

You are receiving this e-newsletter to update you on activities of Partnership for Education of Children in Afghanistan (P.E.C.A.).

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual P.E.C.A. Fundraiser Nets \$10,000 for Afghan Schools
2. Needed: A Few Good Women and Men
3. Wardak School Update by Board Chair Barbara Gerten
4. Found – Black Scarf
5. 2005 Board Meeting Schedule
6. P.E.C.A. CONTACT INFORMATION

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## **1. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual P.E.C.A. Fundraiser Nets \$10,000 for Afghan Schools**

More than 200 committed and enthusiastic supporters of children's education in Afghanistan attended our first major fundraising event, Extrava'ghanistan, on November 11, 2004 at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. If you attended or contributed to this outstanding evening, please know how grateful we are for your financial support. It is amazing to think of the difference your contributions make to the lives of children so eager for education in a country that seems to throw up more obstacles than opportunities.

P.E.C.A.'s liaison in Afghanistan is currently conducting a needs assessment of the Da Doornamio School in Khost province to determine what needs to be done first to accommodate all the children who desperately want to go to school on a regular basis. The area is a hotbed of Taliban rebel activity and his initial report indicates the first priority is safety...a protective wall needs to be built around the school. He plans to make another visit to the area to investigate potential contractors and available labor before a final decision is made. In the next newsletter, we hope to report on his progress and also share some pictures of the school and the children.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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## **2. Needed: A Few Good Women and Men**

P.E.C.A. is an all-volunteer organization whose mission and work is carried out by a small cadre of volunteers. We are currently seeking new members for the Board of Directors that share our passion for this unique mission of providing direct assistance in improving the health and education of Afghanistan's children.

Board members are expected to attend six board meetings per year (that's a 12 hour commitment) and to participate in projects, like the fundraiser, to further our mission. Because of our emphasis on partnerships, we would love to have people who can help P.E.C.A. increase its partners in 2005. Partners are organizations, institutions and corporations who can undertake projects to support Afghanistan education.

Contact Barbara at [info@afghanmodelschool.org](mailto:info@afghanmodelschool.org) or 651-457-0256 if you are interested. You are invited to attend a Board meeting before making a final commitment. See the 2005 schedule below.

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### **3. Wardak School Update by Board Chair Barbara Gerten**

The school in Wardak province, village of Sheik Yasin is scheduled for completion by time school starts in March. This is the school site I visited when I was there in 2003. When the opening celebration takes place in March I will attend and present a gift to their community from people of Minnesota. I plan to present fabric pieces. After exploring several ideas with Wahid Omar (my contact, professor at U of CO-Boulder and director of the construction of this school project) it was decided that lengths of fabric would be most needed by the community. The students could bring home several pieces and the mothers would be invited to attend evening sewing classes. This would provide women opportunities to learn as well and eventually generate income from their skills.

One hundred fifty (150) packs averaging 3 yards were assembled along with a dozen pieces over 4 yards for a total of 680 yards of fabric. The thirteen boxes also contained 350 skeins of yarn and 1,000 sewing aids such as bias tape, trims, pins, scissors. The four boxes of student kits collected by University of Wisconsin-River Falls students belonging to Tomorrow's Educators were also shipped. Thanks to all who contributed.

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### **4. Found – Black Scarf**

When cleaning up after Extrava-ghanistan a black scarf was found. If it could be yours, call 651-457-0256 and leave a message in P.E.C.A. voicemail.

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### **5. 2005 Board Meeting Schedule**

January 19	Board of Directors	7:00	Central Square Community Center- 100 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North South St. Paul MN
February 15	Executive Committee	7:30	Da Afghan Restaurant 929 West 80 <sup>th</sup> Street Bloomington

March 16	Board of Directors	7:00	Eden Prairie Library 565 Prairie Center Dr Eden Prairie MN
April 19	Executive Committee	7:30	Da Afghan
May 18	Board of Directors	7:00	tbd
June 21	Executive Committee	7:30	DaAfghan
July 21	Board of Directors	7:00	tbd
August 16	Executive Committee	7:30	DaAfghan
September 21	Board of Directors	7:00	tbd
October 19	Executive Committee	7:30	DaAfghan
November 16	Board of Directors ANNUAL MEETING	7:00	tbd
December 21	Executive Committee	7:30	DaAfghan

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## 6. P.E.C.A. CONTACT INFORMATION

**Partnership for Education of Children in Afghanistan (P.E.C.A.) is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.**

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