



The Miracle of Hope House

When Mahboba Rawi visited a village of tents in Kabul and saw the desperation there, she began to pray to God for help and her prayers were answered. Now we need help to make more miracles happen.

When Mahboba Rawi visited Kabul in July 2003 she saw hundreds of refugees living in a slum city of tents on the side of the road and she stopped to talk with the families living there. They had no running water, no electricity, no food, no work, and no hope. Children were sick and filthy and covered in sores; people hadn't bathed for weeks; and children were sent to beg for scraps or forage on the city's dumps. One father of seven children who had lost one arm and hence could not work, was almost demented with sorrow. Mahboba said she had never seen so many desperate people. The tents had relief organisations' insignia on them, but these people were getting no help whatsoever from anyone.

So desperate was the situation that Mahboba realised she had to do something. When she explained the situation to several NGO representatives she knew, she was introduced to a high-ranking Government minister and given a building rent-free for a year to house the tent dwellers. This building is brand-new, has hot water and electricity and is a miraculous improvement on the slums in which the tent-dwelling Afghans currently live. But Mahboba still needs to transport these people to the building she has called Hope House. There are roughly 2,000 people living in the tent slums and they need clothes, bedding, schooling, household utensils ... there is an enormous job ahead to get these people going again. With uncle Haji on the ground in Kabul,

Mahboba's Promise is doing what it can as quickly as possible before Afghanistan's winter settles in and freezes people to death.

With your help – and more miracles! – we wish to make full use of Hope House. We need financial support so we can:

- Transport families to Hope House
- Set up basic facilities, including food, furniture and clothing
- Provide heating
- Pay a refuge coordinator
- Provide books, computers, teachers and rudimentary education
- Maintain ongoing facilities



More than 200 destitute families are living in this slum of tents on the side of the road in Kabul with no water, no food, no work, no hope.



> Above left, Uncle Haji Sazal Ahmad Sabit, Director of Mahboba's Promise in Afghanistan, with volunteers in front of Hope House

Thank you!

- Many thanks to DICK SMITH for his \$5,000 donation that has helped to move 21 families to Hope House
- Sincerest thanks to Bio-Distributors, Bio-dynamic and Organic Wholesalers of Tasmania, who sponsored this news letter. They can be contacted by phone/fax on 03 6491 1439.



Adventurer and Australian of the Year Dick Smith (left) donated \$5,000 to Mahboba's Promise after reading about her in *The Bulletin*, September 2003.

Life Changing:

An outsider's point of view about humanitarian work in a war-torn country

Filmmaker Gary Caganoff recently visited Kabul to make a documentary about the Afghani way of life. He visited and stayed with uncle Haji of Mahboba's Promise and witnessed the building of a new children's home in Kabul, thanks to money sent from Australia. This is an excerpt of a letter he sent Mahboba's Promise on his return two months later to his home in the Blue Mountains, NSW:

"My two-month stay with Haji and the children, and my experiences in Kabul, has changed my life

in ways I could never have imagined before. My time there was very emotional, witnessing so much destruction yet so much courage and hope for the future. I appreciate all the help I was given by Haji and his staff to make my filming work successful. I hope soon that I will repay the kindness with the making of a good film that will screen all around the world, giving international exposure to the work of Mahboba's Promise and the plight of the country. Mahboba's Promise work is of global significance in that, out of all the 800 NGOs in Kabul, only a handful are actually doing somet-

hing useful.

"I want to express my extreme admiration for both Mahboba's work in fundraising and Haji's on-the-ground work in Afghanistan. The work is vital for the wellbeing of thousands of women and children. Meeting and spending time with Haji was a pleasure. One gets the impression, and he has said so many times, that he is working only for the children. This is true. His heart is working for the children who need so much love and attention. I cannot express enough the goodness of this man."

"I want to express my extreme admiration for both Mahboba's work in fundraising and Haji's on-the-ground work in Afghanistan." Gary Caganoff



In the Press > The Bulletin



"Mahboba Rawi has the sort of quiet command that can still a room. Her stories about the aftermath of that other war we've "won" – the 2001 Coalition assault on Afghanistan that ousted the Taliban – leave you with one of two options. To get angry or to get active. It's one thing to read dispassionate balance-sheet accounts of how Afghanistan is faring two years after the American-led action, but quite another to grapple with just how timorous, how unambitious the West has been about reversing the fortunes of the 23 million Afghan population."

