



Canadian Women *for* Women in Afghanistan

Annual Report 2018



Harnessing the power of education to empower future generations to build a peaceful Afghanistan.

• *Because Human Rights Are Universal* •

**Our 2018 Annual Report is
Dedicated to Janice Eisenhauer
Co-Founder and Executive Director 1998-2018**



This past September, Janice stepped down after 20 years as volunteer Executive Director. As she told members at the Annual General Meeting: *"While this was not an easy decision, it was the right one! I am very privileged to be part of this vibrant and unique organization. I have personally witnessed the incredible accomplishments of CW4WAfghan and the continued passion and commitment of its leadership team, its membership across Canada, and the staff and network in Afghanistan that make all of this work possible."* Janice proudly passes the Executive Director baton to her successor, Lauryn Oates, and she remains actively involved with the work of the organization as Senior Advisor.

At the 20th Anniversary Dinner held in Toronto, Janice was deeply moved by the many tributes and special messages and videos coming from members and dear friends across Canada, the UK, Afghanistan—and from Sally Armstrong, sending her special video message from outside the walls of Petra, Jordan!

"You, me and the women and girls of Afghanistan. An unlikely combination brought together by a gang of thugs called The Taliban. We had so much to learn about cultures, about tribes, about broken promises and hijacked religions.

Who could have imagined then that a woman from Calgary and her gang of believers could turn around the catastrophe facing the women and girls of Afghanistan. But you did. Your commitment to right over wrong, your tenacity in the face of the impossible, your courage and hope accomplished what few could do. And thousands, maybe millions of women and girls have been touched by your strength and belief and goodness.

I can't even describe the size of the heart-stirring experiences I've had in following your journey. From midnight phone calls when we thought all was lost to daring escapades when we saw a light at the end of the tunnel, I have been a witness to the fighter, the philosopher, the administrator and the dreamer called Janice. Lucky me.

With gratitude, admiration, respect and tons of love, I congratulate you on a life well lived and a job well done!"

— Sally Armstrong
Journalist, Author and Human Rights Advocate

**ANNOUNCING the
Janice Eisenhauer
Medal For
Achievement**



In honour of her legacy, CW4WAfghan is proud to announce the creation of the Janice Eisenhauer Medal for Achievement, an award to be presented, along with a small stipend, to a deserving Afghan student to support her further educational goals.

Thank You Volunteers, Members, Community Partners and Generous Donors!

To you, our members, volunteers, community partners and donors, please know that our programs and projects are only possible thanks to your loyalty and generosity. We thank you most sincerely for staying with us on this incredible journey and standing alongside the women and girls in Afghanistan, year after year—decade after decade—as they demonstrate their strengths and courage in seeking access to quality education for themselves and their families.

Volunteers in Canada from British Columbia to the Atlantic provinces raise funds, friends, fun and awareness. Breaking Bread dinners and a variety of other events are held coast to coast throughout the year, raising awareness of women's rights and fundraising. More than \$300,000 is raised annually to support the Lantern Fund for Teacher Education and the village libraries and literacy (Afghanistan Reads) program. From small neighbourhood gatherings, to community walks, galas attended by hundreds, classroom presentations and speaking engagements, CW4WAfghan relies on the amazing work of these community hosts, chefs, organizers, guest speakers, sponsors and donors who have helped turn the many ideas to share fun and fellowship into life-changing programs for thousands of Afghan teachers and their students each year.



Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan
www.CW4WAfghan.ca

Examples of what your donation buys in Afghanistan

- \$35 buys student notebooks and pencils
- \$75 funds a community librarian for one month
- \$125 provides classroom books and lab learning materials
- \$200 covers one year of after-school programs for one girl
- \$300 sends a young girl to community school for one year
- \$400 funds one year of literacy classes for a village woman
- \$750 funds a teacher's salary for six months
- \$1,000 trains a librarian at a rural teacher college
- \$1,500 supplies 500 books to one school or village library

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan.ca) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1998 with a network of members in chapters and regions across Canada. CW4WAfghan is a non-religious, non-political, federally registered charity (Canada Revenue Agency #887718203RR0001). Our goals are to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families and to educate Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan. Donor-funded projects fall within our four main program areas: (1) Investing in Basic Education; (2) Community Libraries, Literacy and Books; (3) Technology for Education; and (4) Public Engagement.

