BRINGING HOPE TO THE CHILDREN OF Afghanistan

Dor Bibi was given her Gift of Life on June 9th, 2012

JUNE/JULY 2012
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This spring, The Nowruz Commission partnered with Gift of Life International (GOLI) to deliver the ultimate gift to ten Afghan children who received life-saving cardiac surgeries at The French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul, Afghanistan. This hospital was established in 2005 as a joint project of the governments of France and Afghanistan and the French non-governmental organization La Chaîne de L’Espoir/Enfants Afghans.

The Nowruz Commission is a coalition of 12 countries and cultures established in 2010 to promote the philosophy of care and giving based on a time honored, ancient Persian tradition. "Nowruz Commission exists to promote the spirit of togetherness and keep this tradition alive around the world", said Nasser Kazeminy, the Chairman of the Nowruz Commission which is based in Washington DC.

Nowruz is a three thousand year-old Persian tradition of celebrating the arrival of spring and renewal of the earth. Moreover, Nowruz carries an ancient philosophy of care and giving. "This is just the beginning. We will continue our partnership with Gift of Life International and are grateful to NECO (National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations) members for their generous support of our programs", said Gissou Kian, Board member and President of the Nowruz Commission.

Chairman Kazeminy (who is also the Chairman of NECO) approached GOLI to help find a way to provide life-saving surgeries for Afghan children suffering from congenital heart defects. GOLI immediately contacted their partners at La Chaine de L’Espoir/Enfants Afghans and in less than 60 days surgeries for ten Afghani children were scheduled to take place in Kabul. NECO and GOLI have a long history of cooperation on saving lives around the world and this is their first joint-effort in Afghanistan. Additionally, NECO is a sustaining sponsor of GOLI.

NECO is a global leader in supporting new education initiatives and cutting-edge medical research endeavors, partners with humanitarian organizations nationally and internationally, celebrates the diversity, achievements and progress of all ethnic backgrounds, promotes tolerance and cultural awareness.

This was the first time that GOLI participated in providing direct-care to Afghani children in Afghanistan and is proud of the partnership that has been forged with NECO, The Nowruz Commission, and The French Medical Institute for Children and La Chaine de L’Espoir/Enfants Afghans. The hope is that this is only the beginning of their combined efforts to help the children in need of Afghanistan.
Children who received the Gift of Life

1) Sharafuddin - Son of Mohammed                    Panjshir Province
2) Humaira - Daughter of Mohd Hasad                  Kabul City
3) Rahil - Daughter of Shamahmod                      Parwan Province
4) Dor Bibi - Daughter of Nader Shah                 Surobi, Kabul Province
5) Fazila - Daughter of Abdul Qadir                   Kabul City
6) Nazir - Son of Nasiri                               Ghazni Province
7) Laila - Daughter of Sarwar                         Balkh Province
8) Gul Marjan - Daughter of Mohammadullah             Kabul Province
9) Marzia - Daughter of Bismullah                      Maidan Wardak
10) Samiullah - Son of Hamidullah                      Kapisa Province
Humaira
Daughter of Mohd Hasad

AGE: 10 years
COMES FROM: Kabul City
REFERRED BY: Dr. Najibullah Bina, FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: Post Pulmonary Banding / Ventricular Septal Defect
DATE OF SURGERY: June 14th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: VSD Closure / Enlargement of main pulmonary pericardial patch
COST OF SURGERY: $3736

Upon discharge, Humaira stayed at the Children’s house for three days and returned to her home following her post-surgical check-up. She had a good post-operative recovery. On June 18th, Humaira returned to the Children’s house with nausea, vomiting, and severe headaches. She was seen at FMIC where a CT Scan and blood work were performed. She was seen again on June 20th with much improved health. No further treatment is required at this time.

Sharafuddin
Son of Mohammed

AGE: 14 years
COMES FROM: Panjshir Province
REFERRED BY: La Chaine de l’espoir Education project
DIAGNOSIS: Ventricular Septal Defect
DATE OF SURGERY: June 7th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: VSD Closure
COST OF SURGERY: $3060

Sharafuddin made a good post-operative recovery and is doing very well. He has returned to the Panjshir Valley with his family. He was scheduled for a follow-up consultation on June 20th and received a positive report. Sharafuddin has been given a second chance at life and will be able to return to the life of a normal teenager.

