



SPRING 2005

# Partnership

*with the needy*

The Official Newsletter of Islamic Relief USA

## ISLAMIC RELIEF RESPONDS TO ASIA TSUNAMI DISASTER

Responding to one of the greatest natural disasters in recent times, Islamic Relief provided emergency aid to tsunami victims in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India. Islamic Relief is committed to helping the victims through long-term development projects.

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An Acehese girl cries with her mother near the ruins of their house in Banda Aceh.

# OVER 280,000 PEOPLE PERISH IN TSUNAMI DISASTER, MILLIONS LEFT HOMELESS

## ISLAMIC RELIEF RESPONDS WITHIN HOURS OF DISASTER

**O**n December 26, 2004, one of the most devastating natural disasters in recent history took place, affecting millions of people across 12 different countries in Asia and East Africa. The earthquake that caused the tsunamis was the most powerful to hit the earth in 40 years, measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale.

As of this printing, the death toll from the devastating tsunamis in Asia has reached over 280,000, and The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that as many as five million people are at risk, with little water, food or shelter. The WHO also reported that diseases could double the natural disaster's death count before the situation can be stabilized. "Unless the necessary funds are urgently mobilized and coordinated in the field, we could see as many fatalities from diseases as we have seen from the actual disaster itself," said Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations at WHO.

The United Nations reported that the disaster would require the largest relief effort in history.

### Islamic Relief Response

Within hours of the disaster, Islamic Relief representatives were on the ground, assessing the damage, and assisting the victims. Islamic Relief Worldwide launched a \$19 Million appeal - the largest in its history - to aid the victims of the Asia tsunami disaster. Islamic Relief Worldwide's work is primarily taking place in the three most severely affected countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India.

### Indonesia

Working in the hardest hit province of Aceh, Islamic Relief Worldwide's

immediate emergency response consisted of food and clean water distribution, emergency shelter, healthcare and nutrition projects, and distribution of *Udhiyah/Qurban\** meat.

### Sri Lanka

Islamic Relief's emergency response in Sri Lanka took place in the Eastern Province district of Ampara, in the villages of Kalmunai, Nithavur, Sainthamaruthu, and Karathivu.

Islamic Relief Worldwide's emergency projects in Sri Lanka consisted of repairing homes damaged by the tsunamis to facilitate a quick return for people living in temporary camps. First priority for this project was given to female-headed households, the elderly, and families with young girls. In addition, Islamic Relief Worldwide's emergency relief project consisted of food and clean water distribution, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, emergency shelter, clothing and medicine.

### India

Islamic Relief partnered with Indian Muslim Relief and Charities (IMRC) to provide emergency assistance to tsunami victims in India. Islamic Relief helped provide 250 families with clothing, utensils, essential grains, and materials to rebuild their huts which were destroyed. In addition, Islamic Relief supported income generation projects to allow the affected families to earn their own livelihood so that they can become self-sufficient. •

\* *Udhiyah/Qurbani* is an Islamic religious practice performed at the time of *Eid al-Adha* (the 10th day of the Islamic month of *Dhu al-Hijjah*) involving the sacrifice of an animal. The event commemorates the sacrifice that Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) made to God to show his devotion and commitment to Him. Islamic Relief performs *Udhiyah/Qurbani* on behalf of its donors, and distributes the meat to beneficiaries.



Emergency aid supplies are prepared for loading onto a 747 cargo plane headed for Islamic Relief emergency projects in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

## TWO SHIPMENTS, WORTH OVER \$8 MILLION, SENT TO INDONESIA IN TSUNAMI AFTERMATH

### IR-USA PARTNERS WITH CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND OPERATION USA TO SEND NEEDED AID

On February 2, 2005, Islamic Relief USA and Operation USA partnered to send over \$7 million of emergency aid for tsunami victims in Indonesia. A 747 cargo plane, donated by Polar Air Cargo, left for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from Los Angeles International Airport. The United Nations World Food Program agreed to facilitate shipping the items from Kuala Lumpur to Islamic Relief's warehouse in Banda Aceh.