A Message From Our Board President 2010-2018

I am honoured to give the President's Report for the last time after eight years of service in this role. This is a bittersweet task as I reflect on not only the last year but also on the past decade and more. The opportunity to participate at this level has become a central part of my life. It has enabled me to work with amazing people, on the mission of serving Afghan girls and women—in my view, an enterprise of great meaning and worthiness.

I cannot express enough what a great pleasure and honour it has been to work with the Board these last years and I'd like to thank all of these directors, both past and present, for the passion and dedication they have brought to the goal of improving the lives of Afghan girls and women. A huge thank you to our staff, both Canadian and Afghan, who have made our vision a reality and share our convictions and commitment to the cause.

This is truly a time of great transition for us. There are no words to fully capture the contribution made by Janice Eisenhauer, our co-founder and the heart of our organization, and I know her legacy and passion and influence on this work will continue. We are incredibly fortunate and blessed that Lauryn will pick up the reins, bringing her own 20 years of passionate commitment to a new role as Executive Director. This year has also brought us the blessing of Murwarid Zaiyee coming to Canada to serve as our Senior Director and strengthen our work and bring a truly Afghan perspective to our enterprise in Canada. And we were pleased to welcome Latifa Majidi as our new Country Director in Afghanistan.

I also extend my appreciation to the Chapters and members across this country who have raised so much awareness and so

Madeliene Tarasick (right), Past-President, welcomes **Narmin Ismail-Teja** as the new Chair of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting in Toronto 2018



many dollars for 20 years. These efforts have been matched by the endless number of supporters and donors who also believe that every girl needs to be educated, as well as every boy. It has been gratifying to be part of the evolution of our organization, from the beginning where we had a main focus of hiring teachers, to a focus on also training teachers, to implementing a highly sophisticated digital library, to community library and literacy programs, as examples, and now we look to work at even a more macro-level by enhancing teacher training colleges to better address gender issues and to encourage more women teachers to succeed in the profession.

A special thank you to Narmin Ismail-Teja—pictured with me cutting our 20th Anniversary cake at the 2018 national AGM—to whom I personally pass the baton. I am so excited that a leader of such great capacity is willing to take us forward. Please join me in welcoming our new Board Chair!

We all shared some tearful moments this year as Marg Stewart, Irene MacDonald and Dale Butterill—wonderful friends and leaders—completed their terms on the board. But it has been a time also to celebrate these transitions, new beginnings and new directions. A warm welcome to our new board members: Pat Cashion, Carolyn Reicher, Louise Griep and Laila Rashid! I know you will bring fresh energy and commitment to our shared goal to advance education for Afghan women and their families. One thing I have learned is that we all, as individuals and collectively, have an important and powerful role to play.

So, in closing, I say farewell from the President's role, and I look forward both to continuing to work at a local level to support Afghan girls and women and also to continue my association with all of you who continue to share the dream.

Madeliene Tarasick

— **Madeliene Tarasick**
2010 - 2018 President
2018-19 Past-President
Kingston Chapter Chair

A Message From Our Executive Director and Senior Director

Afghan women stop at nothing. They not only fight for their rights every day, but also for a peaceful country. They strive to defeat the extremism and injustices that hold them back. They risk their lives to go to schools and universities and to work outside their homes in positions as diverse as they are. Like you and me, the women of Afghanistan take pride in their achievements in education, sports, music, and much more. Whether formally educated or not, they are well-informed of their rights and believe that the only way to fight violence, injustice and other setbacks is to strengthen their position in their home, community and workplace.

They are brave—actually among the most courageous women of this era. Even when they know their lives are at risk they are not discouraged. They continue to struggle to achieve. Not even the lack of governmental or legal support can stop them. Shamsia, a teacher trained in the CW4WAfghan Fanoos Program, is one of those thousands of brave girls. Shamsia survived a serious attack for going to school in 2008, but she could not be stopped from following her dream to become a teacher and educate other girls—even while the government failed to prosecute or punish the perpetrators.



How far have girls like Shamsia come? For the first time, women are establishing movements like #WhereIsMyName, a campaign to end a history of only being referred to as the mother, daughter or sister of the eldest male in the family, and living without their names recorded on their children's birth certificates. The first female television channel, ZAN, has been established, along with the Yoga Center in Kabul run for women by a woman, and the first women's fashion magazine, Gellara, has been published. These are only a few of the hundreds of unique initiatives and achievements happening today and giving rise to awareness in big cities and remote villages alike.

