

Coptic Orphans  
...helping children survive and succeed.



**from INITIATIVES to RESULTS**



“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

*MOTHER TERESA*



from INITIATIVES to RESULTS

# Dear friends of Coptic Orphans



When thinking about the history of Coptic Orphans, it is amazing to see what one person can do with hope, faith and perseverance. From the hard work and compassion of one person, a charity was founded that has helped over 10,500 children. From one person, children who did not have any hope of surviving are now happy and healthy. From one person, girls have been able to rise above gender biases and receive an education. From one person, much has been accomplished. That one person has now multiplied to over 300 volunteers, staff, partners and stakeholders working for the same cause: the survival and success of all vulnerable children in Egypt.

Each child in a Coptic Orphans program was helped because someone took the initiative to give of themselves, to make that child's problem their own. You may not change the world, but you will change the world of that one child. And only Providence knows what that one child can accomplish when given the opportunity to succeed.

~ Julie Meawad, Chairperson of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Meawad".



The night of October 27, 2005 was one of the proudest moments for Coptic Orphans. One of the graduates of our program received a standing ovation by ambassadors and other dignitaries. He had just been honored for overcoming his obstacles, persevering through school, and with a meager income, donating back to the children of Coptic Orphans. This is the ultimate success for us – and this is what we strive for – to see all the children being honored for their noble struggle.

You'll read more about this exemplary young man as well as so many others who, through the initiatives of Coptic Orphans, have produced great results.

Thanks to all our friends and donors who have made this year one of the best. As our income rose by 24%, we enrolled over 900 more children and expanded our girls' education program from 175 participants to 500.

Together we look forward to even greater accomplishments by the grace of God. May the Lord reward you for all your efforts on behalf of His children.

~ Nermien Riad, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nermien Riad".

# Mission of Coptic Orphans

Coptic Orphans exists to improve the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children in Egypt by providing basic necessities, education, and mentoring so that they may realize their potential to become productive members of society.

Coptic Orphans also exists to raise awareness about poverty in Egypt and promote cultural understanding.

# Vision of Coptic Orphans

Our vision is to see every vulnerable child of Egypt confidently face the future with a renewed sense of hope and a life enriched with education, health and equality.



# Child Privacy and Dignity

Children and their families must be assured that Coptic Orphans is protecting the integrity of information, including photographs, that is shared about them with the public. It is for this reason that we do not distribute any of our multimedia presentations to the public, unless they are in an inalterable format that protects their contents from being used out of context or abusively. Privacy also demands that children, their families and communities be shielded from any potential inappropriate contact from sponsors or others. The names used in the annual report have been changed to protect the identities of the children and photos may not correspond to the children but are representative of the environments in which the children live, or the programs in which they are participating.



The lives of children, their families, and members of their community should be portrayed with accuracy and dignity. The children we work with are not objects to be pitied, but are partners with us in the process of bringing holistic (spiritual, physical, psychological and social) transformation to communities in poverty and in transforming the hearts of beneficiaries and donors alike. We are committed to portraying the life situation of the children, families and communities we serve with accuracy and dignity. We seek the full, informed consent of parents, guardians, and/or community leaders for a child's participation in our child sponsorship programs.



## Core Values

Coptic Orphans is a Christian, nonprofit, international organization. Our faith in God, our desire to serve Him and show His love for the glory of His name, leads us to these core values: respect, community, integrity and commitment.

### Respect ...

- † means we acknowledge the image of God in every individual;
- † means we are courteous to, and hold in high regard, every individual;
- † means we uphold the human dignity of every individual.

### Community ...

- † means we regard participants in our programs as partners;
- † means we regard all stakeholders as partners;
- † means we maintain a work atmosphere of familiarity, sharing, and valuing of each individual.

### Integrity ...

- † means our actions as an organization and as individuals align with our beliefs;
- † means we uphold the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and professionalism in our field;
- † means our actions hold true to our mission and vision.

### Commitment ...

- † means we are passionate for, and dedicated to, children;
- † means we persevere against the odds;
- † means we strive for excellence.

