Improve Lives, Enhancing Capabilities and Creating Brighter Futures

Imagine walking through life not being able to see due to an easily curable condition, or being laughed at by your friends and family because of uncontrollable facial movements, caused by the immense amount of stress in your life. It would make your life terribly difficult. Fortunately, your donations have helped to relieve some of the sufferers of these and other ailments.

Your faithful support has made it possible for us to reach people living in the Hodeidah Governorate of Yemen who do not have access to proper medical services. With your help we have been able to improve the quality of life and enhance the capabilities of landmine victims, those disabled since birth and by diseases, and their families. This project has been running for just over a year and it has already had a significant impact on the lives of many people living in this district. Inside are the stories of people whose lives have been changed forever because of your support and donations to this project...
Fifty-year-old Taheer lives in Shamer village, Hais district, Hodeidah governorate. Taheer had a normal life until he developed facial palsy due to a large amount of stress in his life. The disease caused him not only great physical pain, but also increased the amount of psychological stress in his life.

Despite Taheer’s search for a cure from both medical doctors and traditional healers, he continued to have spasms. Taheer began to lose hope as his search for a cure became more difficult and his facial muscles became more weak and uncontrollable. He could hardly believe his own image. “I looked so different, ugly, deformed! I cried throughout the night and couldn’t sleep!” Taheer said. He told the ADRA team that even his own family teased him. They laughed at him and gave him no support, thus increasing his stress, and feelings of hopelessness and rejection.

Taheer finally gave up finding a treatment, but one day a friend told him about the ADRA PHY (Assistance for the Physically Challenged) office and how the staff there helps people with different disabilities. Later, Taheer came to the office and was examined by the physiotherapist who immediately scheduled him for physiotherapy, rehabilitation treatment and prescribed him some needed medicines. Not long after the treatments began, Taheer started seeing signs of recovery. He gained strength in his facial muscles and is able to talk and eat normally. Taheer is very thankful to the ADRA team and especially the donors that made this transformation possible.

**Happiness after Hopelessness for Taheer**

Education

Project staff conducts awareness raising and health education for primary school students. The staff also conducts women’s groups that teach local women about the project and on various health topics, such as: the causes and treatment of diarrhoea; the importance of breastfeeding, vitamin A and iron rich foods; and the causes and prevention of disabilities.

Aqua-Balancing Therapy

This kind of therapy releases tension, increases mobility of the joints and stimulates the coordination of the nervous system. It is also helps to increase the moral of the patients as, for most patients, it is the first opportunity they have had to go out of their community and be in the company of others with similar challenges, and their first chance to ‘swim’ in the Red Sea.

Weaving

Eight men with disabilities are being trained to weave traditional local attire. When they graduate in six months they will be able to generate income to support themselves.

Native New Health in Canada

For the past four years, ADRA Canada has been involved in a project to tackle health related issues that affect First Nation communities across Canada. Among these subjects are diabetes, heart disease, cancer, depression, suicide, tobacco, alcoholism, and drug abuse. The name of the project is Native New Health – a series of 13 health programs composed of 28 minute video presentations, accompanied by a workbook for presenters.

We are happy to inform you that by the fall of 2007 we will have completed the first 2 episodes; Diabetes 1 and Diabetes 2. You can view a two-minute introduction on the internet at www.youtube.com. This is the first ever footage on this historic new program Native New Health!

It is through the generous gifts to ADRA Canada from people like you that have made this project possible.

Thank you!

P.S. If you would like your name on the list for a copy of the first episode, please call ADRA Canada to put in your request. We will send it out to you free of charge, as soon as possible.
Seham and Yasmin

Seham, 13-years-old and Yasmin, 8-years-old, are sisters living with their parents in Owesh village, Hais district, Hodeideh governorate. At a young age both sisters were experiencing eye problems. They told their parents about the problems they were having, but the family could not afford medical treatment. As time progressed, and their eyes remained untreated, they lost their vision completely.

The girls suffered with their deteriorating eyesight for three years until their father heard about ADRA’s PHY project from a friend. He learned about the referral activities and decided to look into it further. When he came to the office, the staff explained to him the possibility of helping his daughters. They explained to him that his daughters would need to be screened by a physician in Hodeidah to determine their actual problem. Later that month Seham and Yasmin were screened and diagnosed with mature cataracts that needed urgent surgery.

Project staff coordinated with Ras Morbat Clinic and the girls both went for surgery.

According to the girls, they were able to see well after two days. They were very excited because they were able to see their surroundings again, get back to school and enjoy sight like their other classmates. Both parents, as well as Seham and Yasmin, are very appreciative to the supporters of ADRA who made it possible for the ADRA PHY staff to reach them and give them back their sight.

ADRA Canada founder John Howard’s 50th Wedding Anniversary Challenge!

Founder and Former Executive Director of ADRA Canada John Howard is celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary with his wife Millie. To commemorate the occasion John is making a donation of $50 dollars to ADRA Canada. John and Millie challenge all their friends and supporters of ADRA Canada to also make a $50 donation in celebration of this milestone!

There are some 650 million persons living with disabilities today.

In 2006 the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

The Convention is one of the fastest negotiated treaties ever, having taken only three years.

It was open for signature March 30, 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention. This is the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day.

Important parts of the Convention:

Article 25 (b): States Parties shall provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons...

Article 26 (1): States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services...
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Editor
James Astleford
jrla@adra.ca

Design
Maracle Press Ltd.
www.maraclepress.com

ADRA CANADA
1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
Tel: 905.433.8004
Toll Free: 888.274.2372
Fax: 905.723.1903

Executive Director
Oliver Lofton-Brook
kolb@adra.ca

Corporate Services Director
Daniel Broome
daniel@adra.ca

International Program Director
Lisa Mercer
lisa@adra.ca

Your donations to the flooding in Southeast Asia this summer have been hard at work due to your quick response! Your recognition of the urgent and immediate need of those suffering from flooding throughout India, Nepal, Bangladesh and China enabled ADRA Canada to send $20,000 to support the network response and bring relief in the form of food packages, transitional shelters and bedding kits and much needed medical aid. In Nepal, specifically, over 300,000 people were affected many of whom were displaced and had their houses destroyed. ADRA Nepal was able to send out mobile health teams to set up medical camps in various districts. With the assistance of BASE and Redcross volunteers they were able to inform people in these districts to receive medical assistance in order to get any diseases treated and curb any major disease outbreaks that could greatly hinder reconstruction efforts. This work would not have been possible without your donations, thank you!

Our emergency funds are being quickly depleted as flooding continues to plague Asia, hurricanes threaten multiple countries on the Caribbean Sea and we continue to help recovery efforts after the earthquake in Peru. We need your help, please give generously.

If you would like to receive updates on disasters and other ADRA news as it happens, please subscribe to ADRA Canada eNews by emailing pr@adra.ca.