

Canadians in Support of Afghan Women (CSAW)



An Affiliate of "Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan" (CW4WA)

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR AFGHAN PARTNERS



"Education is the Light, May it never be extinguished" is the quote over the front door that continues to greet Afghan students as they enter their two year old, 12 room school financed through the generosity of Canadian donors and the expertise of Ash Khan. As last

year, Nazaneen Majeed, the founder and director of the schools that CSAW has supported since 1999, continues to be concerned for the security of her staff and students. There have been many violent incidents both in Peshawar and Jalalabad, the location of our schools but fortunately, both schools were spared any direct violence. Events continue to challenge Nazaneen and we appreciate her dedication to the education of her students.

Our school in the village outside of Jalalabad has just recently come under the jurisdiction of the Afghanistan Ministry of Education, precisely the Department of Education for Nangahar province. This is a result of the determination of Nazaneen, who made the application, travelled to Kabul several times for meetings, met with officials in Jalalabad and filled out much paper work. The country director of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, CW4WA, Murwarid Ziayee assisted in this lengthy process. Thank you Nazaneen and Murwarid for your successful efforts on behalf of the students and teachers. CSAW continues to help finance all other expenses at the school along with the second school in Peshawar.

In addition, CSAW financially supports the Libraries for Afghanistan fund we initiated with Deborah Ellis in 2003. CW4WA administers the fund. We were pleased to hear about the success of Dara Village Library at the CW4WA Conference in Kelowna, B.C. from Ishaq Faizi, who led the establishment of this small, village library where women also participate in literacy classes. Ishaq Faizi is a lawyer who along with his staff of lawyers, mostly female, assists female clients and prosecutes perpetrators of violence against women.

CSAW PROJECTS

Money we raise supports our three projects in Afghanistan:

- **The Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC):** 100% of the proceeds from our sales of beautifully handcrafted goods is sent back to allow the women who make the goods to support themselves & their families.
- **Libraries for Afghanistan:** This money is used to rebuild destroyed library resources and start up new libraries .
- **Nazaneen Jabarkhil Education & Health Centre (NEHC)** Funds raised have enabled thousands of Afghan children to attend school. With the help of our donors we also contributed to the building of a new NEHC school in Afghanistan.

We continue to raise money for Teachers' salaries (\$750 annually per Teacher), school supplies and furniture. With your generous help, since October 1999, CSAW has been able to aid the above three projects. Donations to date are in excess of: \$550,000!

CSAW Awarded Community Spirit Award

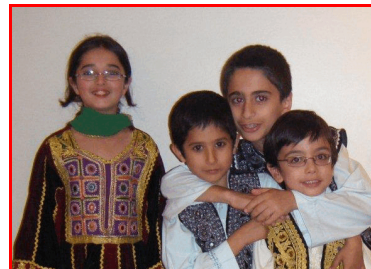


In the Spring of 2010 CSAW was invited to attend the Community Awards Ceremony for Oakville "champions"- "for those who are committed to making our community strong". Several awards were given to deserving individuals and groups. CSAW being one of them received the International Award as an

"organization that has made an outstanding, voluntary contribution to an international initiative or project." CSAW's award sponsor was EllisDon and we thank them. We also thank Ruth Sheridan, a CSAW member, and all those who wrote letters and comments to be submitted with the nomination. We are truly proud to be among the many organizations and individuals in Oakville who contribute to their community at home and abroad.

"THUNDER OVER KANDAHAR" BOOK LAUNCH

On the evening of September 21, 2010, CSAW assisted Annick Press with the launching of Sharon McKay's most recent novel, "Thunder Over Kandahar." Sharon is a Canadian war artist and writes for young adults. This book describes the enduring friendship between two teenage girls who are living within the terror and chaos of present-day Afghanistan. The launch was held at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse in the Corktown/Distillery Heritage District of Toronto. Over 150 guests arrived to celebrate the release of Sharon's latest book and enjoy a reception that featured an array of



fine Afghan finger foods, and saffron flavoured lemonade. Children from Famia Haidary's extended family, wearing traditional Afghan dress, welcomed the guests and assisted the organizers in serving food.

Following the reception, honored guest, Zuhra Bahman-Ludin, wife of the Ambassador to Afghanistan, spoke with great emotion about her experiences under the Taliban and her life long passion for reading and education. She was warm and witty and relayed that her father could always tell what she was reading by how she was acting at the time. Her words were the perfect ending to an evening that brought light to the very difficult situation facing girls and women in

Afghanistan. Before she spoke we heard about CSAW and their endeavours at supporting the education of women and girls in Afghanistan.



CSAW thanks all those who supported this event including ETFO for their assistance in contacting Toronto ETFO members and Adeena Niazi and Parwana Siddique from the Afghan Women's Organization in Toronto inviting the Toronto Afghan Community to attend the event.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

A special acknowledgment to all of our long term sustaining donors and friends. This continued support for CSAW is greatly appreciated. We count on you! Thank you.