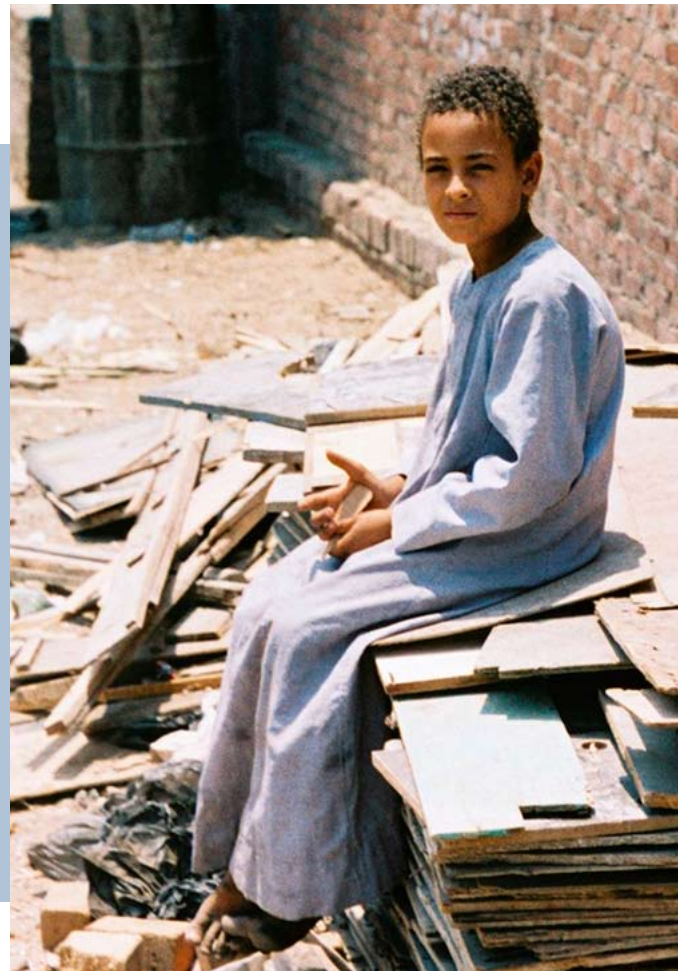
# from Initiatives to Results

*He knows how to fix a washing machine now, a skill that will provide him a healthy income for years to come. Mina now approaches technical school with direction, rather than hopelessness.*

*She stutters less frequently, and speaks whole sentences with confidence. Fatma smiles when she speaks now, instead of hiding her face.*

*He knows how to read now. One year ago he was illiterate, and was destined to drop out of school, or finish school with a useless high school diploma. Now Sameh reads not just for school, but for pleasure.*

*He sleeps securely now, safe from cold weather and bird droppings. One month ago the roof of his house had collapsed, and Guirgis and his family slept together in a small room in someone else's house. Now they have a new, secure roof and a place to call home.*



Mina\* is one of the almost 5,000 children participating in the Child Assistance program. Fatma\* lives in Cairo and is one of 500 girls participating in the Valuable Girl Project. Sameh\* is one of over 400 children who have participated in the Rosetta program. Guirgis\* is one of almost 100 children who have benefited from the Emergency Housing program. These are children who have shown the results of Coptic Orphans' new initiatives this year.



## The Child Assistance Program

In 2005, the children and youth in the Child Assistance program showed results from Coptic Orphans' new initiatives. Hundreds of impoverished children in Egypt have discovered and developed their hidden talents through the summer activities the Reps have engaged them in. Thousands of children are now learning how to better take care of their hygiene through the hygiene bags that the Coptic Orphans' Reps distribute them on their visits. Over 200 Reps in over 200 communities throughout Egypt, from Alexandria to Aswan, are contributing their voluntary time and energy to the children of their communities and learning how to become effective child advocates.