We thank you for all you do to stand with Afghan women and girls every day. Your solidarity, your actions and your unwavering support are giving women equal opportunity to practice and enjoy their full human rights!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauryn Oates".



— Lauryn Oates
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Murwarid Ziayee".



— Murwarid Ziayee
Senior Director

CW4WAfghan is listening to the women of Afghanistan, and we have prepared a joint statement with our allies at Women for Afghan Women outlining our position and recommendations on the question of negotiations with the Taliban. We are dismayed at the lack of commitment to preserving protections to women's rights demonstrated by the parties to ongoing negotiations regarding peace in Afghanistan.

[Read our STATEMENT HERE.](#) [Please Join Us! SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE MEMBERSHIP HERE.](#)

In this statement, we outline the current state of peace negotiations, our concern that Taliban promises of more enlightened policies and practices are simply not supported by the evidence on the ground, and the priorities, objectives and grievances Afghan women want addressed through a peace process. This background is followed by an outline of our position on these matters—an immediate cessation of violence, women's rights per the Constitution and international legal instruments are protected without exception, the preservation of Afghanistan's democratic institutions and processes as the only access to formal power available to the Taliban. We conclude with our 10 recommendations with respect to the Afghan peace process.

Awards and Recognition

2018 Champion of Education Award

This year's Champion Of Education in Afghanistan Award is proudly awarded to longstanding Kingston Chapter and National Board members **Madeliene Tarasick** and **Margaret Stewart**.

"Madeliene and Margaret, this award cannot even begin to express our respect and admiration for all you have accomplished over these incredible years to impact the lives of so many women and girls in Afghanistan and their families. Both individually and as a dynamic team, you have been role models for true advocacy and generosity. Thank you for inspiring so many of us every day with your unwavering passion and determination. Congratulations!"

– Lauryn Oates, Executive Director



Congratulations to our Champions!
Madeliene Tarasick (left) and Margaret Stewart



Governor General's Meritorious Cross

Congratulations to co-founders **Janice Eisenhauer** and **Carolyn Reicher**, recipients of the Meritorious Service Cross given in recognition of individuals who have made remarkable contributions in many different fields of endeavour, who inspire others and who share a common goal of making a positive difference.

American Library Association's Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects

The **Darakht-e Danesh Library** was selected as one of the four 2018 recipients of the American Library Association's Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects. This citation recognizes innovative library services that create positive changes in countries outside of the US. On June 25th, Dr. Rebecca Miller, CW4WAfghan consultant, accepted the framed citation on behalf of the DDL team from ALA's President, Jim Neal, at the International Library Reception at the BB King's Club, which was part of this year's ALA conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.



Glenn Hunter Memorial
Mobile Library

In Tribute

Thank you to all those who honoured or remembered a special person in your life by helping girls and women in Afghanistan. Just as those loved ones made an impact in your life, your generosity is making a lasting impact on education and learning where it is needed most!



Dedicated to the memory
of Mushtary Massoud

From Flicker To Flame: Supporting Teaching and Learning in Afghanistan Celebrating 20 Years

Toronto 2018 was an emotional weekend for all as we celebrated the incredible contributions and impact of our work over the past two decades and looked together toward the future of education for women and girls in Afghanistan. We said farewell to longstanding leaders and welcomed new ones. We collaborated with outstanding volunteers from across Canada who took time from their busy schedules to connect in-person and share their experiences and plans in their local chapters.

We were moved by a distinguished list of presenters from Afghanistan and Canada who inspired us with their expertise, their convictions, their passion and their overwhelming support for the work ahead. A special thanks to our Halton Chapter hosts, whose attention to every detail brought it all together so beautifully.



Murwarid Ziajee
Senior Director



CW4WAfghan Delegates September 29, 2018



(l-r) MC, Kate McKenzie; Panelists: Noorjahan Akbar;
Jamshid Hashimi; Murwarid Ziajee; Abdul Rahim Ahmad Parwani



(l-r) Lauryn Oates, Madeliene
Tarasick, Margaret Stewart and
Janice Eisenhauer



Guest Speaker:
Martin Parnell



Guest Speakers:
Lisa LaFlamme and Sally Armstrong



Guest Speaker:
Khalil Shariff, CEO AKFC



Guest Speaker:
Noorjahan Akbar

**Mark your calendars—please join us for BRITISH COLUMBIA 2019
Harrison Hot Springs, BC October 3-5, 2019**



PROGRAM: Investing in Basic Education

Lantern (Fanoos) Teacher Education for Afghanistan

Budget 2018 \$252,700

The new phase of Fanoos Teacher Education programming is focusing on select Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) and includes four thematic areas: Educational Leadership; Teaching Reading; Critical Thinking; and Learning Resources. Activities are planned to include: improving college libraries, improving the teaching of literacy (and upgrading the status of primary teachers), introducing courses for school principals and education administrators, and introducing courses in critical thinking and active learning.

