



AIWR News

Summer 2013

A Productive Winter and Spring

AIWR's English Program continued to enjoy great results this winter and spring, thanks in very large part to all the countless hours and hard work of our new English Program Director, Cathy Raymond. (Thank you, Cathy!) During the winter and spring, Cathy, along with AIWR's dedicated English Teachers, provided live, one-on-one, quality English classes via Skype to over thirty-eight students at the Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies and Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education.

AIWR's Legal Mentors (a team of tireless and dedicated Seattle attorneys) have also been hard at work throughout the winter and spring. The Mentors have been continuing to meet, via Skype, with Afghan human rights attorneys at Justice for All (JFA), an Afghan human rights organization. Among many other things, AIWR's Legal Mentors have been helping the Afghan attorneys write reports on Afghan laws relating to women and gender equality for the American Bar Association's International Models Project on Women's Rights (IMPOWR). The product of their efforts so far has been integrated into IMPOWR's research database on Afghanistan (<http://www.impowr.org/research>). Well done JFA and AIWR Legal Mentors!

Sponsorship Program Provides Both Financial And Moral Support

Thanks to many of you, our Sponsorship Program got off to a great start in 2013. Generous sponsors provided three-month sessions of AIWR's English Program to seventeen Afghan girls at the Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies (KIMS). Both the Sponsors and the Afghan students have been thrilled with this opportunity. Here are just a few comments from the students and sponsors:

From Sponsored Students:

Student "A":

"The Biology lessons that I have studied with my AIWR teacher have helped me in my school lessons. We had issues at school because there were some English words in our school Biology book that neither our teacher nor students understood so when I learned these lessons with my teacher I helped my school teacher in translating those words. . .

These classes have helped me a lot! Today because of this class I am working, I am able to write this report. I am very thankful and grateful to my respected sponsor and my teacher."

Student “B”:

“For the last three months, my teacher and I have studied many things such as vocabulary, grammar and reading. Before, I did not use my English outside of the Center, but now I am really happy to have a great job and I am using my English there. I also use my English at university.”



Student “C”:

“Learning English on Skype helped me with my English classes in school. I could also teach some basics of English to my classmates and my other friends. In addition I help my sister and brother and some other members of my family. By learning English I found a new job with perfect salary so I can use English in my new job and I am able to talk with my boss of organization. I am grateful to my sponsors. Thank you!”

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Student “D”:

“My English class has been very helpful and will continue to be very helpful for me. I am doing my on-line management studies now, and my English class has played a very important role in achieving all the English skills because all the assignments and discussions that we are assigned to do for our management studies need improved English, good writing and understanding skills. The AIWR English class has also been helpful because at school when an issue is given as homework I can easily go on the internet, get that information and can translate it back to Pashto easily because I know and understand English. Everything has become very easy with the benefit of the AIWR English classes. The AIWR English class will be very helpful for my future studies too, because I want to do my medical studies and go for higher education, and for achieving this goal I should have improved English skills.”

From English Program Sponsors:

“Dear Alliance for International Women’s Rights, I’m writing to express my deep appreciation for allowing me to directly help an Afghan girl obtain such a precious tool: the English language. I know many people like me are aching to help women and girls in Afghanistan connect with the world. Thanks to AIWR’s English Program and Sponsorship Program, we are now able to do so. Learning English is such a critical first step for women and girls in Afghanistan. Being able to directly provide educational and moral support to a young woman in one of the most inaccessible parts of Afghanistan—Kandahar—is an astonishing accomplishment. Thank you for making this possible. I hope word spreads quickly about your incredible program, so soon, any girl in Afghanistan who desires to learn English and seek an education will be able to do so.”

“I was so pleased to receive the gift of a sponsorship during the holidays. During the craze of our traditional gift-giving, it made me happy to know that a young girl in such a far-away and difficult environment was going to receive a true gift: learning English, safely. What an inspiring, lovely gift.”

“Ten members of our book club decided to each pitch in to sponsor the youngest girl in the program. When we received her progress report, we were so excited to learn how her teacher and the English Program have been life-changing. We are very keen to continue our sponsorship.”

We still have many students waiting to be sponsored. Please consider becoming a sponsor! Sponsorship details can be found here: <http://www.aiwr.org/sponsorship>

Introducing AIWR’s Newest Partner: School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA)

AIWR is very pleased and honored to announce its new partnership with the non-profit School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA). SOLA was co-founded in 2008 by Ted Achilles from the Afghan Division of American Councils for International Education, and one of his students, Shabana Basij-Rasikh. Over the last four and a half years, SOLA has directly or indirectly helped dozens of Afghan students obtain scholarships to study abroad in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Jordan, and other countries. SOLA also runs a boarding school in Kabul, which offers students (primarily girls) from other provinces a chance to receive safe, quality college preparatory courses, as well as extensive training in civic engagement. For more information about SOLA, please see their website: <http://www.sola-afghanistan.org>.

Beginning in late August, AIWR will be working with SOLA’s boarding school to provide AIWR’s long-distance English Program to girls in SOLA’s college preparatory program. AIWR anticipates needing several qualified English teachers for the early morning hours in Afghanistan (ideal for teachers on the west coast of the U.S.) or in the late afternoon or evening in Afghanistan (ideal for teachers on the East Coast of North America). For more information about how to volunteer to as an AIWR English teacher, please see our website (www.aiwr.org) or contact Lisa Herb at lisaherb@aiwr.org.



Contact Us

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