Mina is not the only child who has benefited from Coptic Orphans' new initiatives. Samia\* was in the Child Assistance program for a long time. But she kept repeating the same school years over and over, and so her Rep started to pay more attention to her needs. First, the Rep noticed that the girl's mother was not paying attention

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identities of the children, and photos may not correspond to the children but are representative of the environment in which the children live, or the program in which they are participating.*

to her, so the Rep did two things: she began to spend more time with Samia, and encouraged her mother to start giving her more attention. Samia's brother used to treat her badly, refusing to let the Rep visit her, and discouraging her from continuing school. So the Rep sat down with Samia's brother and convinced him to allow her to visit with Samia and for Samia to continue school. In addition, when the Rep noticed that her home environment was not encouraging, she would take Samia out on her visits, rather than just staying at home where the environment was negative. All this attention changed Samia drastically. She stopped failing her grades and is now entering college preparatory high school.

In 2005, over 900 children were added to the Child Assistance program. By the end of 2005, Coptic Orphans served a total of 7,714 children through this program. Two hundred eighty-nine children have graduated from university, 1,309 have graduated from high school, and 98% of the children moved on to their next school grade successfully. The Child Assistance program has mobilized over 200 volunteer Reps all over Egypt to become child advocates in their communities.



## The Valuable Girl Project

In 2005 the Valuable Girl Project expanded to twelve different high poverty areas of Egypt, from Alexandria to Assuit, through partnerships with eight different non-governmental organizations, community development associations, schools, and churches. These partners include the Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development (AUEED), the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS), Caritas Egypt, and the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). This innovative girls' empowerment program creates and provides positive, educated female role models through an academic mentoring program that involves girls and young women who are at risk of dropping out of school. In addition to providing the program to 500

girls throughout Egypt, Coptic Orphans has trained 25 young women who implement the program to be effective change agents in their communities.

Fatma is not the only girl whose self-esteem has increased due to the Valuable Girl Project. Nora\*, in Assuit, found that she was able to express herself and her opinions with her mentor in the Valuable Girl Project, because her mentor was trained to be an active listener. One day at school, Nora's teacher attempted to hit her for something that she did not do. Nora stood up to her teacher and refused to be hit, clearly stating to the teacher that she did not deserve any such punishment. The teacher did not punish her.

In the 2004-2005 academic year, the Valuable Girl Project had significant impacts on all of its participants: the increased sense of self-worth that the mentors (the "big sisters") experienced, and the increased academic achievement of the majority of the young girls (the "little sisters"). Eighty percent of the "big sisters" reported an increase in self-worth and the positive relationship between program participants as their favorite aspects of the program. Fifty-two percent of the "little sisters" demonstrated an increase in overall academic achievement, as compared to their previous year's scores.

# The Rosetta Program

Sameh\* lives in Beni Suef and was part of the Rosetta program, a Coptic Orphans child literacy program that finds children enrolled in school who are illiterate, teaches them to read, and then enters them into the Child Assistance program. Sameh unfortunately had gone from grade to grade in school without being able to read a child's story.



Now in secondary school, he knows how to read, and reads books for pleasure, not just for school.

The Reps in the Rosetta program also focus on the child's psychological and emotional needs, not just their physical needs. This has allowed our Reps to solve the roots of the problems these children face, rather than their symptoms. No one understood why Heba\*, for example, cried whenever anyone spoke to her, refusing to learn to read and refusing to go to high school after she finished preparatory school. Whenever a reading teacher was brought to her home to teach her to read, she would hide in another room or cry and refuse to sit with the teacher. Heba's Rep realized something was deeply wrong here and spoke extensively to Heba's mother. His discovery of the root of Heba's problem was horrifying.

When Heba was six years old, her two older siblings died in a violent car accident. On the day they died, their mangled and bloodied dead bodies were brought back to Heba's home and paraded in front of her eyes. Ever since then, she cries daily, cries when she sees people, and won't speak to anyone.

Heba's Rep knew that Heba would need extra attention. In this village, taking Heba to a psychologist carried the stigma of taking the girl to the "crazy doctor," so

instead he recruited his wife's assistance in giving Heba special attention. His wife has a background in psychology and serves as a Sunday School teacher in Heba's church. The Rep's wife switched her Sunday School class so she could teach Heba's class. She took Heba on many outings, and took her into her own home to listen to her and talk to her. Heba has now started to speak to her and feels secure talking to her. She has now accepted the idea of having a reading teacher and improved her reading enough to move from the Rosetta program to the Child Assistance program. Heba is now enrolled in her first year of secondary school.

