps in Education

Marina got into the American University in Cairo with a rare full scholarship – the fruit of the work of Coptic Orphans over many years. This makes Marina, the 18-year old from a farming village 10 kilometers from Beni Suef, the only girl in her governorate to get this scholarship. It's worth about 120,000 Egyptian Pounds a year and will cover all four years of her Bachelors Degree. With her mother's widow pension, it would have taken a lifetime to pay for that first year.

Meanwhile, two other students turned down full scholarships through AMIDEAST in order to pursue the study of medicine. More of our children are taking the paths that are right for them. These are the ones who will transform generations.

## Reaching Farther: Over 30,000 Now Impacted



## New Options We've Adopted

### College Scholarships

This year, Coptic Orphans piloted 7 college scholarships for our students, so that they can go further with their education even when they don't have the exam scores to develop their gifts.

### Coptic Orphans Develops Literacy Tools

This year, we taught phonics to a group of children in Deir Abu Hennis who started out totally illiterate. 90% now read and write.

### AMIDEAST English Micro-Scholarships

28 participants from Coptic Orphans received scholarships for a two-year English course at the American University of Cairo.

### Children Gain Access to Quality Healthcare

Medical care was mostly beyond the reach of children from poor villages with low-quality government hospitals until now. Royal Care, International has now covered almost half the number of children in our programs with high-quality health insurance, and pledged to increase that to 10,000 children in 2013.

## 2012 Workshops and Training

- Behavior Modification
- Personal Negotiation Skills in Relationships
- Walking with the Wounded Child
- Personality Types, and How to Bring Out Personality-Driven Strengths



## A People of Service Abroad: Copts Coming Together for Egypt



### *Sponsors in 2012*

12,000 - Letters translated between children and their sponsors around the world  
46 - Sponsors who visited their sponsored children in Egypt  
453 - Children who gained new sponsors through Copts Got Talent and Better Life Benefit Concerts

Photo by Anand Kokha

### Connecting Copts to Egypt

In 2012, Coptic Orphans translated 12,000 letters between children and their sponsors. Despite periodic unrest, 46 sponsors came personally to spend time with their sponsored children. Even those who could not go to Egypt found ways to connect. 1,300 new sponsors joined Coptic Orphans, and two events both became the largest Coptic Orphans gatherings of Copts united in purpose to bless Egypt.

### Copts Connect Talents to Cause of Egypt's Orphan

Copts Got Talent are concerts that illustrate the great talents from around the world that Copts can use to bless their homeland. Copts showcase their own artistic talents, and draw others to the cause in Egypt. This year, thousands of Copts gathered at events around the globe. They came to Copts Got Talent Sydney and Toronto to see talents from around the Diaspora. Later, the Better Life Praise Team from Cairo, Egypt showcased their own talent at concerts around North America.

### Child Sponsors Go to Egypt, Connect to the Work First-Hand

"I'm really glad I went," says Basma. "It was really rewarding to see Manal well taken care of and growing up in a healthy and safe environment. I was also impressed by the great service of the staff." Coptic Orphans had helped to renovate the home of Manal's family, and, according to the family, the renovations had really transformed it. "A place where you could really live a normal life," says Basma.

Basma and Manal spent about five hours together and visited the local monastery. They had dinner and prayed together. "She talked about her exams and how well she had done," says Basma. "It was good to see how well she was educated and well spoken. She told me she was very happy to meet me."

Basma says that what really attracted her to Coptic Orphans was the focus on education. "What we basically need in Egypt is educated kids. You keep supporting the children as long as they are in school," says Basma.

# A People of Service Abroad: The Power of the Diaspora for Egypt's Good



## A Few Key Statistics from the Diaspora Survey

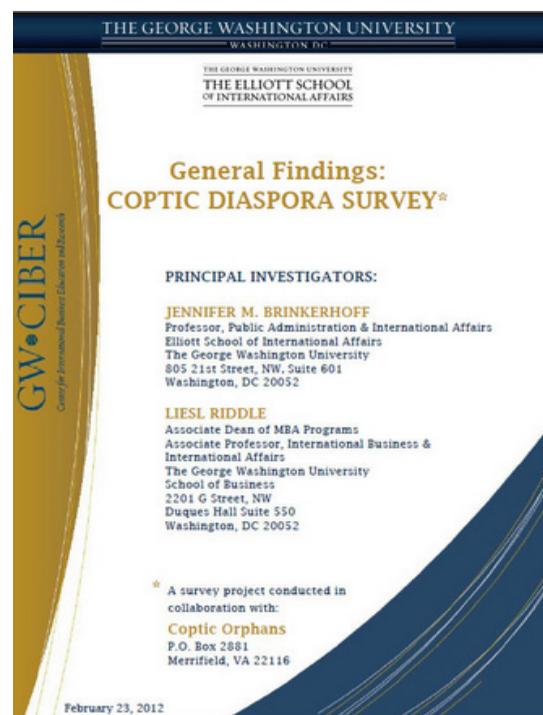
- 95% - Agree that "the future of Egypt is important to me."
- 70% - identify with the broader Egyptian Diaspora, not merely with Copts
- 92% - Made financial donations for Egypt during the last three years
- 80% - Copts abroad who want to contribute to Egypt's social development
- 57% - Want to volunteer for Egypt where they are, if they have the chance