Humaira
Daughter of Mohd Hasad

AGE: 10 years
COMES FROM: Kabul City
REFERRED BY: Dr. Najibullah Bina, FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: Post Pulmonary Banding / Ventricular Septal Defect
DATE OF SURGERY: June 14th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: VSD Closure / Enlargement of main pulmonary pericardial patch
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Dor Bibi
Daughter of Nader Shah

AGE: 10 years
COMES FROM: Surobi, Kabul Province
REFERRED BY: Community Ministry of Health program (BPHS) clinics
DIAGNOSIS: Atrial Septal Defect & Pulmonary Stenosis
DATE OF SURGERY: June 9th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: Complete Repair
COST OF SURGERY: $3353

Dor Bibi had a good post-operative recovery. She stayed at the children’s house for three days post-op to recover. Following her post-operative clinic consultation she made the journey home and returned for the second post-op check up on June 26th where she was given a positive report.

Rahil
Daughter of Shamahmod

AGE: 18 months
COMES FROM: Parwan Province
REFERRED BY: Dr. Sayed Saber, FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: Patent Ductus Arteriosus
DATE OF SURGERY: June 9th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: Repair of PDA
COST OF SURGERY: $1400

Baby Rahil was discharged from FMIC and did so well that she was able to go straight home with her family. Unfortunately, she was readmitted for observation on June 18th only to find that she had measles. She was followed closely to ensure she returned to good health.

Dor Bibi
Daughter of Nader Shah

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COMES FROM: Surobi, Kabul Province
REFERRED BY: Community Ministry of Health program (BPHS) clinics
DIAGNOSIS: Atrial Septal Defect & Pulmonary Stenosis
DATE OF SURGERY: June 9th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: Complete Repair
COST OF SURGERY: $3353

Dor Bibi had a good post-operative recovery. She stayed at the children’s house for three days post-op to recover. Following her post-operative clinic consultation she made the journey home and returned for the second post-op check up on June 26th where she was given a positive report.
AGE: 16 years
COMES FROM: Ghazni Province but currently living in Kabul due to economic reasons
REFERRED BY: Dr. Najibullah Bina FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: Constrictive pericarditis, pericardial effusion, bilateral pleural effusion, chest pain, massive ascites
DATE OF SURGERY: June 9th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: Pericardial Decortication
COST OF SURGERY: $3476

Nazir made a remarkable recovery following a 9 day stay in the ICU. Aside from his many cardiac maladies, he also suffers from tuberculosis. Nazir comes from a family of 8. His mother is a widow and earns money to support the family by washing clothes and cleaning. Nazir is the eldest but is unable to work due to TB and chronic health problems. His 14 year old brother subsidizes the family income by working on the street washing cars after school.

Fazila
Daughter of Abdul Qadir

AGE: 11 years
COMES FROM: Kabul City
REFERRED BY: Dr. Najibullah Bina FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: PDA and PHT
DATE OF SURGERY: June 13th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: Closure of PDA
COST OF SURGERY: $1765

Fazila recovered well from surgery. She stayed at the children’s house for a few days post-op to ensure a full recovery before returning to her home. Her next post op visit was scheduled for June 22nd at which time doctors were very pleased with her recovery. Fazila has been given hope and a second chance at life.

Nazir
Son of Nasiri
AGE: 11 years
COMES FROM: Balkh Province
REFERRED BY: Dr. Najibullah Bina FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: Atrial Septal Defect
DATE OF SURGERY: June 14th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: ASD Closure
COST OF SURGERY: $2696

Laila had a very good post-operative recovery. She was discharged to the Children’s House four days after surgery and had a post-op check up on June 19th. Laila received a positive medical report and was able to return home to her family with a new lease on life.

