Shelter For Life International

Seeking to demonstrate God's love by enabling people affected by conflict and disaster to restore their lives and rebuild their communities.

Shelter is more than a roof and four walls . . .

A Message from Our Executive Director

Dear friends of SFL

The month of March signals the coming of spring to communities throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Spring means new life. Shelter For Life International strives for sustainability in all our humanitarian projects overseas. One great example is the fruit tree planting campaign. We invite you to participate in this noble effort, which will help rural families in Northeast Afghanistan protect soil quality, improve nutrition and properly circulate surface water. We are grateful for your partnership, prayers, and financial support in this incredible endeavor, as we seek to restore lives and rebuild communities in parts of the world that have suffered from decades of wars and disasters.

Best regards,

Roadways Project Wrap-Up

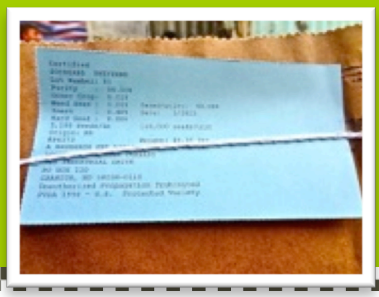
In the midst of continued war and destruction in Afghanistan we are constantly reminded of the difference SFL makes in bringing peace, stability and prosperity to the regions where we work. We just completed one of our projects in NE Afghanistan that rebuilt roads, irrigation systems and grain mills. We also built new food storage units for crops and trained communities on how to use them. The program also provided micro-loans to men and women for income-generating activities. The fruits of these efforts will become more visible this year as hundreds of acres of land, historically rain-fed land, are irrigated and then connected with their respective markets.

Winning Combination: Tree Planting & Tax Break

Springtime is a great time to consider the Tree Planting Initiative. Late March is the best time to plant fruit trees in Afghanistan. Tree roots stabilize the soil preventing landslides during the rainy season. Fruit feeds local communities. And extra fruit sold in the market provides income to rural communities. $50 plants a tree and improves a life. For more information: http://www.shelter.org/newsroom/campaigns/fruit-tree-initiative.html

Connect With Us!

-Like us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter, google+, Pinterest, and Flickr
-Check out our website, where you can look for periodic volunteer opportunities and consider becoming a monthly sponsor.
-Call, email or mail us anytime. We look forward to hearing from you!



Signs of Spring and "Golden Chances"

The Seeds Have Arrived

Those 467 million US soybean seeds have all arrived safely and are being stored in SFL warehouses in Northern Afghanistan in anticipation of the 2013 growing season.

This joint project between SFL, the WISHH Foundation and the USDA is in its third and final year. Money from the program rebuilds irrigation systems, renovates roadways, and stimulates the economy through micro-business loans.

Through this program folks are able to produce more food, store it, sell it and make enough money to buy the items their families need throughout the year,

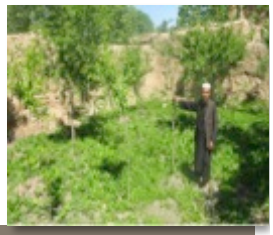
Hamrah's Persistence

Hamrah is from Takhar Province in Northern Afghanistan. Never having attended school himself, he has committed to providing for his own children's educations. But during war times, providing is difficult. Hamrah would be considered a Jack-of-All-Trades here in the US. He's a scrappy 50-year old father of 8 who can fix anything and isn't afraid to work hard. After being injured in the war, he became a shoemaker and even crafted musical instruments. But it wasn't enough to provide for a family.

When Hamrah heard of SFL's small business loan program he considered it his "*golden chance.*" He had a grinding machine for milling flour he'd purchased before the war. It was just sitting idle because he couldn't afford the repair bill. Hamrah's *Grain Mill Repairs* met the criteria for these new loans so he applied right away.

The SFL Loan Officer trained him in both business and agriculture. Hamrah opened a bank account, received the loan, repaired his mill and is now producing income for his family.

Then Hanrah learned how to improve the family's kitchen garden. They grow a variety of food now, and money from selling the extra produce at the market buys eggs and milk for his children. Hamrah is thankful for his "golden chance."



Employee Spotlight: Froozan Danish, SFL Loan Officer

Froozan Danish has been the Team Lead for the Micro-credit and Micro-enterprise department in SFL's Afghanistan office since its inception in 2009 and is the driving force behind its success. She led the team in introducing the program to farmers in rural communities of Takhar and Kunduz Province and was instrumental in ensuring the participation and success of women in the program. Froozan is passionate about bringing about positive change in the lives of the people of Afghanistan, especially through economic development. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Literature from Takhar University in 2005 she began working for SFL in 2008 as a Community Development Coordinator. Froozan has also worked as a Language and Literacy Professor at Takhar University. She has been trained in business, project management, agriculture, and food processing. She lives in Takhar Province with her husband and two daughters. Recently Froozan was one of only 30 women in Afghanistan invited to participate in the UN's "10,000 Women Project" where she received business training in marketing and value chain analysis. She and other participants will now submit business plans and the winner will earn an opportunity for learning at the Thunderbird Business School in the US.