## Copts Deeply United to Egypt, Survey Shows

Before Coptic Orphans commissioned the first-ever in-depth survey of the Coptic Diaspora with George Washington University, we knew it would support the picture that Copts care deeply about the common good of Egypt. But when key government and industry players came to the findings release in 2012, the full magnitude of the resources, skills, and passion among Copts—all available for Egypt's common good—surprised everyone.

The shape of the survey results show Copts are deeply invested in the development of Egypt as a whole. They have resources for accomplishments on the scale as the Great Pyramids in their passion for Egypt. Some highlights:

- > 95% of Copts consider the future of Egypt important. What future do they envision? The best clue is that more express interest in being involved in Egypt's social development than in Egypt's political or business worlds. Even after the revolution, only 3% of Copts were politically involved, and a low number make business investments in Egypt. Yet 92% had contributed donations for the sake of Egypt's poor during the last three years, and 78% had volunteered in the last year.
- > While most Copts engage with their homeland through the Coptic Church, their goal is the good of Egypt as a whole. 82% contribute time and money through their church. 70% identify with a broader Egyptian diaspora, and have a deep sense of connection to Egypt: Copts continue to consider it very important to give back to Egypt even generations after their families left.



See the complete findings at [copticorphans.org/coptic-diaspora-survey](http://copticorphans.org/coptic-diaspora-survey).

## The Coptic Diaspora, the World's Lens for the Problem of Homeland Poverty

### His Grace Bishop Angaelos Sheds Light on Coptic Diaspora Survey Findings

In September, His Grace Bishop Angaelos came to Washington, DC to speak at the US State Department, on Capitol Hill, and at the Library of Congress to raise the profile of Copts and Egypt before scholars and government representatives. Dr. Jennifer Brinkerhoff also presented results from the Coptic Diaspora Survey on Capitol Hill.

His Grace Bishop Angaelos echoed and confirmed the findings of the Coptic Diaspora Survey that the best impact Copts can make is for the sake of Egypt's poor. Everywhere he spoke, His Grace answered the question "Who Are the Copts?" He also said that there are two pressing needs in Egypt: real reconciliation, and real development.

First, Egypt will have the surest political stability when there is "real, grassroots reconciliation," on the street, from village to village. Copts, His Grace says, "are an indivisible part of Egypt." Even what others call the Diaspora has deep roots in Egypt through the Coptic Church, since "95% of Copts are in Egypt," and "We don't make a distinction of Copts outside Egypt and those in Egypt. They belong to one Church."

Second, while some call for Diaspora Copts to be more politically active, "Copts right now are investing in people through humanitarian work: feeding people, educating them, etc." Because Copts belong to a Church with deep roots in Egyptian society "before there were Christians or Muslims," they will make the greatest impact by investing in human development.

“Who are Copts in Diaspora? They are Egyptians, they are Copts, and in our case [at this presentation], they are Americans. And they have much to offer for Egypt's development.”



## Stepping Out as a People for Service: Our Plans for 2013



We've seen that the Coptic Diaspora has so much potential to make a difference for the Egyptian homeland.

Why not come along with us in 2013?

Support the many things we're doing, or come to Egypt and volunteer.

Coptic Orphans will be building more access to high-quality education for our children in 2013, and will draw on the resources of all Copts around the world to make sure that our children shine like never before among their peers.

Meanwhile, our highly successful microcredit program will bring self-sufficiency for more families.

10,000 children will have access to healthcare.

We'll provide opportunities for academic success to girls at risk of dropping out of school.

And finally, we'll go deeper to help heal the traumas that children face in Egypt's increasingly insecure environment.

Through it all, we're counting on you to rise up and build a new pyramid of social and educational development.