School Science Lab and Library Starter Kits

Budget 2017-18 \$45,000

School science lab and library starter kits are provided to schools and villages as part of CW4WAfghan's goal to raise learning outcomes for students. The library starter kit contains 500 books for new readers in local languages. CW4WAfghan provides the necessary shelving to display and store the resources. This project also includes a Librarianship and Reading Promotion Training and Coaching Program to ensure the most effective use of these resources.

Highlights:

- procured Dari and Pashto books for 6 TTCs libraries and deliver to TTCs
- developed library management training course and planned training for 13 TTCs librarians
- conducted monitoring visits and surveys on the needs of 6 TTCs
- 19 science and library kits were distributed to Herat high schools

"My country is improving day by day. I see it myself during my visits to provinces where we work and in reports from teachers' satisfaction surveys. TTC Instructors and students now have access to new and useful resources that help them to teach new generations with more knowledge and skill and full of confidence."

– Mubarak,
CW4WAfghan Monitoring
and Evaluation Officer



Fatema Tul Zahra (FTZ) School

Budget 2018 \$106,000

FTZ is a local community school in Kabul that serves school-age girls who attend classes in one of two shifts each day from grades 1-10. At an average cost of \$300 per student, CW4WAfghan donations provide: a safe building and classrooms; trained teachers who benefit from ongoing professional development; after school program instructors; learning resources and school notebooks and pencils; fuel for heat in winter; a growing library; a modern computer lab; a playground; and a learning garden.

CW4WAfghan's quality assurance staff support the school administration and work closely with the school to improve the quality of learning. A new coaching and mentoring component was introduced to connect experienced teachers with junior or new teachers and a performance measurement framework developed to track progress and identify areas in need of improvement.

Highlights:

- 368 female students with 9 girls advancing to the new Grade 11 class March 2019
- 16 teachers in the morning and afternoon shifts; 7 teachers providing after-school instruction
- school kitchen was updated, including a much needed water purifier thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Kabul and Germany.

"When I joined FTZ School, I noticed that students are more motivated and interested in their lessons than in my previous school. What made me most surprised was that the school has a free after-school program for students to improve their abilities."

– Morsal, FTZ Student





CW4WAfghan refurbished the computer lab at the FTZ School with funding support from the Canadian Embassy in Kabul. Once the lab was equipped, we developed a digital literacy curriculum for six grade levels. As part of a pilot project, we used the curriculum to train the school's teachers and this experience allowed us to improve the curriculum. We also partnered with an Afghan volunteer-led initiative, *CodeKids*, and young Afghan software developers taught coding to the girls at FTZ School.

Girls from FTZ on a field trip to the Children's Museum of Science and Technology, Kabul (left).



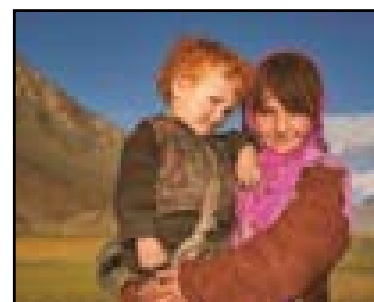
PROGRAM: Afghanistan Reads! / Lowalee! Community Libraries, Literacy and Books

Wakhan Initiative for Literacy, Education & Development (WILED)

Responding to a request from local activists to improve access to education in this remote part of Badakhshan province, the Better Business Society approached CW4WAfghan, and we began to assess needs in the area and look at how to help. Thus was born a project with the two-fold aim of enabling a more educated population in Wakhan with enhanced quality of life, and improved local capacity for managing and delivering quality learning and teaching. The local implementing partner is SALEH, with funding generously provided by the Better Business Society and its partner donors.

