



2010 Annual Report



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OUR MISSION

To assist the families and communities of Iraq by mobilizing a life-changing “Surge of Love” for millions of children orphaned by violence in Iraq.

We are committed to doing this under the leadership of the Iraqi people by

- Serving as a catalyst to mobilize US and international partners***
- Investing in training and capacity building of Iraq’s non-governmental and community organizations***
- Emphasizing direct assistance for hand up, not hand out, projects***

OUR STORY

The Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation (SICF) was founded by two Americans who lived and worked in Iraq during the war. Maxwell Quqa (right) served as a bilingual, bicultural advisor for US officials in Iraq and Jonathan Webb (below) served in Iraq with the United States Army and later with a private firm. Through their work in Iraq, both men became acutely aware of the plight of orphans in Iraq. The sectarian violence and terrorism that wracked the nation had taken a heavy toll on those who are the most vulnerable, children.



SICF began its work as a humanitarian assistance organization, offering concerned Americans as well as Iraqis an opportunity to take concrete action to help orphans. Mobilized by SICF, caring Americans in the United States, at the US Embassy in Baghdad, and other organizations helped collect and distribute food, medicine, school supplies, backpacks, shoes, and other humanitarian supplies. SICF also began building relationships with Iraqi nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other leaders, experts, and policy makers with a passion to help Iraq’s extremely vulnerable orphans.

In 2009, SICF was officially granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status by the IRS. Work began on projects to help orphans that would last long after US soldiers would leave Iraq, including a key project to train local community groups and adults to address trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in orphaned children who have experienced violence. The story of our efforts in 2010 to continue this humanitarian work on behalf of orphaned children in Iraq follows.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010

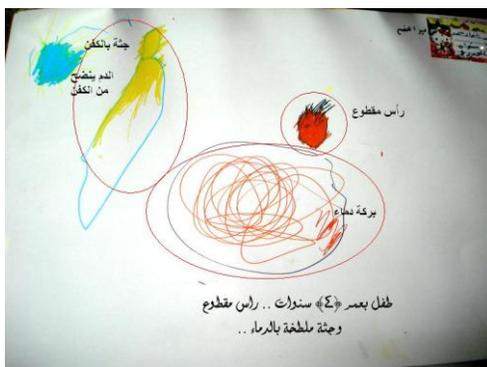
- **Beyond Food and Shelter:**
Investing in Training to Address Trauma in Extremely Vulnerable Orphans
- **Surge of Love Flight:**
Mobilizing 2,600 pounds of love gifts for orphans
- **Winter Jackets and Summer Fans:**
The warmth of a coat reflects the warmth of loving donors. And a battery-operated fan provides relief in the Baghdad summer
- **Destitute Al-Hamidiyah District of Baghdad:**
Successful completion of a project to feed and clothe needy orphans
- **From Iraq to America:**
Drawings from the hearts and hands of Iraqi children

Beyond Food and Shelter:

Investing in Training to Address Trauma in Extremely Vulnerable Orphans

- *"The issue is not a place where they can sleep and eat," said another Iraqi psychiatrist Haider Abdul-Muhsin. "More important than that is whether they can find peace inside themselves. It is to be expected that when you have a high percentage of orphans and deprived people in Iraq, you will have a corresponding increase in crime and violence in the future." Iraqi sociologist, Dr. Fawziya al-Attiya, warned that orphans left behind by the war and its consequences are "easy prey" for terrorists and criminals and said the need to invest in orphan care is "urgent".*
- *--Iraq's Orphans Battle to Outgrow Abuse, Reuters, March 1, 2009*

The renowned Children's Village (CV) and Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation (SICF) spent 2010 laying the groundwork for a "Community Care Worker" (CCW) initiative to equip adult caregivers in extended families and community groups with skills to address trauma in orphans. Teams from SICF and The Children's Village travelled twice to Baghdad to consult with an Iraqi Advisory Board of experts on the design of the training program. SICF also began a process of gathering information and vetting Iraqi NGOs working with orphans to identify those best suited for the new CCW initiative.

