



Launching a Surge of Love for the Orphans of Iraq

2009 Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

The year 2009 marked a watershed for the Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation. The organization moved from a small grassroots humanitarian movement launched by Americans working in Iraq, to an established US-based charity with IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) status.

As we look back on 2009, we are grateful for the many supporters, partners, and donors who share our passion for the millions of orphans in Iraq and understand the imperative to join hands with the Iraqi people in addressing this crisis. The future security and stability of Iraq – a nation in which many Americans have given their all – rests on it. For all those who have contributed to a growing awareness of this crisis and the need to launch a “surge of love” on behalf of Iraq’s precious orphans, we say thank you.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Maxwell Quqa
President



Our Mission

The mission of the Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation is to come alongside the families and communities of Iraq in providing compassionate care for needy orphans. We are committed to doing this under the leadership of the Iraqi people by –

- Serving as a catalyst to mobilize U.S. 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 served as a bilingual, bicultural advisor for US officials in Iraq and Jonathan Webb served in Iraq with the United States Army and 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.

A banquet organized in September 2007 in the international zone (IZ) in Baghdad drew support from Americans and Iraqis, and generated approximately \$15,000 in seed money for the SICF. In 2009, SICF was officially granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status by the IRS. The report that follows tells more of the story of SICF's work to bring hope and love to the orphans of Iraq.

Highlights of 2009 Accomplishments

- **Baghdad Conference**
Addressing Iraq's Urgent Orphan Crisis
- **Training**
Partnering with The Children's Village of New York to build Iraq's capacity to care for their own
- **Al-Hamidiyah District**
Caring for Destitute Orphans
- **Kid to Kid**
Virginia Students Extend a Helping Hand
- **Access to Computers**
Providing Computers for Orphans in Najaf
- **A Surge of Love**
Raising US and International Awareness

Baghdad Conference

Addressing Iraq's Urgent Orphan Crisis

On April 15, 2009, the Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation cosponsored a conference in Baghdad on the urgent orphan crisis facing Iraq. The conference was held at the Al Rashid Hotel and attended by Iraqi non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Baghdad, Babylon, Amara, and other cities.

The keynote speaker Dr. Ali Al Dabbagh called for creation of a national strategy to address the orphan crisis. Other presenters included the Chairwoman of the Iraqi Parliament's Committee on Women, Families, and Children, the acting Minister of Women's Affairs, and a US representative of International Relief and Development (IRD). Other Iraqi dignitaries, representatives of the press, and a non-governmental delegation from the US attended.



In the wake of the conference, SICF received an appeal for capacity building training for Iraqi NGOs caring for orphans.

Training

Partnering with The Children's Village of New York to Build Iraq's Capacity to Care for Their Own

In response to an Iraqi appeal for training after the orphan conference, SICF invited the Children's Village (CV) of New York to help design and deliver a capacity building training program for Iraqi NGOs serving orphans.

On October 4-6, 2009, an SICF-CV advance team met in Baghdad with some 50 representatives of thirty Iraqi NGOs, as well with Iraqi government leaders and other experts to discuss the orphan crisis in Iraq. During those three days, the SICF-CV team obtained expert input on the scope of the Iraqi orphan crisis and delivered an introduction to a range of capacity building training curricula for NGOs.



The sessions concluded with a nationally televised meeting between the Iraqi Prime Minister and the participants in the training program, the first such meeting of its kind for these Iraqi NGOs.



Al-Hamidiyah District in Baghdad

Caring for Destitute Orphans

Located in a destitute section of Baghdad, the Al Hamidiyah District has been home to an estimated 30 displaced families with some 100 orphans.



Dirt streets link houses made mostly of pieces of concrete block. The water is dirty and children are observed picking through trash.

In 2009, SICF began monthly support of food, clothing, and other basic necessities to some of these needy orphans for one year. The support included purchase of a sewing machine for a widowed mother to help her build an income-generating sewing business to support her family.

One orphan (in the photo) and her brother lost both parents to bombings. The man is a handicapped uncle and the woman, a grandmother and breadwinner.

Kid to Kid

Virginia Junior High School Students Extend a Helping Hand

In June 2009, Junior High students at Immanuel Christian School in Springfield, Virginia, voted to donate \$325 from funds they had raised to the SICF.

The funds were designated to provide “goodie bags” to orphans in Iraq. The bags, containing basics such as flour, cooking oil, canned goods, socks, toothbrushes, etc., were distributed by a clinic in Baghdad which serves needy orphans and widows.



Access to Computers

Providing Computers for Orphans in Najaf

In late 2008, the SICF learned that an Iraqi NGO caring for orphans in Najaf, needed computers for these empty desks at the library.

In 2009, SICF purchased and delivered 15 new desktop computers to the NGO so orphans could learn computer skills.



A Surge of Love

Raising U.S. and International Awareness

Throughout 2009, the SICF took steps to raise US and international awareness of the overlooked orphan crisis in Iraq. An American free lance journalist who attended the Baghdad conference reported on the crisis in a column for The Washington Examiner. Arab and international media – print and broadcast -- also covered the conference.

Media also covered the SICF-CV advance team’s visit to Baghdad to introduce the training initiative for NGOs serving orphans.

In November, at its first major US fundraiser, the SICF launched a new “Surge of Love” campaign for Iraqi orphans with the release of a custom designed pin by Ann Hand.



The pin features the outline of Iraq, its flag colors, and figures of an orphan boy and girl. The first pins were awarded to individuals and organizations who have been major champions for Iraq’s orphans in 2009.

Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation Board of Directors

Maxwell Quqa
President

Charles Dublin
Vice President Iraq

Jonathan Webb
Vice President U.S.

Stephan Fogleman
Chairman

Susan Schwien
Vice Chairman

Fred Schwien
Member of the Board

Cynthia Fogleman
US Liaison, Executive Director

Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation

Financial Summary

In 2009, the year the SICF received IRS tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status, total income rose to \$53,481. Highlights of project expenditures are as follows:

Food, clothing, computers, for orphans	\$10,025
Baghdad Orphan Conference	\$3,845
Training for Iraqi NGOs that care for orphans	\$13,429
Iraqi staff budget for all projects	\$12,000
US staff and office expenses	\$0
Fundraising expenses (5.6% of total income)	\$3,140



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