Included among the over 100 tons of aid items were medicine, medical and surgical supplies, shelter material, food items, and hygiene kits. Half of the contents of the shipment was provided by Islamic Relief USA, and the other half was provided by Operation USA.

Local and national media outlets covered the airlift at a press conference at Los Angeles International Airport. This shipment, the largest in-kind donation in Islamic Relief USA's history, marked the end of its emergency phase for tsunami relief. Reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in Indonesia are already underway, and will continue until at least 2007.

The United Nations World Food Program agreed to facilitate shipping the items from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to Islamic Relief's warehouse in Banda Aceh. Three additional organizations helped provide the contents of the

shipment - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Global Operations and Development, and MedPharm, LLC. The aid will be distributed by Islamic Relief representatives in Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Additionally, on January 1, Islamic Relief USA and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also teamed up to send a shipment of in-kind aid worth \$1 million. Islamic Relief USA provided the air cargo charter flight which was filled with goods from the Church's welfare and humanitarian storehouses.

Contents of the January 1st shipment included:

- 40,000 pounds of medical supplies: surgical tools, medical devices, gloves, sponges, bandages, gowns, test tubes, blood pressure cuffs, etc.
- 20,000 pounds of first aid supplies: bandages, aspirin, disinfectant, etc.
- 28,000 individual hygiene kits: soap, toothpaste, combs, washcloths, etc.
- 40,000 pounds of clothing and shoes

Islamic Relief USA looks to continue its relationship with the aforementioned organizations, as well as develop relationships with more organizations to maximize aid to its beneficiaries. •



*Islamic Relief USA representative Naeem Muhammad, overlooking the destruction caused by the tsunamis in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.*

## WITNESSING THE DAMAGE FIRST-HAND A JOURNEY TO HELP VICTIMS IN BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA

*Islamic Relief USA representative Naeem Muhammad shares his thoughts on his recent visit to Banda Aceh, Indonesia.*

Getting the news of the tsunamis in Southeast Asia was almost *deja vu* for me. It's December 27, I am attending a convention for Islamic Relief and I get a call about the tsunamis hitting Asia. The year before, I got the same call, during the same convention, about the earthquake that hit Bam, Iran - which occurred on the same date, December 26, 2003.

After a week of successful fund-raising and appealing to communities around the country, I was told to book a ticket for Jakarta, because I was heading to Indonesia.

I had no idea that only four days later I would be standing in the aftermath of the greatest natural disaster of our time. I left behind many well-wishers; many volunteers I had worked with on fund-raising events for tsunami victims. Most of all, it was my family which feared for my safety.

I left behind my family for a brief time to go to a place where generations of families were wiped out by the tsunami's wake. As I toured the wreckage, I would see people staring in a daze, at what was now a landfill, where once stood their homes, their schools, and their livelihoods.

We met a man who was away from Banda Aceh when the tsunami hit his home. All that was left of his family was a pink, plastic photo album that had pictures of his wife and seven children. What was amazing was that people didn't wear their grief on their faces. Not until this man showed us the pictures of his family did he start to weep. Some say this was the nature of the people, that they were grounded in faith. But even still, their grief was serious and not enough groups were providing psychosocial care for the victims. Another gentleman said he had a recurring nightmare. Not of the wave attacking the shores, but of his wife and other families pleading

to him in his sleep, saying, "Why haven't you found my body, why haven't you buried me?"

Trying to find their loved ones, families posted pictures and information on the last whereabouts of the missing on city walls and municipal buildings that were still in use. With this effort, they were hoping someone caught a glimpse of a person that may still be living either in a camp, a person's home, or a hospital, waiting to reunite with their families.

The only solace I found was knowing that Islamic Relief was able to provide assistance to the survivors. I hope and pray we don't forget about the plight of the victims of this tragedy. They will need our support for years to come, and even that won't give them back everything that they have lost. •



*Islamic Relief USA representative Naeem Muhammad, visiting young tsunami victims in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.*



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) meeting with Islamic Relief USA representative Abdel Salam (right) in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Clinton visited Islamic Relief Worldwide's projects in Banda Aceh during his tour of tsunami-affected areas.