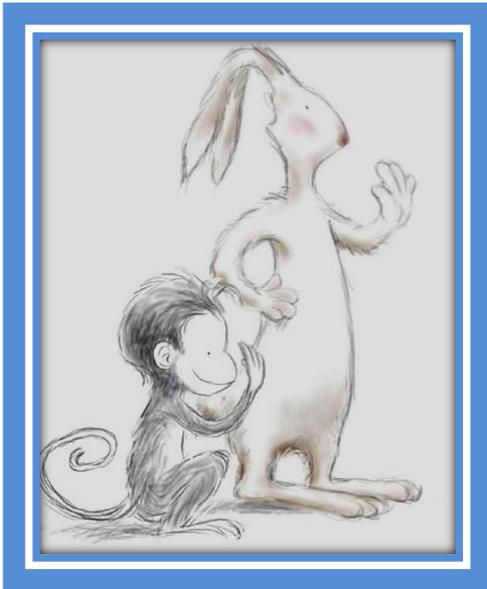


The CCW training is being designed to focus on the extreme vulnerability of orphans, particularly in the area of belonging and identity, and will be delivered in Baghdad over four days to pre-screened individuals representing NGOs serving thousands of orphans. The training will include background in child development and trauma, as well as training in simple but powerful tools to address the identity, belonging and developmental needs of these orphans.

This poignant drawing was done by a 4-year old child who witnessed the beheading of his father by insurgents when he was 2. The child saw his father soaking in a pool of blood.

The highlights of the CCW initiative include:

- A basic classroom introduction to child development and trauma / PTSD concepts that lay the foundation for specific, practical interventions in the lives of orphans.
- The “LifeBook” project in which community care workers will be trained to help orphans create scrapbooks or journals of their immediate and extended family, heritage, and community by collecting pictures and stories about deceased parents and other family members from relatives, neighbors, and others in the community.
- A leave-behind “toolbox” for adult caregivers in the home (e.g. widowed mothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, extended family members) that would use recreation, storytelling, and other culturally appropriate, family-based activities to reinforce principles of belonging, inclusion, compassion, and hope. A centerpiece of this toolbox will be a unique book designed specifically to help Iraqi orphans understand and cope with their circumstances.
- Preparing community care workers to train adults in the home in basic skills that help them connect certain behaviors exhibited by orphans to underlying needs and feelings, create safe spaces, and encourage positive social interactions, through the use of such tools as an Iraqi-appropriate version of a “care bear.”
- Self-evaluation and self-care for community care workers themselves.
- A “train the trainer” track to multiply the number of community care workers equipped to understand the needs of orphans and train caregivers in the use of these tools.



SICF partnered with LitWorld – a US-based non profit whose mission is to use the power of story to cultivate literacy skills in the world’s most vulnerable children - to create a special children’s story book entitled “New Day, New Friends” that uses friendly animals to illustrate and foster 7 strengths of resilience in orphans: belonging, hope, compassion, friendship, confidence, esteem and curiosity.

The book is dedicated to Iraqi children and includes a discussion guide for adults to use when reading the story with orphans to help them understand and cope with their difficult circumstances. The story was written by Charles Alexander London, former director of curriculum for War Kids Relief and renown author of such books as One Day The Soldiers Came: Voices of Children in War, and the Accidental Adventures series for young readers.

“Surge of Love” Flight: *Mobilizing 2,600 pounds of love gifts for orphans*

With the extraordinary generosity of donors from across the United States, SICF mobilized approximately 2,600 pounds of donated love gifts for orphans in Iraq, including school backpacks and other school supplies, shirts for school, stuffed animals, toothbrushes and items. At year-end, the items were boxed and awaiting transshipment to Iraq in 2011. Donors included charitable organizations such as Loving Hugs, LitWorld, and Life for Relief and Development, as well as businesses, churches, and individuals.



“If only countries would put down the guns and pick up a pencil we all would be better off. Starting with the children is the perfect way to begin.”

---- Carol Van Sleet, Surge of Love Flight Donor

Winter Jackets and Summer Fans:

The warmth of a coat reflects the warmth of loving donors. And a battery-operated fan provides relief in the Baghdad summer

Staying warm in the winter months came as a gift to many Iraqi orphans when SICF's "Winter Project" enabled the purchase and distribution of 310 winter coats for needy boys and girls. SICF earmarked \$2,400 raised at a fundraiser to buy the coats for the orphans and then partnered with six Iraqi NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to distribute the clothing. People think of Iraq as hot and sandy. But they are surprised to hear that temperatures drop significantly during the short winter season, particularly in the evenings. Something as simple as a warm jacket can make all the difference.