### Goals for 2013

2,000 New children in our flagship program

200 More widowed mothers providing for their families with self-sustaining businesses

More children gaining scholarships and distinguishing themselves in high-quality education

10,000 children with high-quality health insurance

# Stewarding The Movement of Service, with Effectiveness

## Board of Directors:

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Dr. Ashraf Rofail

### Canada

Mark G. Nakhla

### Australia

Debbie Armanious  
Rhonda Farag  
Ben Morcos

### UK

Andrew Abdalla  
Daniel Boctor  
Randa Shafieg

### Advisory Board

Julie Meawad  
Dr. Robie Samanta Roy  
Andrew Whiteworth

This year, Charity Navigator—North America's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit financial effectiveness and accountability—again gave Coptic Orphans its competitive and four-star rating: an uncommon accomplishment for any international charity, but a singular badge of pride for the Coptic community.

## Expenses

### Field Programs and Educational Stewardship

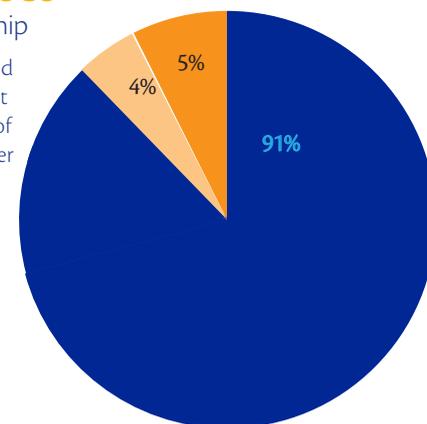
What we spent on our child development and community development programs and what we set aside for our children's future as part of our covenant to stand by each family, whether we continue to receive donations or not.

### Management & General

The support that keeps our programs running, like office expenses and financial accountability

### Fundraising

What we spend to raise funds, like credit card fees on donations, events, and printing



## Consolidated Statement of Activities Years Ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

	2012			2011		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>						
Contribution Income	\$6,684,441		\$6,684,441	\$5,476,012		\$5,476,012
Grant income	\$1,000	\$1,004,441	\$1,005,441		\$1,098,335	\$1,098,335
Interest income and investment income	\$98,071		\$98,071	\$58,825		\$58,825
Unrealized gain in investment value	-\$11,489		-\$11,489	\$55,363		\$55,363
Net assets released from restrictions	\$97,462	-\$97,462	\$0	\$93,894	-\$93,894	\$0
<b>Unrestricted support and reclassifications</b>	<b>\$6,869,485</b>	<b>\$906,979</b>	<b>\$7,776,464</b>	<b>\$5,684,094</b>	<b>\$1,004,441</b>	<b>\$6,688,535</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Child Development Program	\$4,056,093		\$4,056,093	\$3,562,058		\$3,562,058
Community Development Program	\$473,197		\$473,197	\$286,006		\$286,006
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$4,529,290</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,529,290</b>	<b>\$3,848,064</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,848,064</b>
<b>Supporting services</b>						
Management and general	\$365,790		\$365,790	\$354,400		\$354,400
Fundraising	\$290,169		\$290,169	\$229,006		\$229,006
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$655,959</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$655,959</b>	<b>\$583,406</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$583,406</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,185,249</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,185,249</b>	<b>\$4,431,470</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,431,470</b>
Change in net assets	\$1,695,725	\$906,979	\$2,602,704	\$1,252,623	\$1,004,441	\$2,257,064
<b>Net assets, beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$5,908,384</b>		<b>\$5,908,384</b>	<b>\$3,785,584</b>		<b>\$3,785,584</b>
Change in currency value	-\$40,983		-\$40,983	-\$134,264		-\$134,264
<b>Net assets, end of Year</b>	<b>\$7,563,126</b>	<b>\$906,979</b>	<b>\$8,470,105</b>	<b>\$4,903,943</b>	<b>\$1,004,441</b>	<b>\$5,908,384</b>

Audited Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

# Sponsor a Child Today.

**United States** | EIN: 54-1637257

P.O. Box 2881  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
800-499-2989

**Australia** | ABN: 92 753 235 136

P.O. Box 469  
Belmore, NSW 2192  
02-9787-9777

**Canada** | Tax ID: 879517712RR0001

P.O. Box 52033  
Laval, QC H7P 5S1  
450-736-0975

**United Kingdom** | Charity No.: 1133307

\*Use United States Address  
0203-372-4475

**Egypt** | International NGO Registration No.: 92

3 Rafik Salah El-Din St.  
Heliopolis, Cairo  
02-2638-9227

[WWW.COPTICORPHANS.ORG](http://WWW.COPTICORPHANS.ORG)