The Rosetta program has been running for two years. To date, it has served 431 children, 337 of whom are now in Child Assistance. This program truly serves some of the most vulnerable and marginalized children, preventing a future school drop-out, future child labor, and promising a brighter future for children to reach their fullest potential.



# Emergency Housing

Guirgis is one of the many children within the Child Assistance program whose emergency housing needs have been met thanks to Coptic Orphans and its dedicated Reps. Emergency housing does not just build walls, it saves families and lives.

Mona\* was five years old when her father abandoned her, her little brother, and her mother. Mona's mother, still young at that time, resorted to prostitution to support her children. After her father abandoned them, Mona's family had no home to stay in, and they were staying in a house belonging to her uncle, which was nothing but four walls with no ceiling. Coptic Orphans started to become involved with this family at this point. The Rep was at first afraid to serve this family because of the mother's very bad reputation, but within two months her conscience overtook her and she changed her mind, saying, "If we don't serve this family, who will?" She began to visit her and at first, she just helped with the family's economic needs. Then, she started to pay more attention to the children and their mother. The Rep also got the priest involved in this family and he came and visited them several times.

Without warning, the wife of Mona's uncle decided she wanted the four walls that Mona and her family were living in, and she told Mona's mother to leave within a few months. So the uncle, without telling his wife, gave them a piece of land nearby, and the priest made sure that the deed for this land was written in Mona's mother's name, not in the uncle's name, so that the land would not be taken from them again.

Coptic Orphans partnered with the church to help Mona's family live in a home. They split the costs of building a home, and then to top it off, Mona's sponsor came to visit them, and gave them enough money to complete the housing project.



*Before*



*After*

Mona, her mother and her brother now live in a new home. When the mother saw that she and her children were not forgotten, she changed completely. It has been over a year now since she left her life of prostitution. She now pays more attention to her children. Not only that, but she is now an active member of the church and teaches literacy classes there. "Without you," she says about Coptic Orphans and the church, "I don't know what I would have done. I am so happy that God sent me this service, and I know that God has not forgotten me."

In 2005, almost 100 children in the Child Assistance program benefited from the Emergency Housing program. The necessities provided through this program include roofs, bathrooms, running water, electricity, major upgrades, and even entire homes when necessary. Coptic Orphans often partners with the local Coptic Orthodox church to fill these needs and thus help these children realize that they are truly not forgotten.

## Serve to Learn

“To try to put together words to describe the experience that I felt doing Serve to Learn would not be fair to the experience,” says John Basta of



Virginia, USA. Every year Coptic Orphans sends an increasing number of volunteers to an increasing number of sites to teach English to children. The year 2005 was no exception. Sixteen volunteers made their way to Mattay, King Mariut and Nekada. And for the very first time, there were volunteers from Australia and the United Kingdom in addition to volunteers from Canada and the United States.

Over 500 children benefited from the two and three week volunteer visits during the summer. The children not only benefited in the classroom by having vibrant, enjoyable lessons but also in their homes by having volunteers visit with them and their families.

And it was not just the children benefiting from this experience. As volunteer Dalia Iskander from Merseyside, England noted, “On the last day when we had to say goodbye and there were tears from all. I realized just how much I had got from these children.” The initiative of the volunteers is vital to the success of the program – it is their enthusiasm for service and their vitality that brings out the best in the children.

## Highlights of 2005

### Awards

**KPMG approved its second grant to Coptic Orphans** in the amount of \$2,000 in May 2005.

**Coptic Orphans received an honorable mention for the Washington Post Award for Excellence in Non Profit Management** on June 14, 2005 and thus became the first international organization to be awarded as a finalist. With this honorable mention came a \$2,500 grant from the Washington Post Foundation for capacity building of the organization in the Washington area. The award was presented at the Best Practices Workshop which was televised on DC-Public Access TV.

**Coptic Orphans received honorable mention for NPower’s Washington D.C. chapter very first Technology Innovation Award.** The award was for the innovative use of a Serve to Learn training DVD for participants who come from all over the world. The DVD was presented at the awards luncheon to an audience of 40 people from the business, consulting and non profit community. Coptic Orphans will receive \$5,000 worth of NPower Technology consulting and \$10,000 worth of Microsoft software.

