

Afghanistan Relief Organization

A non-profit 501(c)(3) humanitarian non-governmental organization



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THE ARO E-NEWSLETTER UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2003

HANDS AROUND THE WORLD: February 22 Event Funds Shipping Relief Supplies to Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Relief Organization (ARO), a California-based humanitarian organization, hosts the **HANDS AROUND THE WORLD** dinner benefit Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. – 1 a.m., at the Anaheim Plaza Hotel (next to Disneyland). **HANDS AROUND THE WORLD** will feature live world music—including musicians from Afghanistan, India, Japan and Mexico—a taste of delicious Afghan and international cuisine, a showcase of traditional Afghan fashions, and a silent auction with handcrafted rugs, jewelry and other items from Afghanistan.

HANDS AROUND THE WORLD proceeds allow the ARO to ship critically needed medical, clothing and school supplies to Afghanistan, from Los Angeles. ARO volunteers pay their own way to Afghanistan, to meet the supplies in Kabul. ARO personally distributes relief supplies after conducting needs surveys in villages, schools and medical facilities.

For more information about ARO, see www.afghanrelief.com, or call ARO, 818-258-3333. For ticket information, \$40 per person (age 14 and up), call Sonali at 949-254-3538 or Wida at 949-215-7437.

ARO Prepares for Spring 2003 Relief Trip to Afghanistan; Volunteer team will travel to distribute relief and school supplies

ARO volunteers have been spending every weekend in our Anaheim warehouse collecting, sorting and packing the generous donations of communities around the United States. ARO has shipped hundreds of bags of new and gently used clothing, shoes, socks, warm jackets and hats for winter relief. Medical and orthopedic supplies have been carefully boxed for distribution to medical facilities; computers are packed and ready to go to schools, orphan centers, and the new ARO learning resource center; and 100,000 pounds of school supplies (pencils, pens, paper, books, crayons) are waiting to be put into the eager hands of young girls and boys. Visit our website, www.afghanrelief.com, and look for our "photo gallery" under "about us", for photo albums of our efforts for the Spring 2003 Relief Trip.

ARO is sending three large shipping containers via paid shipment overseas and over land to Kabul. Shipping from Los Angeles to Kabul takes approximately two months; ARO volunteers will meet the shipment in the first week of April. We estimate the expenses for each container (cost of container,

shipping, and on-ground transportation for distribution) to be at \$5,000 to \$6,000 (U.S.) each. We also will receive in Kabul, shipping containers of additional relief supplies from groups in Australia and Japan for distribution by ARO.

Your contribution can help us make our Spring 2003 Relief Trip! See "Donation Information" at the end of this newsletter. Your donation is tax deductible, and we will provide you with a receipt and non-profit tax identification.

ARO recognizes some of the organizations and communities that have contributed to the ARO Spring 2003 Relief Trip through donations or volunteer help:

- Afghan Academy of Hope (California)
- Afghan American and American community of the State of New Jersey
- Afghan Ethnic Dolls (California)
- Afghan Family Support Network of Contra Costa County (California)
- Afghan Women's' Association of Southern California
- Afghan Women's Mission (California)
- ALMA USA – Barna Karimi (California)
- Be The Cause (California)
- Capistrano Unified School District (California)
- Carden Academy of Huntington Beach (California)
- Carebridge International (California)
- Crew4U Film Production, David Spencer (Tucson, Arizona)
- Crossroads International (Laguna Beach, California)
- Dayrunner (Fullerton, California)
- Dholnation (California)
- 5 Points Plaza (Huntington Beach, California)
- Girl Scouts of America (Santa Barbara, California)
- Healing The Heart Quilts (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)
- Instorage (California)
- International Orphan Care (Laguna Hills, California)
- International Silks and Woolens (Los Angeles, California)
- Japanese Relief Clothing Center (Japan)
- Kaiser Permanente (Anaheim, California)
- Khyber Pass (Laguna Beach, California)
- Laguna Woods Leisure World (California)
- M.I.M.T. Corporation of U.S.A. (Northridge, California)
- Pacific Hills Banquet Hall (Laguna Hills, California)
- Pacific International Seed Company (Walnut Creek, California)
- Progressive Motion (Los Angeles)
- Riverside County School District (California)
- Soroptimist International of Huntington Beach (California)
- Soroptimist International of San Juan Capistrano (California)
- Jay and Nazi Tukhi (California)
- Walterville Elementary School (Walterville, Oregon)
- World In Need International (United Kingdom and California)
- Zee Medical Inc. (California)

Want more information about ARO?

See www.afghanrelief.com, call 818-258-3333, or send us a message at info@afghanrelief.com.

DONATIONS: Your tax-deductible donation can be mailed to: Afghanistan Relief Organization, P.O. Box 10207, Canoga Park, CA 91304. A receipt will be mailed. Look for ARO on the non-profit database www.guidestar.org, key search words "afghan relief", for additional donor information.