## ISLAMIC RELIEF BEGINS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN TSUNAMI-AFFECTED AREAS

Islamic Relief recognizes that emergency relief for the tsunami victims, although important, is very limited. In addition to emergency projects, Islamic Relief Worldwide is building lasting infrastructure in the affected areas. Our long-term projects are scheduled to operate at least until 2007.

Some of the development projects Islamic Relief has planned in the three worst hit countries from the tsunamis are as follows:

### Indonesia

- Construction of homes
- Development of education infrastructure
- Agriculture projects
- Livelihood support
- Orphan support

### Sri Lanka

- Construction of homes
- Livelihood support
- Orphan support

### India

Islamic Relief will continue to work with its partner, Indian Muslim Relief and Charities (IMRC) to assess the long-term needs of the victims in India.

### Housing Project for Tsunami Victims in Indonesia

Included amongst Islamic Relief Worldwide's long-term development work in Indonesia, is a project to build homes for victims of the tsunamis in the province of Aceh. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes due to the disaster. Islamic Relief Worldwide is building pre-fabricated homes for the victims. The homes consist of 4 rooms, and can be expanded based on need.

Approximately 500,000 families are in need of new homes. Currently, Islamic Relief Worldwide is planning on building 2,000 homes, with a possibility of increasing to 20,000 homes, depending on available funds and donor support.

Please contact Islamic Relief USA today if you would like to help build a home for a tsunami victim family today.

#### Breakdown of Project:

Goal:	2,000 homes
Cost Per Home:	\$3,000
Total Cost:	\$6,000,000



*Jamila breaks down in tears as she shares her grief with Islamic Relief Worldwide's Adeel Jafferi.*

## CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN FAR FROM OVER

### OVER A MILLION PEOPLE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN SOME OF THE WORST CONDITIONS IMAGINABLE

*Islamic Relief Worldwide representative Adeel Jafferi shares his thoughts on his recent visit to Darfur, Sudan.*

Every morning, Jamila recites her prayers and reads the Qur'an. Then, from the corner of her hut she takes out some tattered photographs and a child's waistcoat. With great reverence she holds them to her face and inhales deeply. Arranging the photographs before her, she weeps. Then, she puts back her belongings and starts her day. The photographs are all that remain of her family. The waistcoat belonged to her youngest son.

Jamila had six young sons and two teenage daughters. One day their family home was attacked by a group of men. She pleaded with them to spare her family, but they beat her. She lay in the dust and watched as her sons were shot and her daughters raped.

Jamila's story is not unique. Countless mothers have suffered in the long conflict that has preyed on a generation of Sudanese children. Cemeteries across the country are full of tiny graves and widows are begging for food or laboring to keep themselves alive. Like others, Jamila always imagined the day when her sons would provide for her in her old age. That day never came.

The scale of the crisis in Darfur is overwhelming. An estimated 200,000 people have sought safety in neighboring Chad and nearly a million have fled their homes but remained in Sudan.

The displaced people live in huts about a meter high with about 3 feet of floor space. I call them huts, but that is perhaps too grandiose a word for what are little

more than earthbound nests made of twigs collected by children.

Humanitarian aid agencies working in Darfur have set up makeshift hospitals in the camps, but resources are limited and people die there every day. Patients who are suffering from bullet wounds lie on the floor in overcrowded corridors. The few doctors there want to help but they are desperate for basic medical equipment.

To date, Islamic Relief has sent more than \$3.7 million worth of food, clothes and medicine from the US, Panama, Switzerland, France, and the UK. In partnership with two other organizations, cargo planes containing food and medicine were also sent from Islamic Relief South Africa. In addition, a total of over 10,000 people continue to be cared for in the Al-Riyadh and Kerinding II camps. The humanitarian need in Darfur, however, remains enormous. Those living in other camps, and those who have sought refuge in neighboring Chad, are still desperate for help. •



*Two young victims of the crisis in Darfur, Sudan.*



*A Palestinian woman sits with her baby on the rubble of her destroyed house at Rafah camp in Gaza strip.*

