



Karakoram Volunteer Movement



An AGHE Initiative

A Brief Report on

Volunteers of Year Award Ceremony



Held on

5, November 2006

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

at Gilgit Pakistan

Ceremony Organized by

Association of Global Humanists & Ethicists (AGHE) (آگہی)

Northern Areas of Pakistan

Report Developed By

Research & Information Section of AGHE

This report is a brief description of volunteer assignments, contributions, and impact on AGHE activities and projects. We would like to acknowledge that AGHE would not have been able to achieve its targets without the support of its volunteers.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2006

The role and function of volunteers and non-profit organizations in the modern era have experienced a major revolution. Based in the Northern Areas of Pakistan the Association of Global Humanists & Ethics a non-governmental, non-religious, non-profit organization, maintain that all humans are equal and that all have the rights and responsibilities to participate equally in all spheres of life to contribute to human development. As a newly established NGO with very limited resources AGHE carried out most of its activities with the help of local, national, and international volunteers. In the year 2006, AGHE organized an Award Ceremony to recognize the contribution of its volunteers.

Eight volunteers exhibited a high level of volunteer spirit and commitment toward the assigned tasks during the last year were selected by the award ceremony managing committee. Of the eight selected to be honored, four volunteers were local, one was national and the remaining three were international volunteers. The international volunteers supported AGHE's activities and projects through the Online Volunteering Services of the United Nations Volunteer Program. Volunteers selected for the 2006 Volunteer Award hail from different background, regions, and professional fields. Each of them has contributed to AGHE endeavors such as earthquake relief activities that AGHE undertook in 2005. Further projects of the AGHE such as the establishment of Child Friendly Centers and the campaign against the use of child labor. We are pleased to announce that Natalie Hruska from the United States (an online volunteer) was honored as the "**Volunteer of the Year**". Her work with AGHE took place during 2006 in which she regularly updated, edited, and maintained the AGHE website.

Malik Maskin Speaker of the Northern Areas Legislative Council was the distinguished guest of the award ceremony. As the distinguished speaker, he announced each volunteer and presented certificates to local volunteers. Participants of the award ceremony further acknowledged the importance of the work completed by national and online United Nation Volunteers in support of AGHE activities. Due to travel considerations, such as distance and cost, national and international volunteers were unable to attend the award ceremony; though they were equally honored with a certificate.

The following is a brief description of volunteer assignments, contributions, and impact on AGHE activities and projects. We would like to acknowledge that AGHE would not have been able to achieve its targets without the support of it's volunteers.

Volunteer's Name	Gender	Country
♥ NATALIE HRUSKA	Female	United States of America
♥ M. ZULQARNAIN	Male	Punjab Pakistan
♥ MARGARET W. HALL	Female	United States of America
♥ OLOYEDE KAFILAT	Female	Oyo state, Nigeria
♥ RANA M. TAHIR	Male	Gilgit Pakistan
♥ FATIMA AMAN	Female	Hunza Pakistan
♥ SAEED AHMAD	Male	Gilgit Pakistan
♥ FURQAN	Male	Gilgit Pakistan

*For details please see the next page

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2006

NATALIE HRUSKA

From

The United States of America



Natalie Hruska, an IT specialist from the United States of America, was named our **Volunteer of Year 2006**. She worked with AGHE for a year on its online assignment “Developing & Designing the Website” which was posted on the UN Online Volunteering Service. She not only designed the AGHE website but also regularly updated, edited and maintained the website as the AGHE was lacking the technical staff and resources necessary.

Natalie’s contribution has had a very significant impact on the AGHE’s activities. The association was able to disseminate its reports and other relevant information via a global network. The AGHE was also able to start a new trend in the use of IT as many NGOs are still using traditional forms of communication. Natalie has set an excellent example for other volunteers and her work shows that there is no limit to how far volunteering can go in serving humanity. She has her own website where she is offering a free online course on e-volunteering, see <http://apictureaday.com> for further details.

Thank You Natalie!

A NATIONAL VOLUNTEER

M. ZULQARNAIN

From

Sahiwal, Punjab, Pakistan



Muhammad Zulqarnain is an Arabic language teacher by profession. He also holds Masters degrees in Education and History. Along with teaching, he is a social activist and actively participates in community based activities. He contributed to the AGHE’s relief activities in the north eastern parts of Pakistan following the devastating earthquake on 8th October 2005.

Zulqarnain’s contribution to these relief activities was tremendous. He started and led fund-raising and relief goods’ collection campaigns in his native District Sahiwal. He offered his services day and night, collecting a total of half a million rupees worth of relief goods. He also supported the AGHE in delivering these goods to far flung villages in District Muzaffar Abad of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, reaching about five hundred families. Zulqarnain has shown how the smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.