Highlights:

- basic literacy classes for both women and men
- life skills, librarianship and reading mentorship are upcoming activities in 2019



"The Wakhan Corridor is a stunning and fabled area in Afghanistan, the "arm" on the map of Afghanistan that reaches Eastwards into China. The Wakhi people are traditionally nomadic, and are known for their unique culture and lifestyle. They have been called the people who live On The Roof of the World, as well as the Prisoners of the Himalayas."

- Lauryn, CW4WAfghan Executive Director

CW4WAfghan Community Literacy Classes and Libraries (AR!)

Budget 2018 \$39,300

The AR! program supports an expanding network of community, village and neighbourhood literacy classes, libraries and access to a growing collection of books. These literacy classes and education resources are to help reinforce literacy skills, nurture a culture of reading, and foster independent, lifelong learning for Afghan women who are illiterate and have few other options for learning. The classes are provided to adult women and out-of-school girls in a number of small Afghan village communities. The classes are typically held within the home of a local woman who receives a small stipend for hosting the classes. Local teachers are recruited and trained to run the classes and maintain a small library.



Highlights:

- each class provides approximately 25 female literacy students with one year of basic literacy classes
- life skills training and hygiene kits provided
- support for teachers to improve literacy pedagogy and to adopt librarianship practices
- 97 literacy students registered in 3 classes in Karte Naw district of Kabul province.

“The AR! program not only provides reading and writing instruction through literacy courses and local libraries for women and their families, but also gives students essential information on women’s decision-making about health, nutrition, women’s rights, and more—to improve their self-esteem, confidence and empowerment.”

– Humaira, CW4WAfghan Project Officer

Afghan Women’s Empowerment Program (AWEP)

Budget 2018 \$248,100

CW4WAfghan is partnering with Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC), and its implementing partner, Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan (AKFA), in this project that runs from 2016-2020. CW4WAfghan’s role is to deliver literacy education to female beneficiaries in Takhar province. The project has an emphasis on reading promotion and equipping teachers with librarian skills so they effectively engage literacy learners in reading activities.

Life skills education is integrated into these literacy classes, to make the sessions more relevant and meaningful for this rural population of new readers. Each village literacy class is equipped with a mobile library of 500-700 books with shelving. The women and girls are able to make use of these resources during their classes, and they also take the books home to read with their families. When the classes end, the libraries are handed over to local public schools, to AKFA Community Based Saving Groups (CBSGs), or to the local District Educational Department.

Highlights:

- 443 women completed the program in Baharak district, with a low dropout rate of 1.5 percent. The third cohort of 10 classes started in Warsaj district in April 2018 and will be completed in March 2019
- 80% of learners reported in the exit questionnaire that they were very satisfied with the program and 79% of learners reported that they were very satisfied with how their teacher taught the class
- mobile libraries were distributed to the first cohort of 10 literacy classes that took place in Baharak in August 2017
- a total of 145 graduates of Baharak District received professional training from the Directorate of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled and AKF Takhar in fields of plantation, tailoring, beekeeping, carpet weaving and sewing.

“Despite challenges such as caring for their families, working on farms with their men, selling dairy and other products at market, and much more, these women have regularly attended AWEP literacy classes and now help their children with literacy. I feel happy seeing the women reading and writing, a dream made possible through AWEP!”

– Munir, CW4WAfghan AWEP Program Manager



In partnership with:



Funded with financial support from:





PROGRAM: Technology for Education

Darakht-e Danesh Library (DD Library)

www.darakhtdanesh.org

Budget 2018 \$67,800

Darakht-e Danesh Library is a digital repository of open educational resources (OERs) including lesson plans, pedagogical tools, exercises, experiments, reading texts, work books, curricula and other resources for use in Afghan classrooms, as well as for general information.

The collection houses more than 3,500 resources in over 350 subject categories, for both primary and secondary teachers, in three languages: Dari, Pashto and English, with a plan to add additional Afghan languages in 2019.

The goals are to increase access to quality, locally adapted educational resources, to encourage teachers to consult a wide variety of information sources in their practice, and to support teachers to adapt, create and share their own resources with other educators.

The DD Library users represent every one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces (besides users in more than 20 other countries), and the library is being used by hundreds of people on a daily basis.