**Coptic Orphans was awarded with the ExxonMobil grant for the Community Summer Jobs Program.** The grant is



awarded annually to non profits in the DC metro area so that they may hire an intern for eight weeks during the summer. Coptic Orphans hired Grace Milad, a sophomore at the University of Virginia. Grace was a great asset to the organization and went on to become a volunteer for the 2005 Serve to Learn trip.

**Executive Director Nermien Riad was honored for her hard work and dedication towards human rights** at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) human rights day luncheon on December 9th, on Capitol Hill. She was recognized as a lifelong advocate of the economic and social rights of children in Egypt and presented with a certificate in front of an audience of her peers and colleagues.

### *In the Field*

**Coptic Orphans began participating in the National Book Program** being administered by the US Embassy in Cairo in August 2005. The project selects award-winning books published in the US and has them translated and published in Egypt. The embassy agreed to send 20 copies of each young adult title (13 years and older) to Coptic Orphans to distribute to the children participating in Child Assistance and the Valuable Girl Project. On December 8, 2005 these same children attended a panel discussion with famous authors on the book *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine, and many actively participated by asking questions of the panel. For some it was their first time to visit Cairo, and for all it was a wonderful experience.



**Coptic Orphans explores expansion to Sudan.** Hundreds of supporters have already provided donations and support in order for Coptic Orphans to begin working to alleviate some of the struggles faced by the Sudanese people. Through partnerships, Coptic Orphans will provide grants to the local, community based initiatives that are already working to provide education for the children. Hundreds of children and families will benefit from the initiative.



### *Presentations*

On January 26, 2005 **Coptic Orphans was invited to present its Valuable Girl Project (VGP)** at a brown bag lunch at the World Bank. The audience watched the VGP documentary and was also presented with a power point presentation evaluating the program.

**Coptic Orphans was invited to present at the annual conference of the Association of Fundraising Professionals** on October 26, 2005. The presentation was part of a panel aimed at small shops and was entitled *Using Volunteers More Effectively for Development and Outreach*. The invitation to present came about primarily because of the organization's success at securing pro bono and in kind services.

**Coptic Orphans participated in a panel** about girls' empowerment in the Middle East, organized by the Society of International Development – Washington D.C. (SID-W) on November 3, 2005. Also presenting were Charlotte (Charlie) Ponticelli, senior coordinator of International Women's Issues at the US State Department and Brian Katulis, director of Democracy and Public Diplomacy at the Center for American Progress.

## *Inside Coptic Orphans*

**In January 2005 Coptic Orphans launched its charitable giving program.** While the organization focuses on the needs of children today, it is also important to keep in mind the children of the future. With that in mind, the Coptic Orphans Legacy Society has been established for all those who make planned gifts to the children. This could entail putting Coptic Orphans in a will or bequest, donating appreciated assets or securities, and in some cases, real estate.



**Coptic Orphans launched its online store in May 2005.** The store can be found on the Coptic Orphans website in the fundraising section and features Coptic Orphans paraphernalia and crafts made by the children. It also features handmade items made from recycled materials. Coptic Orphans partnered with the Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE) based in the garbage district in Egypt to feature the items.

**Coptic Orphans Australia has tax deductible status.** It had been a tax-exempt non profit organization since its inception in 2002. Starting 2005, however, after much legwork on the part of Australia's staff, Australia donors were able to get a tax deduction on their donations.

## *Events*

**Coptic Orphans held its third annual gala** at the Colombian Embassy in Washington D.C. on October 27, 2005. Two very special people were honored that night. The first was Reverend Kathleene Card, who was awarded the Coptic Orphans' Leading by Example Award for her dedication to women's and children's causes. This is the second time Coptic Orphans has given the award and it was presented to Rev. Card by the first recipient of the award, Ms. Liz Cheney, who was honored in 2004. The second special honoree was a young man who had been a participant of the Child Assistance program. With the help of Coptic Orphans, he persevered until he got through high school and college and eventually received an immigrant visa to move to the United States. It was a proud moment for him and for Coptic Orphans when, following a very emotional account of what he had been through, he received a standing ovation from the guests of the gala. H.E. Ambassador and Mrs. Nabil Fahmy of Egypt, H.E. Ambassador and Mrs. Karim Kawar of Jordan, president of the Inter-American Development Bank H.E. Ambassador Luis Moreno, White House chief of staff Mr. Andrew Card and Father Bishoy Andrawes were among the distinguished guests of the evening.