# PALESTINE FAMILY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM AIMS TO SUPPORT 600 FAMILIES

## PROJECT ENSURES NEEDY FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO BASIC FOOD AND SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR

One of the emergencies which Islamic Relief Worldwide is focusing on is the continuing suffering of the people in Palestine. Since opening our offices in Gaza in 1998, Islamic Relief has operated numerous emergency relief and long-term development projects across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although the situation of the Palestinian people has received less international attention recently, their suffering has only increased. The ongoing conflict in Palestine has created a humanitarian crisis, preventing thousands of Palestinian families from living normal lives. Many have lost their jobs and homes and are forced to live in poverty. According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the decline in the well-being and quality of life of Palestinian children has been rapid and profound.

UNICEF reports that this trend is “directly linked to the violence and mobility restrictions children experience daily, including death and injury to family and friends, damage to their property, and the frustration and poverty they sustain through stifling closures, curfews and home confinement.” According to UNICEF, 448 Palestinian children have been killed since the beginning of the recent conflict, and more than 9,000 Palestinian children have been injured with several hundred now living with permanent disabilities.

Because the closures restrict the movement of all people and goods in and out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as movement within the West Bank itself, workers from these territories have been unable to reach their places of employment. This situation has subjected many of these families to severe poverty and many now live under the poverty line. Most of these families have

become unable to meet their basic needs. The project gives help to affected families by ensuring they have access to basic food and services for a period of one year.

Islamic Relief supports such families through its Family Sponsorship Program. Those who are eligible for support receive a subsidy for utility bill payment, school supplies, medical care and other assistance. They also receive regular gifts of wheat, rice, canned meat, powdered milk and other foods.

Islamic Relief is currently sponsoring 600 families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Every effort is made to reach the most vulnerable families, but with 60% of Palestinians living under the poverty line, the task is enormous.

**Project Activities:**

- Provision of essential supplies of basic food items for 600 poor families for 12 months.
- Assistance of partial or complete fees or costs of water and electricity bills for 12 months.
- Assistance of partial or complete costs of medication.
- Provision of uniforms and stationery items for the entire school year for children attending schools.

**Beneficiaries:**

The project benefits 600 families from the most affected families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The breakdown is as follows: 70 beneficiaries in Rafah, 60 in Khan Younis, 50 in Middle Area, 130 in Gaza City, 70 in North Gaza, 120 in Jenin, and 100 in Bethlehem. •



*Shagufah, beneficiary of Islamic Relief Worldwide's education project in Afghanistan.*

## REBUILDING LIVES IN AFGHANISTAN

### DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HELP LONG-SUFFERING PEOPLE

*Islamic Relief Worldwide has been assisting the people of Afghanistan for over fifteen years. In recent years, much of the humanitarian effort in the country has focused on physical reconstruction, but the Afghan people are in desperate need of the kind of support that will help them rebuild their lives. Despite the lack of security, Islamic Relief's Afghanistan staff has been working to bring hope to many whose lives have been shattered by war, drought and political insecurity.*

**S**hagufah is a 17-year-old student at Qala-e-Adeh Girl's School in Paghman. She grew up in a refugee camp in Pakistan and returned three years ago to find her house destroyed and the local schools severely damaged due to the conflict.

The young girls who attended the schools had no choice but to study in metal shipping containers and tents which were freezing in the winter and unbearably hot in the summer. In 2003, Shagufah's school was one of five re-built

and furnished as part of Islamic Relief's Paghman Education Project. Shagufah can now continue her disrupted education and work towards fulfilling her ambition. She told Islamic Relief, "I want to become a doctor so that I can help people in my area."

*Islamic Relief has refurbished more than 30 schools in central and southern Afghanistan. It has also built a large Teacher Training College in Kandahar where several hundred teachers are trained to help raise the standard of education in Afghanistan.*

**A** 60-year-old grandfather, Niyamatullah fled Afghanistan during the recent conflict with 12 members of his family. They returned years later only to learn that their house had been destroyed and there was no access to clean water.