Highlights:

- 568 new resources added to the library during 2018
- by the end of 2018, we had more than 3,500 resources in the library in over 350 different topics
- resources are being developed for both primary and secondary teachers in seven languages: Dari, Pashto, English, and the Afghan minority languages of Nooristani, Uzbeki, Swaji and Munji

"As a free online learning resource, the DD Library is accessible to a diverse group of users, including teachers, students and anyone with a curious mind who wants to have access to quality resources to learn more on a particular subject and improve their personal and professional development."

- Parwani, CW4WAfghan Quality Control and Editor Manager



Internet in Afghan Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs)

Budget 2018 \$89,200

With Internet access, current and future educators in Afghanistan can develop their subject knowledge, discover new approaches and methods to teaching, design better lesson plans, find materials to use in the classroom, and access education research. Access to such information online will help teachers be more effective educators, meaning Afghan children will have better learning outcomes.

To support TTCs to gain Internet connectivity, CW4WAfghan has an agreement with the colleges and the Ministry of Education to cover the initial costs of Internet installation and Internet service for a period of 12 months with the Ministry of Education taking over the costs of monthly service in the next year's budget, and thereafter.

Thanks to the generous support of Canadian donors, including a matching grant of \$12,000 from Canadian International Learning Foundation, we have connected six teacher training colleges (shown in red), and seven other colleges are running DDL Lite, the off-line version of the Darakht-e Danesh Library (shown in yellow), off a local server.

Highlights:

- facilitated access to the Internet in computer labs at 6 TTCs, providing free digital educational materials for Afghan educators, including training and access to the DD Library
- specifically targeted female student teachers, faculty members, and in-service teachers



Grants to Implementing Partner Organizations and Students Scholarships

Budget 2018 \$27,000

CW4WAfghan has been working for decades with qualified, trusted partners in key areas that contribute to achieving our goals. This program provides small grants for flexible funding to meet various unique project needs. Examples of grants are **PARSA's Sisters 4 Sisters (S4S)**, a program providing mentorship and personalized attention for small groups of at-risk women and girls; the **Afghan Children's Songbook** to design, produce and print a first edition of *Bood Nabood*, Traditional Afghan Children's Folktales; **Hoopoe Books** to fund the translation, printing and distribution of 3000 Pashai-Pashto edition of a children's storybook for Pashai-speaking children in Afghanistan; and **Shafia Fund** established in memory of the three young Shafia sisters and their aunt from Kingston, ON, with funds given as scholarships to female students for study.



The Afghan Children's Songbook Project proudly published this 60-page, full colour book of traditional Afghan folktales, *Bood Nabood* (Once Upon A Time), collected from local storytellers

"Though I registered for public school, but I was unable to afford the transportation cost and clothing. I struggled to find my way to university but finding money to cover my university expenses was the hardest part of my goal. I was not supported by my brother who was the only breadwinner of the family. So, at that time I was really hopeless.

Even when I felt hopeless I did not give up and then God blessed me with the Shafia Fund program at CW4WAfghan!"

– Scholarship Recipient



Early in 2018, Hoopoe Books provided 960 Dari and Pashto edition storybooks for sixteen public schools and adult learners in the *Afghanistan Reads!* Community Literacy classes.



Meet Maryam

During the Life Skills Workshop for our Afghanistan Reads! Community Literacy Classes in Qabil bai, a young woman has been actively participating as a guest in our classroom.

Says Humaira Zadrar, CW4WAfghan Libraries and Literacy Program Officer, *"Maryam is a beautiful 17 year old who has been so very helpful and active in our training. She has been happy to tell us about her life."*

Says Maryam, *"I was born into a farming family in Kabul, and from childhood I wanted to learn. I completed my education until ninth grade with my friends in the village. I wanted to continue my education, but my brothers prevented me from going to school any longer. They made me so upset that I wanted to commit suicide, but my mother prevented me from going through with it. I thought*

that being a woman was an obstacle between me and freedom.

In August 2017, a literacy class was established in our village by CW4WAfghan and my illiterate sister registered for the class. There was a library in the literacy class also, so I started visiting the library to read books slowly. Every day I borrowed books until I had read most of them and shared them with my family and friends in the village. I struggled hard and shared the things I read from the books with my family and talked about the rights of girls, until eventually my brothers agreed to register their daughters in the best school in the village.

I am delighted that my words affected my brothers and neighbours and they no longer prevent their daughters from studying.

Thank you CW4WAfghan for your humanitarian assistance to build our capacity for education!"