In July, during extreme heat and electricity outages, SICF also provided nine destitute homes caring for orphans with battery-powered fans to help allay their suffering.



Destitute Al-Hamidiyah District of Baghdad: *Successful completion of a project to feed and clothe orphans in need*

Continuing with a project that began in 2009, SICF completed its program of monthly support of food and other items to homes caring for orphans in the destitute Al-Hamidiyah District of Baghdad.

A widow who received a sewing machine from SICF in 2009 was able to graduate from the monthly assistance program.



Iraq to America: *Drawings from the hearts and hands of Iraqi Children*

With touching words about the plight of the orphans in Iraq from Iraq's Ambassador to the United States Samir Sumaida'ie and words of hope and wisdom from the President and CEO of The Children's Village of New York Dr. Jeremy Kohomban, SICF's Surge of Love evening in November highlighted the crisis facing the orphans of Iraq and offered an opportunity to caring donors to support efforts to help these children.

Drawings from orphans and other children in Iraq were professionally framed by Cathy Sincavage, mother of SICF's Vice President-US Jonathan Webb, and displayed at an art show and silent auction to raise support for the training initiative in Iraq to help orphans affected by trauma and violence. What these wonderful drawings revealed in many instances was not just creativity and talent but visions of reconciliation and peace in the land that these children call home.



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2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Maxwell Quqa
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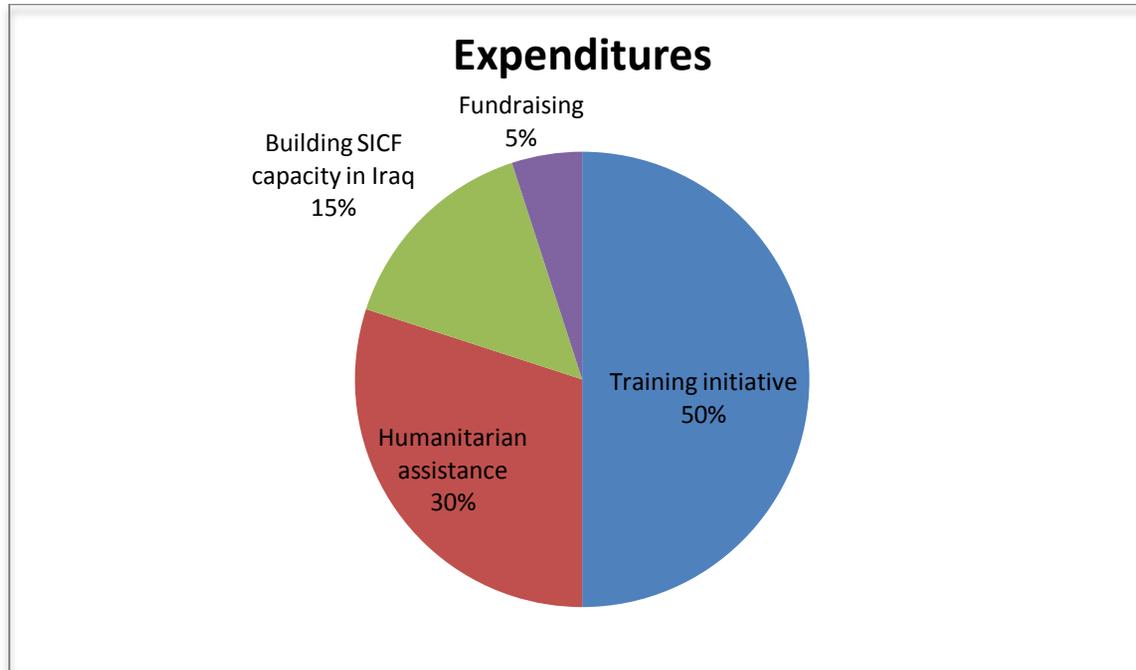
Charles Dublin
Vice President – Iraq

Fred Schwien
Member of the Board

Cynthia Fogleman
US Liaison, Executive Director

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: WHERE OUR MONEY WENT

In 2010, its second year as a tax exempt charity, SICF's income rose 26 percent from the previous year to \$67,422. SICF spent approximately \$91,400 during 2010. A summary of expenses in 2010 for training and humanitarian activities described in this report and for the building of SICF's in-country capacity after its American founders left Iraq is as follows:



For more information about the Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation, visit our website at www.sicfiraq.org. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs of the Commonwealth of Virginia.