

2011 Annual Report

Mobilizing a Surge of Love for Iraqi Orphans

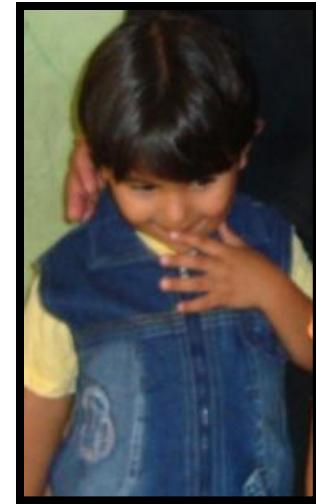


OUR MISSION

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*



ORPHAN AND STREET CHILDREN: AN URGENT CRISIS IN IRAQ

It is estimated there are as many as 2.5 million orphans in Iraq. Thousands of them are on the streets. Many street children are impoverished orphans who beg to help widowed mothers and extended family with whom they live. Desperately poor orphans and street children are dangerously vulnerable to recruitment and exploitation by criminals or terrorists, not to mention physical abuse, human trafficking, and arrest by Iraqi authorities.

This serious humanitarian crisis poses an urgent threat to the future security and stability of Iraq. Unless effective action is taken in the next five to ten years, many orphans and street children will reach adulthood without help for the trauma and suffering they have experienced. SICF co-founders, who

were living and working in Iraq in 2007, recognized this emerging crisis and launched a people-to-people response with food, clothing, blankets, medical supplies, and other necessities for these children.

Today, SICF is a US-based, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charity (tax ID 26-1394773) with a strong commitment to helping Iraqi families and communities care for Iraq's next generation. The compassionate giving of hundreds of donors makes possible this “surge of love” for the extremely vulnerable orphans and street children of Iraq. Read more of our story at www.sicfiraq.org

WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO OUR VERY SPECIAL PARTNERS

SICF is deeply in debt to so many wonderful donors and partners. Without their teamwork and generous gifts of expertise, time, and other resources, there would be no Surge of Love for the orphans and street children of Iraq. SICF wishes to express special appreciation to The Children's Village, the Iraqi Health Aid Organization, LitWorld, FedEx, and Loving Hugs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011

- **Rescuing A Safe Haven for Baghdad Street Children**

Keeping the doors open for extremely vulnerable orphans and other street children



- **Capacity Building Workshop for Iraqi NGOs Working with Children**

Moving beyond good intentions to effective organization and action

- **On the Ground: Delivering a Ton of Gifts from the Surge of Love**

Flight to Orphans

Backpacks, stuffed animals, and other gifts bring smiles

- **Addressing Child Trauma: Investing in Training for Iraqis caring for Orphans**

Special curriculum and tools, lovingly produced for Iraqi caregivers of orphans

Rescuing A Safe Haven for Street Children

Keeping the doors open for extremely vulnerable orphans and other street children

Until June 2011, a special center for street children in Iraq was open and providing a safe, nurturing alternative for street children. But after major US donor funding ran out, the doors of the center closed and the children returned to the streets. Before it closed, letters written by the children appealed for help. One girl, Fatimah,* wrote her teacher: "Do not leave me...I have no mama and baba, and I don't want to leave my friends."



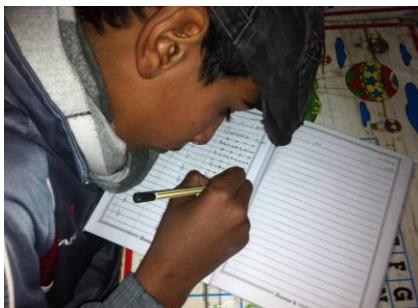
SICF learned of the plight of these extremely vulnerable and impoverished children and decided to reopen the doors of this safe haven with donations from many caring Americans.



On December 1, 2011, the center re-opened with 40 street children. Once again, it offers a safe and loving place where street children are fed healthy meals and tutored in math, reading, writing, and science. They get a chance to play and enjoy art, music, and theater. The street children learn about health and hygiene, and are provided a doctor visit for a checkup. Staff from the center also visit the homes where they live to help resolve difficult family issues.

With sufficient support, SICF hopes to fund the center for a full year and increase the number of children served to 50.

*not her real name



Capacity Building Workshop for Iraqi NGOs

Moving organizations beyond good intentions to deliver effective, life-changing action for orphans

One of the most effective ways to help the orphans and street children in Iraq is through community based NGOs that work with orphans, widows, and extended families that care for them. SICF believes that building the capacity of these indigenous Iraqi organizations is one of the best ways to provide lasting, effective help for orphans.

In June 2011, SICF joined an Iraqi NGO to cosponsor training in Baghdad for Iraqi community organizations that serve thousands of Iraqi orphans and other children. The training, billed as “You Should Know,” was also offered to NGOs committed to helping widows and promoting human rights.

Many Iraqi NGO's are led by very committed community leaders with a powerful vision: to help the extremely vulnerable orphans and widows in their communities. However, their ability to deliver concrete, life-changing results for orphans and widows depends on their organizational strengths, leadership, and capacities. These Iraqi NGOs must be able to develop strategic plans, manage projects effectively, recruit staff and volunteers, raise resources, engage in effective advocacy, and develop accountability tools to monitor and measure results.



These organizational abilities are not easy to build in the US. They are even more difficult to build in a country like Iraq that has suffered decades of war, sectarian violence, economic sanctions, and repression under Saddam Hussein.