Public Engagement in Afghanistan

CW4WAfghan staff and volunteers in Kabul participate in a wide variety of public engagement events and activities to build community networks and partnerships throughout Afghanistan. We take part in collaborative events with community partners like Rotary Kabul and the Canadian Embassy in Afghanistan, host our own International Literacy Day and other community celebrations, make local media appearances, and receive community awards and recognition throughout the year. Individual volunteers contribute time and energy in the Kabul office and translate educational materials in several languages for our Darakht-e Danesh Library. This is just a sample of public engagement activities by Country Office staff and volunteers.

Thank you! to the Embassy of Canada for raising \$4300 for CW4WAfghan at their fundraiser in Kabul. Staff members Humaira and Munir attending the event at the Embassy on behalf of the Country Office.



On August 14, students and teachers from the *Afghanistan Reads!* literacy classes celebrated Kabul Cultural Week. A contest among the students included reading and understanding a story and sharing its message; solving math questions on the board; and organizing disorganized sentences—ending with prizes for the winners.

2018 International Literacy Day Celebration (ILD): At this year's ILD Celebration, organized in close coordination with the Afghan Deputy Minister of Literacy (Ministry of Education), we welcomed 74 AR! literacy graduates and three literacy teachers from Qabil Bai and Yakatoot districts and about 130 guests, including the Deputy Minister for Literacy, the Director for National Mobilization, various advisors, directors and managers of the Literacy Department, the Literacy Manager for PD 9, PD Municipality Director, PD 9 Qabil Bai Shura Director.



In 2018 CW4WAfghan extended a warm welcome to our new Country Director, Dr. Latifa Majidi. Dr. Majidi appeared on Afghanistan's Education Radio TV Live program to talk about our work.

Public Engagement in Canada

Approximately 2000 members demonstrate their commitment as global citizens by supporting the goals of CW4WAfghan. Members stay informed on the issues and learn from our regular news bulletin about ways they can be involved. Here is just a sample of how members engage in their communities through Breaking Bread fundraising dinners and events, community walks, school and group presentations, and much more.

In addition to the Calgary Annual Breaking Bread (BB) Dinner held for the past 15 years every April, individual Calgary members planned several more of their own events throughout the year. In November, longtime supporters Irene Herremens and Patti Dolan, hosted their annual BB Bread featuring panelists Janice Eisenhauer, former Executive Director, Murwarid Ziayee, Senior Director and Martin Parnell, The Secret Marathon.



Early in the year the Halton Chapter co-hosted 750 guests at the Burlington Convention Centre for the 15th Annual Dinner Party, featuring keynote speaker, Arlene Dickinson (Shark Tank), and entertainment by Inuk singer Susan Aglukark. CW4WAfghan raised \$12,685, bringing the grand total over the years to \$179,000! Barb Wood, Halton member (centre), receives the cheque from Suzanne Stoltz and Marnie Piggot of the IWD Dinner Party Committee.

It was an exciting night in cities across Canada on March 7th when we walked and ran in the Secret Marathon 3K in solidarity with women all over the world! Dozens of CW4WAfghan volunteers and Running Room staff helped coordinate the 3K; 1113 registered to run in Canada and around the world, and our incredibly generous community donated more than \$8,500! This Kingston crowd was ready to run!



Peterborough Chapter hosted their annual dinner in November to a sold out crowd of more than 100 supporters. The delicious food was largely catered by relatives of a newly sponsored Afghan family who are living near Peterborough, and Chapter member Soriya and her kitchen crew. The group was delighted when The Honourable Maryam Monsef was able to join the celebration to say a few words before she was off to Ottawa.