Introductory excerpt from *The Bulletin*, September 30, 2003. For a full transcript of the interview, visit the website, www.bulletin.ninemsn.com.au/ and click on "Columnists", then "Lunch with Maxine McKew" and scroll down until you reach the Mahboba interview.

Contact us

Email mahboba@mahbobaspromise.org

Phone 02 9887 1665

Fax 02 9889 0473

www.mahbobaspromise.org

Afghan Feast a big hit

Five hundred supporters raised over \$20,000 for Mahboba's Promise projects



More than 500 glamorous guests packed downtown Parramatta's Parra Villa function centre in August, 2003 to hear sitar player Khalil Godaz play, to view the beautiful young Afghani men and women in exquisite costumes and to hear the ABC's Maxine McKew and Mahboba speak in a wonderful fund-raising night that raised over \$20,000 for the widows and children of Afghanistan. Genial host, Omar Anwaryar put on a fabulous feast for all the guests,

Top left photo: Mahboba Rawi and Kamahl (centre) flanked by beautiful young women in Afghan costume. Top right photo: The ABC's Maxine McKew (right), with Mahboba, was Master of Ceremonies for the night

actor John Howard was the very funny auctioneer and everyone had a lot of fun. Many thanks to all of you who provided wonderful prizes and auction items; and more thanks again to all of you who joined us on the night!

YES, I WANT TO HELP

- I wish to make a one-off donation of \$
- I wish to sponsor a child @ \$35 a month (100% goes to child)
- I wish to sponsor a widow @ \$50 a month (100% goes to widow)
- AND I am a supporter and wish to pay annual membership fees of \$15 a year

Name

Address

Telephone number

Mobile number

Email address

Please tick if you do not wish to receive newsletters or updates by email.

You can pay one of three different ways

1. **By cheque.** Please fill in the attached and include it with your cheque to Mahboba's Promise, P O Box 6234, North Ryde, NSW 2113. Thank you!
2. **By direct debit** from your bank account.
3. **By credit card.** Mahboba's Promise accepts Bankcard, Mastercard and Visa only, and these payments can be made by filling out the attached (below). You choose!

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Credit Card Number

Credit card expiry date: _ _ _ _

Signature

Mahboba's Promise is a non-government organisation registered for fund-raising purposes, ABN 85 254 682 685

Thank You!





We need help

Our success depends on a small team of committed volunteers. This is your chance to give some of your valuable skills and time to make a real difference!

Sister School

Australian schools are invited to sponsor a sister school in Afghanistan and help other children become better educated. The project involves sponsoring costs of a chosen Afghan school for a negotiable period of time. Sydney schools are asked to volunteer a target amount over a period of preferably one to two years to cover the costs of maintenance, teacher salaries, school fees, or equipment and resources. Schools also have the option of collecting second-hand goods and sending them directly to Afghanistan. There are different

options for schools with different budgets. In return schools will receive an information letter about the Afghan school. The program is flexible and Mahboba's Promise encourages each school to consider how best it can help its Afghani counterparts, considering its own funds and resources. To help schools communicate what children overseas have in terms of "education", Mahboba Rawi is available to speak at school assemblies to launch the program. *For more information, call Marianne Leishman, 02 9428 2720.*

FUNDRAISING MANAGER

Mahboba's Promise needs the talents of a professional, driven person to oversee the organisation's fundraising efforts. Suitable candidates will possess good business acumen and strong communications skills and, ideally, some experience in fundraising.

PROJECT MANAGERS

Pivotal in our organisation, project managers are responsible for researching, identifying, planning and coordinating various fundraising and aid projects. This role involves targeting Government and NGOs to fund various projects in Afghanistan. It also involves targeting suppliers for donations of valuable supplies. Close liaison with our team of volunteers both in Australia and

Afghanistan is required. We seek a proactive, self-starter committed to seeing projects through to completion.

MYOB ADMINISTRATOR

We require a finance administrator with experience in MYOB for our small North Ryde office 1-2 days per week. Requirements include general administrative & computer skills including accurate typing & good English skills.

DONATIONS IN KIND

We are seeking donations for our Sydney office so that fiscal donations can go straight to help Afghans. Please donate A4 ream paper, pre-paid envelopes, Canon BJC 1000ST ink cartridges and Canon fax machine ink cartridge. Thank you!



Please
affix
stamp



**PO Box 6234
North Ryde NSW 2113**