*(from left to right Then White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, Father Bishoy Andrawes of St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Washington, D.C. and H. E. Ambassador Nabil Fahmy of Egypt*

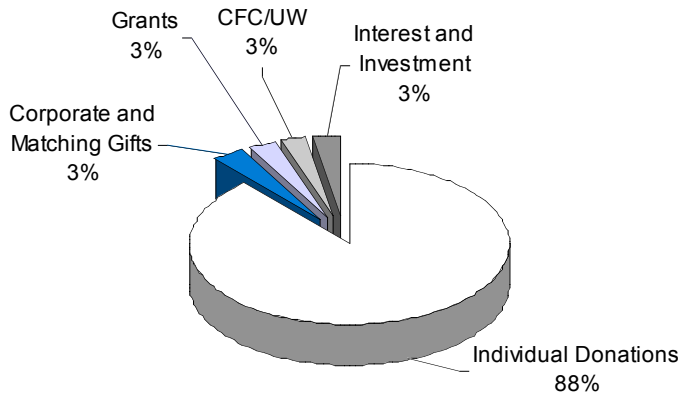


# Financials

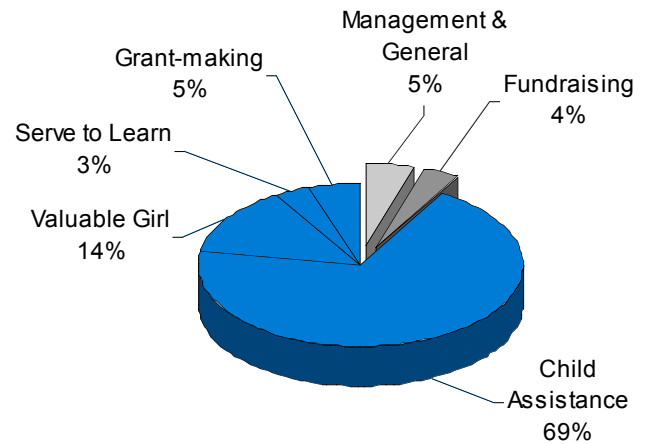
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2005

2005 Total Income: \$1,871,415

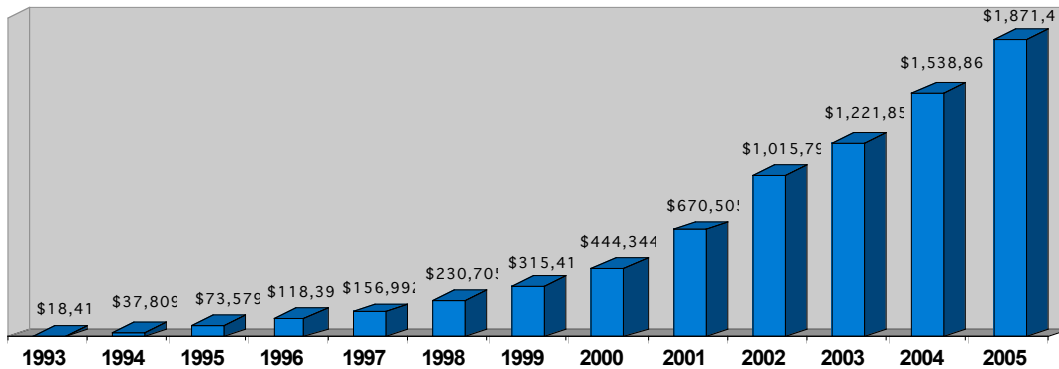
**Income**



**Expenses**



Please note all amounts are in US dollars.  
 Audited Financial Statement is available upon request.  
 Audited by Mr. Robert First, CPA



**Annual Growth**



# Thank You ...

## Grants

Coptic Orphans receives grants from the following institutions and organizations for its programs in Egypt, for staff professional development and for organizational capacity building.