Worried about how they would survive, the family was relieved when Islamic Relief rehabilitated a *karez* in their area. The *karez* (underground water channel), which now runs outside their house and through their farm, provides enough water for the entire family as well as the animals and crops. Niyamatullah is proud of his farm and works hard to sustain it. The farm is doing well and the family has even saved enough money to rebuild parts of their home.

*Islamic Relief has rehabilitated more than 60 canals and karezes throughout Kabul and the Helmand Province in Afghanistan. These allow water to flow freely to agricultural lands and give Afghan farmers a source of livelihood.*



*Niyamatullah, beneficiary of Islamic Relief Worldwide's water projects in Afghanistan.*



*Mother and child receiving canned goods from Islamic Relief in Iraq.*

## RESTORING NORMALCY IN IRAQ

### ISLAMIC RELIEF CONTINUES TO OPERATE PROJECTS IN IRAQ DESPITE SERIOUS SECURITY CONCERNS

Islamic Relief Worldwide is one of the few humanitarian aid agencies still working on the ground in Iraq. The ongoing cycle of violence and insecurity has made the task of aid workers almost impossible, forcing most organizations to abandon their operations and leave.

The recent capture of an Islamic Relief staff member in Iraq highlighted the personal danger that aid workers face when working in areas of conflict.

Our staff member was fortunate to be safely released after two days, but the possibility of getting caught in between the fighting remains an imminent threat. Islamic Relief remains committed to the people of Iraq despite the country's serious lack of security. With most aid agencies gone, the Iraqi people are in desperate need of support. More than half the population is living below the poverty line and most are dependent on food rations.

Approximately one million children under the age of five do not have adequate access to food and are thought to be suffering from chronic malnutrition. Many Iraqi cities are also still without adequate water and sewage facilities

– a problem made worse by the regular power outages.

Islamic Relief Worldwide is working in many areas in Iraq, including Fallujah and Najaf, to help restore essential facilities for the Iraqi people.

- Schools have been rebuilt and restored, allowing several thousand Iraqi children to return to resume their education.
- Hospitals and healthcare centers have been provided with essential medical supplies that has helped them treat tens of thousands of patients.
- Water treatment plants have been repaired to provide safe drinking water for thousands of Iraqis.

In addition, due to the ongoing violence, Islamic Relief Worldwide has often been the only agency which has been able to reach conflict areas with emergency aid. Supplies of food, clothing and medical equipment have been distributed in many areas in recent months, and our staff remains on standby, ready to respond whenever the need arises. •



Attendees at Islamic Relief USA's tsunami fund-raising event in Anaheim, CA.

## OVER \$700,000 COLLECTED AT ANAHEIM, CA FUND-RAISER FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

On January 9, 2005, a major fund-raising event held in Anaheim, CA helped raise over \$700,000 for the victims of the tsunamis that struck Southeast Asia. Organized in a short, two-week period, the fund-raiser was co-sponsored by the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California and included the help of many local volunteers, including members of Muslim Student Associations.

The event featured Dr. Jamal Badawi and Dr. Abdalla Idris Ali as the keynote speaker and fund-raiser, respectively. A live feed from Banda Aceh, Indonesia, with Islamic Relief representative Naem Muhammad describing the situation there, was one of the highlights of the evening. Representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which recently partnered with Islamic Relief to send in-kind aid to tsunami victims in Indonesia, also attended the event.

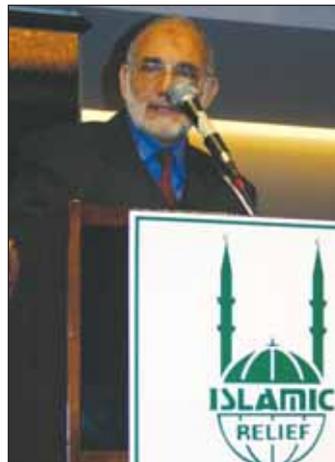
In addition to the Anaheim event, dozens of communities across the country organized events to collect funds for tsunami victims. Although the emergency phase of tsunami relief projects is over, the victims still need assistance to help them recover.

May Allah ("God" in Arabic) reward all those who helped. Please continue your good work!