On the ground: Delivering a Ton of Gifts from the Surge of Love flight to Orphans

Backpacks, stuffed animals, other gifts bring smiles

Thanks to FedEx and its charitable shipping offer, approximately 2,600 pounds of school supplies and toys gathered in the US in 2010 were delivered to Iraq for distribution to orphans.

Gifts included school backpacks, pencils and crayons, notebooks, school shirts for boys and girls, toothbrushes, hundreds of stuffed animals, and other gifts for children.



Getting a special gift reminds each of these children that they are loved and not forgotten. To all of the wonderful donors who made this Surge of Love flight possible, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



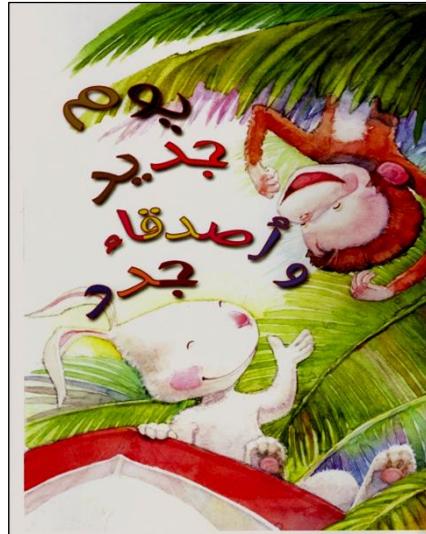
Addressing Child Trauma: Investing in training for Iraqis caring for orphans

Special curriculum and tools, lovingly produced for Iraqi caregivers of orphans

After laying the groundwork in 2010, the award winning Children's Village (CV) of New York and Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation completed preparation of a special new training initiative to equip adult caregivers in extended families and community groups with skills to address trauma in orphans.

Experts at CV developed a curriculum, powerpoint, instructors manual, and materials for four full days of training covering child development and the impact of trauma. The "New Day, New Friends" children's book - a collaboration of LitWorld, CV, SICF - was completed and translated into Arabic. A "Lifebook" that addresses a child's need to belong by providing them with very own scrapbook for pictures of loved ones and pages to share memories and dreams was also completed and translated into Arabic. (*At right, a page from the Lifebook.*) Loving Hugs, another US-based charity, provided stuffed animals to be used as "care bears" that adults can use in talking to children with trauma.

All materials were sent to Iraq partners for review in preparation of delivering training in the coming months. SICF expresses deep appreciation to the Iraqi Health Aid Organization for its partnership in preparing for the upcoming training to be held in 2012 in Iraq.

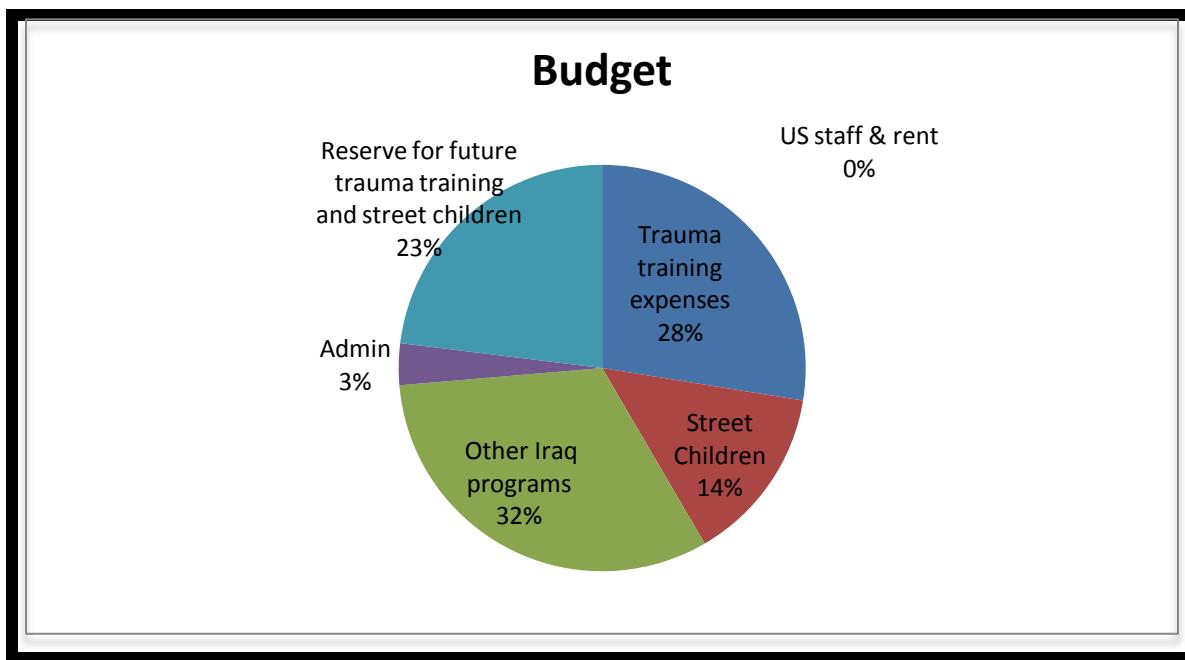


*"Dearest Children of Iraq,
This storybook is dedicated to you. New Friends, whom you do not know, from across the seas, are thinking of you and love you. With this book, we want you to know that there is a new day coming. We hope that the 7 inner strengths that you will find woven into this story can help you awaken to each new day filled with hope, belonging, confidence, esteem, compassion, friendship and curiosity." – From "New Day, New Friends" at left.*



2011 Financial Summary

Total SICF revenue in 2011 was \$57,460. Total expenditures were \$44,151. Assets on hand at the end of 2011 were reserved primarily for upcoming training in Iraq and street children.



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.

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