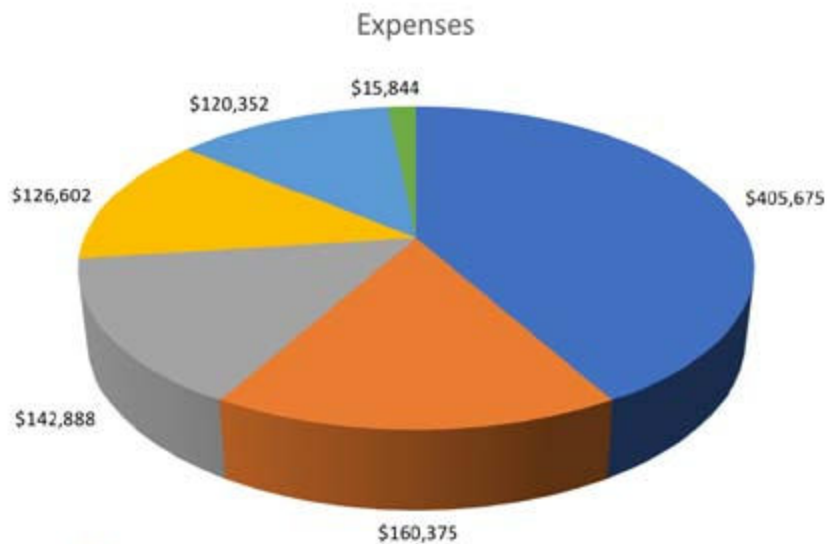
On International Human Rights Day December 10th, members shared their photos on social media to show the world why we stand together for human rights, including this Manitoba Chapter group.

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan
Financial Summary
August 31, 2018



TOTAL REVENUE
\$1,095,358

- Donations from Individuals, Service Clubs, Foundations and Businesses (54%)
- Government/Agency Grants (22%)
- Fundraising Activities, Product Sales and Other Revenue (13%)
- Parvana Fund/Ellis Book Royalties (11%)



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$971,736

- Programs: Afghanistan Reads! Community Literacy and Libraries (42%)
- Programs: Investment in Basic Education (17%)
- Programs: Public Engagement (15%)
- Programs: Technology for Education (13%)
- Grants for Partner Projects (12%)
- Administration (2%)



To view the audited financial statements, please visit our website
www.CW4WAfghan.ca RESOURCES Annual Report: Financial 2018

Board of Directors, Officers and Executive 2018



Narmin Ismail-Teja
Board Chair/Director
Calgary, AB



Louise Griep
Vice-Chair/Director
Vancouver, BC



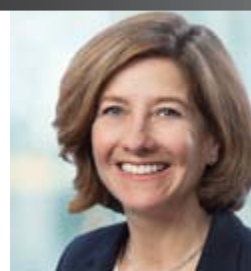
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Secretary/Director
Calgary, AB



Pat Cashion
Treasurer/Director
Calgary, AB



Jill Leslie
Director
Victoria, BC



Sacha Innes
Director
Calgary, AB



Carolyn Reicher
Director
Calgary, AB



Françoise Ruban
Director
Edmonton, AB



Madeliene Tarasick
Past Pres/Board Advisor
Kingston, ON



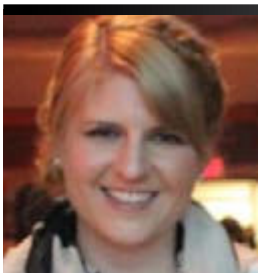
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Calgary, AB



Margaret Stewart
Board Advisor
Kingston, ON



Irene MacDonald
Board Advisor
Calgary, ON



Dr. Lauryn Oates
Executive Director
Vancouver, BC



Murwarid Ziaee
Senior Director
Calgary, AB



Christine Wilde
Mgr. Com/Fund Dev
Gran Bend, ON



Cheri Burke-Gaffney
Director Finance
Calgary, AB



Latifa Majidi
Country Director
Kabul, AF



CW4WAfghan Goals

To ensure effective, long-term sustainable education programs for Afghan women and their families

To engage Canadians as global citizens

Read more on what it means to be a **CW4WAFGHAN MEMBER**

Please Join Us!

What Can You Do? *Take Action!*

- **SIGN UP** for free to become a member of CW4WAfghan to demonstrate your support and receive news on programs and on upcoming events and opportunities to get involved
- Host a **BREAKING BREAD** potluck dinner or other event to help fund education projects in Afghanistan
- Invite a **CW4WAFGHAN SPEAKER** to your workplace, school or community group
- Join a local **CW4WAFGHAN CHAPTER** as a Volunteer, or start a chapter in your community
- Raise funds or **DONATE** to our education programs
- Learn about a specific **VOLUNTEER** vacancy
- Assist us as a Bilingual Volunteer Translator for the Darakht-e Danesh Online Library www.darakhtdanesh.org
- Learn more: read our **POSITION STATEMENTS** and **OTHER RESOURCES**
- View our **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** to participate and help with local activities
- Attend our **ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM** and join together with our volunteers, supporters and members from across the country. Share ideas and hear from expert speakers as we explore and learn more about the importance of universal human rights in Afghanistan and what we can do



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