AGE: 10 years
COMES FROM: Kabul Province
REFERRED BY: Alaibad Cardiac Research Center
DIAGNOSIS: Atrial Septal Defect
DATE OF SURGERY: July 21st, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: ASD Closure
COST OF SURGERY: $3192

Gul Marjan recovered quickly following corrective open-heart surgery and was released to the Children’s House just 3 days later. She is the youngest of 5 siblings. Her father is a taxi driver and the sole wage earner in the household. He supports his family on just $160 per month. The family lives in a rented home and struggles to get by.
Samiullah
Son of Hamidullah

AGE: 11 years
COMES FROM: Kapisa Province
REFERRED BY: Nejrab District Hospital
DIAGNOSIS: Tetrology of Fallot
DATE OF SURGERY: July 21st, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: TOF Complete Repair
COST OF SURGERY: $3483

Samiullah had a remarkable recovery with just 2 days in the ICU and a total of 6 days in the hospital before returning home to his family with a new lease on life. Samiullah has five siblings who all go to school. His attendance at school has been very irregular due to very poor health. Now that his heart is corrected, he is eager to study and do other things like a normal 11 year old. Samiullah’s father is a laborer and works on a farm whenever there is work available.

Marzia
Daughter of Besmullah

AGE: 7 years
COMES FROM: Maidan Wardak
REFERRED BY: Dr. Najibullah Bina FMIC
DIAGNOSIS: Ventricular Septal Defect
DATE OF SURGERY: July 27th, 2012
TYPE OF SURGERY: VSD Closure
COST OF SURGERY: $3864

Marzia was in the hospital for a total of 9 days following her corrective open-heart surgery. Two of those days were spent in the ICU. Marzia has a large family. She lives with her mother and father, two brothers and five sisters. They live in a small rented house. Her father sells gas on the street but they struggle to survive. Marzia’s family is very happy that she has been given a second chance at life. This is one big worry lifted from their shoulders.
# Total Expenditures for Ten Pediatric Cardiac Surgeries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Surgery</th>
<th>Surgical Cost</th>
<th>Outpatient cost</th>
<th>Social cost</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Humaira</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Post Pulmonary</td>
<td>14/06/12 DORV-VSD closure - PDA Banding</td>
<td>$3,478</td>
<td>$178</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$3,736</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sharafuddin</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>VSD</td>
<td>07/06/12 VSD closure</td>
<td>$2,841</td>
<td>$93</td>
<td>$126</td>
<td>$3,060</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Fazila</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>PDA+PHT</td>
<td>13/06/12 Closure of PDA</td>
<td>$1,713</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>$44</td>
<td>$1,765</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rahil</td>
<td>18M</td>
<td>PDA</td>
<td>09/06/12 Repair of PDA</td>
<td>$1,241</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>$136</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dor Bibi</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ASD+PS</td>
<td>9/6/2012 Complete Repair</td>
<td>$3,097</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>$3,353</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Laila</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>14/06/12 ASD closure</td>
<td>$2,501</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td>$186</td>
<td>$2,696</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nazir</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Constrictive Pericarditis</td>
<td>09/06/12 Pericardial Decortication</td>
<td>$2,990</td>
<td>$223</td>
<td>$263</td>
<td>$3,476</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gul Marjan</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>21/07/2012 ASD closure</td>
<td>$2,770</td>
<td>$263</td>
<td>$159</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Samiullah</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>TOF (pink fallot.O2 sat 92%)</td>
<td>21/07/2012 Complete repair</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$232</td>
<td>$251</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Marzia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>VSD Restrictive</td>
<td>27/07/2012 VSD closure</td>
<td>$3,300</td>
<td>$295</td>
<td>$269</td>
<td>$3,864</td>
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</table>

**Total:**
- Total Surgical Cost: $26,931
- Total Outpatient Cost: $1,396
- Total Social Cost: $1,698
- Total Cost: $30,025

Number of Children Operated: 10  
Age Range of Children Operated: 18 months to 16 years  
Success Rate: 100%  
Average Cost per patient: $3000  
Average Income per Family: $2 - $3 per day  
Type of Surgery Performed:  
- Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) 3  
- Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) 3  
- Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) 2  
- Tetrology of Fallot (TOF) 1  
- Constrictive Pericarditis 1
Dr. Najeebullah Bina, Dr. Ashmatullah Nawabi, Dr. Naseem Anaesthesia
Photos courtesy of Vincent Dumagenc

The French Medical Institute for Children
Kabul, Afghanistan