Other cities which helped with raising funds for tsunami victims included:

Paterson, NJ, Brooklyn, NY, Staten Island, NY, North Bergen, NJ, Queens, NY, Bronx, NY, Middletown, NJ, Jersey City, NJ, Boston, MA, Brooklyn, NY, Jersey City, NJ, Hackensack, NJ, New Haven, CT, Greenpoint, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Brooklyn, NY, Columbus, OH, Dearborn, MI, Santa Clara, CA, Bellevue, WA, Naperville, IL, Chicago, IL, Reseda, CA, Dallas, TX, Irvine, CA, Baltimore, MD,

Sterling, VA, Silver Spring, MD, Orlando, FL, College Park, MD, Columbus, OH, Folsom, CA, Oklahoma City, OK, Claremont, CA, Memphis, TN, Sacramento, CA, Garden Grove, CA, Dallas, TX, Claremont, CA, Walnut, CA, Culvert City, CA, Temecula, CA, Hawthorne, CA, Dallas, TX, Ann Arbor, MI, Chicago, IL, N. Chicago, IL, Milwaukee, WI, Toledo, OH, Minneapolis, MN, Miami, FL, Fresno, CA, Sacramento, CA, Portland, OR, Dearborn, MI, San Francisco, CA, Northridge, CA, Boston, MA, Dallas, TX, Thousand Oaks, CA, Huntsville, AL, Riverside, CA, Seattle, WA, Fresno, CA, and Detroit, MI.



Internationally renowned Muslim scholar Dr. Jamal Badawi delivered the keynote address at the Anaheim, CA fund-raising banquet for tsunami victims.



Islamic Relief USA General Manager Dr. Mohamed Abulmagd presenting an appreciation award to former ISNA President Dr. Muzamil Siddiqi for his community's efforts to help tsunami victims. Islamic Relief USA presented awards to several Mosques and organizations which helped with tsunami relief efforts.



Beneficiaries of the annual "Humanitarian Day and Health Fair for the Homeless" walk past the Islamic Relief booth.

## 2004 'HUMANITARIAN DAY' BENEFITS OVER 3,000 HOMELESS IN LOS ANGELES

The Coalition to Preserve Human Dignity (CPHD), a non-profit group comprising of Muslims, Christians and Jews held its 3rd Annual "Humanitarian Day and Health Fair for the Homeless" in Downtown Los Angeles during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. For the first time in the Coalition's history, an accompanying event took place in the Bay Area in Northern California on the same weekend of November 6-7, 2004.

Bringing together over 1,000 volunteers in both locations, this year's Humanitarian Day bused in young and old from many distant communities. People from all different backgrounds had been working on the event for months, registering volunteers, collecting funds and goods for distribution and other key tasks.

Over 3,000 people were provided with valuable services, including boxed food items, clothes, towels, ponchos for rain protection, toys, blankets, and hygiene kits. Services such as HIV counseling, diabetes testing and blood pressure checkups

were also provided to beneficiaries.

In the Bay Area, over 22 organizations provided goods and services to 850 people at the Salvation Army building in San Jose. Said Habibe Husain, founder of the Rahima Foundation in Santa Clara (one of the co-sponsoring organizations), "Ramadan is a time of increased compassion and caring for others. Our goal was to give the homeless community hope and relief in order to ease their struggle."

Naim Shah of the Ilm Foundation, the group which spearheaded the CPHD, shared his views about the project. Said Shah, "This event is a wonderful way to show to the American public that Muslims not only care about other Muslims overseas, but also have compassion for the needy amongst us, and have the initiative to provide social services for them." Islamic Relief USA has been a member of the CPHD since its inception, and is a main sponsor of both Humanitarian Day events, as well as other projects operated by the Ilm Foundation. •



A young boy smiles after getting a face-painting and toy at the "Eid Festival and Toy Drive" at the UMMA Community Clinic.