- SAVIS and ETFO-Halton for their ongoing support which has contributed to our success.
- Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan – CW4WA
- 'A Tiny Shift' and 'John Beaudette Web Design' for computer savvy and services
- This year WHAM and Zonta of Oakville raised \$11,500 for CSAW from their annual Dinner Party in celebration of International Women's Day. We are very appreciative.
- Thank you to the Retired Teachers of Ontario – District 15 Halton for approving an application CSAW made to their fund Service to Others in the amount of \$4000 for the funding of Library Resources and furniture for the village school outside of Jalalabad.
- Thank you to those of you who responded to our request for material, threads etc. that were sent to Kandahar prison for the women held there with their children. With donations, sewing machines were purchased. Kudos to Sharon McKay and Gail Latouche for this initiative.
- A special thank you to Michael Krak and Lisa Bako from Winnipeg, Manitoba who donated \$1500 after Gail Latouche recommended our organization to them. Thanks too to Gail.
- Another thank you to the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Bowmanville for a \$1000 donation.
- Thank you to the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario – Provincial office for their \$2000 sponsorship of the annual CW4WA Conference and Public Engagement held in Kelowna, British Columbia.
- Another thank you to Oakville entrepreneur C.J. Martin of C.J.'s Café in Bronte. In 2010, C.J. held two fundraisers for CSAW by encouraging customers to donate at her café and personally contributed as well

2010 CW4WA Conference & AGM

Delegates who attended the conference this past Oct 14th to 16th in Kelowna BC, believe strongly that **EDUCATION = PEACE**, and education is the foundation for reconstruction in Afghanistan. About 60 Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WA) members and supporters, including CSAW, from all across Canada joined together to discuss ways to support Afghan women and girls to ensure they receive an education.

At the conference, we were thrilled to hear that CW4WA in partnership with Munaf Husain of Dancing Light Pictures in Toronto had developed our first PSA - "**The Real Enemy is Illiteracy**", to be released on several TV stations across the country. Well known political figure and Keynote Speaker, Iona Campagnola, reclaimed the word *feminist*, defined as "a woman or girl who has within herself the strength to fight her way to independence." She spoke passionately about the meaning of this definition as it related to her

experiences and the value of empowering Afghan women and girls. On the Saturday, H.E. Jawed Ludin, the Afghan Ambassador to Canada and his wife Zuhra Bahman-Ludin spoke about the great importance of the work in which CW4Wafghan/CSAW is engaged to help the people of Afghanistan obtain an education. Murwarid Zaiyee, CW4WA's country director, Lauryn Oates, CW4WA's



project director, Ishaq Faizi, Dara Village Library Founder and Janis Rapchuk, CW4WA director, spoke about the work that's been done. Roya Rahmani had us captivated in an interactive workshop on

Islam, women and our perception. The day ended with a panel discussion on Canada's role in Afghanistan with Ambassador Ludin, Lauryn Oates, Najia Hanifi, Founder of the Afghan Women's Political Action Committee and President of the Afghan Women's Radio Station. Also kudos to the LW4LWafghan or the "Littles" and their families in Kelowna, "**Tashakor**" for hosting this conference.

SAVE THE DATES! Sept. 29, 30 Oct. 1, 2011

CSAW is hosting the Canadian Women For Women in Afghanistan (CW4WA) annual general meeting and symposium entitled "**Champions: Education for Afghan Women and Girls**", on **September 29, 30 and October 1, 2011** in Oakville, Ontario. Member delegates of the national organization CW4WA along with CSAW will be coming to Oakville from across Canada. Events on Saturday October 1, 2011, featuring the head of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, Dr. Sima Samar, along with other Afghan partners, will be open to the public. Another highlight of the 3 day symposium will be a dinner to recognize Oakville's own Sally Armstrong on Friday September 30, 2011. The evening, open to the public, will be entitled "**Celebrating Sally Armstrong**" and will feature Dr. Sima Samar along with others to bring tributes to Sally for her untiring dedication to the Human Rights of Afghan women and girls. **LOOK FOR FURTHER DETAILS** on our web site or sign up for our monthly news by using the information in the newsletter header!!!

WANT A FULFILLING WAY TO SPEND TIME?

If you are looking for meaningful volunteer work that makes a global difference, we welcome you at CSAW. Our volunteers present Human Rights Programs in schools, make presentations to raise awareness in the community, sell Afghan goods, do fundraising and assist in areas such as administration, finance or technology. Whatever time you have to give will be appreciated. Join us on the second Thursday of each month at **9:30 a.m.** for our monthly meetings at the *ETFO offices (at Appleby Line just north of the QEW)*. Contact Ruth at **905 827 2053**.

HELP - 3 Ways to Donate

1. Cheque or Cash at any official CSAW event or Mail cheques to address in header at the top of page
2. Tax Receipt \$30 min. Make cheque to **CW4WA** - put **CSAW** on memo line. Mail to address in header at the top of page
3. Online: www.canadahelps.org using credit card or interact online. Under "I want to give to" put "Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan" Click "Donate Now", enter the amount. Most Important under designation, in the pull down menu, choose #6 **CSAW**