

The House of Flowers and MEPO

Fall Newsletter, 2014

November 2014



- Teachers Fatima and Qudsieh continue to implement Montessori activities. Seeing the pictures of the children doing these activities is truly inspiring.
- Four of our graduates are studying in university, including two girls.

As winter comes, believe it or not we are approaching the 13th year of operation of the House of Flowers! It continues to be a source of care, education, warmth, nutrition, guidance, training and more for children from ages 5 to their teens.

A recent set of pictures shows the vibrancy of the program that the teachers and staff offer the children, day in and day out, 24 hours a day.

Over the past months, the political and security situation has made life in Kabul very uncertain for the children and staff. But all are hopeful that the recent resolution of the political situation will lead to progress, and an easing of the tension.

Our staff have been strong, consistent, and always present for the children:



- There are currently 30 children at the House: 20 boys and 10 girls.
- The House of Flowers' extended family has grown by one, with the happy birth of Fahim's baby girl! After Fahim's 12 years of service at the House of Flowers, he is sure to be an incredible father. We are so happy for him!

The eye sees everything but itself.

Financial Update and Fall-Winter Fundraising

The financial situation of the House of Flowers is stable and solid. Rent has been pre-paid up through March. Expenses have been covered with the revised budget as of last March. Staff have received bonuses at the major holidays, and children are well-supplied with clothes, shoes, food, etc.

In the next 3-6 months, particularly over the cold winter months to come, with the increased heat and clothing expenses, we will be reevaluating the finances and the budget in order to cover the cost of living increase and the staff's annual raise.

For this reason, our fall/winter fund-raising campaign is underway, and we hope that you, the global community supporting these children, will continue to be there for them.

Please see our website to donate either via credit card or check:

<http://www.mepoonline.org>

Please note that thanks to a critical partnership with Lantern Projects, donations to MEPO/The House of Flowers **can** be tax deductible. For information and details on how to take advantage of this, please email us at:

mepo.hope@gmail.com



Live a balanced life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

-- Robert Fulgham



Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!



We hope you enjoy this treasure trove of pictures from the House, showing everything from classroom scenes to going shopping for shoes! The range of experiences that the House of Flowers children enjoy is so heartwarming to see, to know the kind of rich and substantive childhood they are experiencing.

Over the summer and fall:

- The House received a new washer and dryer through donations from local Americans working in Kabul.
- Saturday morning art activities were undertaken.
- More House of Flowers began university courses (Nadia, Gul Mohammad, Noorullah)
- The Kabul Mobile Circus visited the House for an interactive performance.



Website: <http://mepoonline.org>

Email: mepo.hope@gmail.com