- † Coady International Institute – St. Francis Xavier University;
- † ExxonMobil Foundation;
- † French Embassy in Cairo;
- † KPMG Foundation;
- † Middle East Council of Churches;
- † NPower of the Greater Washington Area;
- † United States Embassy in Cairo;
- † Washington Post Foundation

## Pro Bono Services and In Kind Gifts

- † Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin, and Oshinsky;
- † Embassy of Colombia;
- † Four Star Printing;
- † Malak Jewelers;
- † Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw and Pittman, LLP
- † Rosemary Misdary, photographer;
- † Watani International;
- † WSLN, LLC.

## Matching Gifts

Many companies encourage their employees to donate to good causes. When an employee donates to Coptic Orphans, e.g. \$100, the company will send an additional \$100 to Coptic Orphans. This is referred to as “employee matching gifts.”

*Thanks to the extra efforts made by some of our donors, the following companies, organizations and foundations are matching donations being made to Coptic Orphans:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>† ADP Foundation;</li> <li>† AIG Inc.;</li> <li>† Aventis Pasteur;</li> <li>† Avon;</li> <li>† Bank of America Foundation, Inc.;</li> <li>† Citigroup Foundation;</li> <li>† Computer Associates International, Inc.;</li> <li>† Financial Security Assurance;</li> <li>† First Data;</li> <li>† Fuji Photo Film USA, Inc.;</li> <li>† GlaxoSmithKline Foundation;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>† Grange Insurance;</li> <li>† The JP Morgan Chase Foundation;</li> <li>† Medco Health;</li> <li>† Merck;</li> <li>† Merrill Lynch and Company Foundation;</li> <li>† Pfizer Foundation;</li> <li>† The Prudential Foundation;</li> <li>† Takeda Pharmaceuticals North American, Inc.;</li> <li>† Verizon;</li> <li>† Wells Fargo</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

# Key Staff

## Headquarters – USA

Executive Director  
Director of International Programs  
Program Manager  
Director of Operations  
Director of Public Relations  
Director of Public Campaigns  
Administrative Assistant

Nermien Riad  
Phoebe Farag  
Amy Ekdawi  
Lisa Basta  
Doris Abdel Messieh  
Danyelle Ballard  
Mina Shinouda

## Field Office – Egypt

Field Operations Director  
Area Program Manager-Lower Egypt  
Area Program Manager-Cairo  
Area Program Manager-Upper Egypt-Minya  
Area Program Manager-Upper Egypt-Sohag  
Child Sponsorship Manager  
Office Manager  
Program Associate  
Program Associate  
Program Associate

Maha Anis  
Neven Moawad  
Bishoy Lamie  
Akram Yehia  
Nawal Atalla  
Ereny Sobhy  
Caroline Onsy  
Happy Anwar  
Monette Nazmy  
Nadia Mounir

## Canada

Canada Director  
Support

Manal Bedwany  
Mary Salib

## Australia

Australia Director  
Support

Sophie Georgy  
Ben Marcos

## Coptic Orphans Board

Chairperson  
Members

Julie Meawad  
Ashraf Hanna  
Christine Sedky  
Nermien Riad  
Robie Samanta Roy  
Sherif Kaiser



# Contact Information

## In the U.S.

Coptic Orphans  
P.O. Box 2881  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
USA

+1.703.641.8910  
1.800.499.2989  
Fax: +1.703.641.8787

[info@copticorphans.org](mailto:info@copticorphans.org)

[www.copticorphans.org](http://www.copticorphans.org)

## In Egypt

Coptic Orphans  
86 Omar Ibn Khattab St  
Suite 2, Heliopolis  
Cairo, Egypt  
+2.02.690.3591

## In Canada

Coptic Orphans Canada  
P.O. Box 52033  
Laval QC H7P 5S1  
Canada  
+1.450.736.0975

## In Australia

Coptic Orphans Australia  
P.O. Box 49  
Bexley NSW 2207  
Australia  
+612.9597.7630  
Fax: +612.9597.6475



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