Thank You Zuli!

AN ONLINE VOLUNTEER

MARGARET W. HALL*

From

The United States of America



Margaret W. Hall worked on two online assignments with the AGHE, these assignments were titled, “Develop Project Proposal” and “Research donors for project against child labour”. She was full of volunteer spirit,

committed to offering her voluntarily services for the benefit of vulnerable people. She developed a project proposal for AGHE on the establishment of Child Friendly Centres (CFC), her contribution supported the association’s values. Margaret’s work on the “Research donors for project against child labour” assignment was undoubtedly tremendous as she helped the AGHE to build linkages with international philanthropists and donor organizations. She wrote letters of inquiry to many donors on the AGHE’s behalf, developed a funding plan, identified potential donors and provided guidance on how to approach donors in a proper way.

Margaret W. Hall worked as more than a typical online volunteer, she acted as an online mentor and trainer who built our capacity to teach AGHE’s volunteers ‘how to catch a fish’. Her voluntarily services proved invaluable to AGHE in terms of new learning and building relationships with international donors. Volunteers like Margaret show, as Thomas Carlyle said, that the work of an unknown good man is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green.

Thank You Margy!

* In the photo, Margaret W. Hall is standing next to her husband.

AN ONLINE VOLUNTEER

OLOYEDE KAFILAT

From

Oyo state, Nigeria

Oloyede Kafilat worked with AGHE on the online assignment, “Develop Project Proposal”. She developed a three year funding proposal under the title “Life Building Skills for the Child Workers in Gilgit City”. Being a trained teacher, qualified psychologist, and efficient proposal developer, Oloyede Kafilat, develop a comprehensive project proposal for the AGHE’s work to eradicate child labour from the Northern Areas of Pakistan. The project proposal has been submitted to many funding agencies and it is hoped that the proposal will be considered by the donors positively.

Oloyede Kafilat contributed to the AGHE’s project very skillfully and her contribution has defiantly deepened the impact of our organizational activities by providing a framework for the elimination of child labour from the region and breaking the cycle of discrimination and poverty that exists.

Thank You Oloyede Kafilat!

A LOCAL VOLUNTEER

RANA M. TAHIR

From

District Gilgit, Northern Areas of Pakistan

Rana Muhammad Tahir, a young and energetic man, volunteered as Project Coordinator for the AGHE's Child Friendly Centre (CFC) Project.

He performed marvelously in this job, coordinating all the project activities, including: building links with other organizations, looking after the activities within the centres, developing relationships with the families of child workers, educating and motivating them about children's rights. He worked in this capacity for only three months but his contribution regarding children's rights will be remembered for years to come.

Rana Tahir also made a major contribution in his support of the AGHE's celebration of "Children's Month", which took place during November 2006. The month involved a range of activities focused on advocating children's rights and awareness raising which were designed and implemented by AGHE volunteers and Rana Tahir, as Project Coordinator, was a key player in bringing this about. The AGHE wish him all the best for his future.

Thank You Rana!



A LOCAL VOLUNTEER

FATIMA AMAN

From

Hunza, Gilgit, Northern Areas of Pakistan

Fatima Aman has a BA (Hons) in Social Sciences and works as a school Principal. As a volunteer she contributed to the Child Friendly Centre (CFC) project for three months. In this short time her work in the establishment of a Child Friendly Centre for girls was really remarkable.

Fatima was very active during her time with the AGHE, she conducted a base line survey, visited door-to-door to identify girls who were out of school, negotiated with the children's parents and was able to bring eleven girls to the Child Friendly Centres. In this way Fatima supported the AGHE's objective for improving the female education situation in the region. There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it, Fatima spreads light in both ways.

Thank You Fatima!



A LOCAL VOLUNTEER

SAEED AHMAD

From

District Gilgit, Northern Areas of Pakistan

Saeed Ahmad worked as Centre Coordinator in the Child Friendly Centre in Konodass Gilgit for out of school girls. His support for community mobilization, resource generation and overall maintenance of the centre is truly amazing. We can make no other comments, but to say thanks, and thanks again, to him.



Thank You Saeed!

A LOCAL VOLUNTEER

FURQAN

From

District Gilgit, Northern Areas of Pakistan

Furqan, the youngest volunteer of the year, provided his services as a teacher and project officer for the Child Friendly Centre project. He was so committed to this work that he sacrificed his business time on a daily basis for the project activities. He remained committed to his voluntary work, even in the face of negative critiques from his family members. As Elizabeth Andrew said, volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. Furqan undoubtedly has the heart.



Thank You Furqan!

Thank you to all our online Volunteers and Online Volunteering Services of UNV for their contribution to develop this report

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