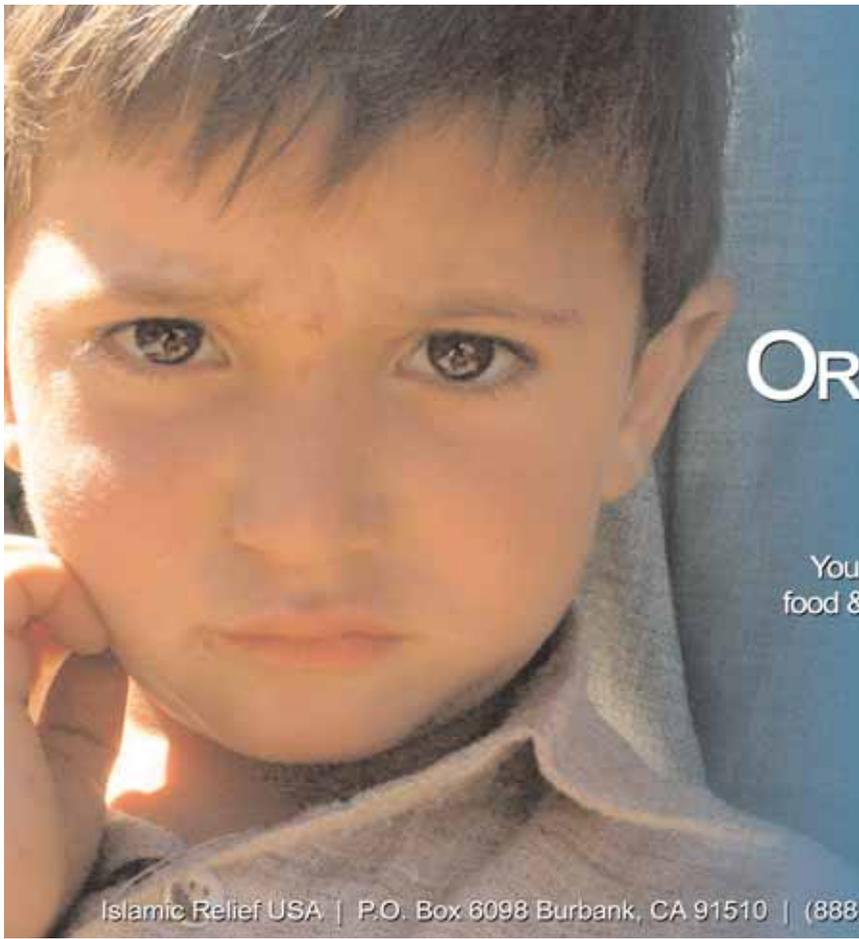
## EID TOY FAIR BRINGS SMILES TO LOCAL CHILDREN

Over 250 children attended the annual "Eid Festival and Toy Fair," which was held on the grounds of the UMMA Community Clinic in Los Angeles on November 21, 2004. The event, sponsored by Islamic Relief, Friends In-Deed, and the UMMA Clinic brought children of all faiths together from the neighboring community to celebrate the *Eid al-Fitr* (end of Ramadan celebration) holiday.

In addition to free toys and gifts for all children, the event featured face-paintings, free snacks and drinks, and even pony rides! The UMMA Clinic, founded by UCLA Muslim students in 1996, is located in one of the poorest and underserved parts of Los Angeles. Clinic Manager Lynn Salahi noted, "...try-

ing to offer healthcare in our local environment can be very depressing; budget cuts, hospital closures, unequal resource allocation, the list goes on. It's wonderful that the clinic along with other community organizations can host an event where everyone goes home happy, especially the children."

Although it predominantly operates projects overseas, Islamic Relief USA also supports several domestic efforts as well, the annual Toy Fair being one of them. Islamic Relief USA's Orphan Support Coordinator, Amy El-Akabawi shared her thoughts, "The smiles that brightened the children's faces and the heartfelt gratitude from the parents made it a very humbling and memorable experience. That motivates us to continue it year after year." •



# Islamic Relief ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP

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*For the second year in a row, Islamic Relief USA has been recognized as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator, its highest rating. Charity Navigator is America's largest charity evaluator.*



*Islamic Relief USA is listed in the catalog of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area - a charity program for federal employees.*