



EMPOWERING CHILDREN TO TRANSFORM GENERATIONS

2006

ANNUAL REPORT

Coptic Orphans

...helping children survive and succeed.

Empowering Children To Transform Generations

WHO WE ARE

Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization that works with children to transform their local communities by empowering them to break the cycles of poverty and injustice.

WHO WE EMPOWER

We empower children orphaned of a father and other vulnerable children in Egypt through programs that provide basic necessities, education, and mentoring so that they may realize their potential to become productive members of society. We also empower others with knowledge about child poverty in Egypt, with cross-cultural understanding, and with the resources that they need to make a difference in the world.

WHY EMPOWERMENT?

Once equipped, the potential of children to transform future generations is limitless. Because we seek not only to provide relief to those suffering from poverty and injustice, but to help them become change-makers in their communities, the children participating in our programs are equal partners in the struggle to break the cycle of poverty and bring positive and creative change for generations to come.

“The way a society treats its children reflects not only its qualities of compassion and protective caring, but also its sense of justice, its commitment to the future and its urge to enhance the human condition for coming generations.”

Javier Perez de Cuellar, former secretary general of the United Nations (1982 – 1991)



...LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS OF COPTIC ORPHANS,

When I set out to sponsor a child many years ago, I never imagined that opening my heart to this one special child would eventually lead to a \$2 million dollar effort involving hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of partners. This year, 2006, has seen just how big a tree can grow from a single mustard seed of dignity and hope planted in the heart of a small child.

The events of the past year are proof to me that when we focus on a single small child and treat that child with dignity proper to a bearer of the image of our infinitely big God, we can transform an entire generation. This is why no matter how many milestones of growth that Coptic Orphans reaches, my focus remains on empowering each child with whom we partner.

In this annual report, I want to share my focus with you by telling you the stories of children that we empowered in 2006. As you read their stories, you will meet children who, once empowered, transform in big ways: they transform obstacles into opportunities for breaking the cycle of poverty through education and enterprising creativity; they transform injustices into rights so that they may live free from the fear of violence and abuse; above all, they transform the

generations after them as the seeds of their courage and determination multiply towards a lasting legacy of dignity and respect in their communities.

Be encouraged from these stories. When we plant a seed, future generations sit under the shade of the branches it extends. Likewise, when we treat others with the dignity of Christ himself, we not only transform their lives but empower them to transform entire communities.

As we work together to empower children, may "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food... supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." (2 Corinthians 9:10, ESV).

Together in empowerment,



Nermien Riad,
Executive Director



How Obstacles become Opportunities

BY EMPOWERING CHILDREN TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY IN ORPHANED HOUSEHOLDS

Eighteen percent of children in Egypt suffer from moderate or severe stunted growth due to malnutrition, and for a child who loses his or her father, the effects of poverty can be even more severe. Mona, a child in the Not Alone Program, lost her father three years ago in an automobile accident, and with him her primary source of material and moral support. Today, Mona is being empowered with vital support for her success that she lost with her father, support that will help her in turn transform her family and generation. Her case is monitored by a Rep who is a member of Coptic Orphans' network of over 220 highly trained volunteer representatives who serve as grassroots child advocates for children who have lost one or more parents. The Rep provides Mona with material support, educational mentoring, advocacy, and guidance, while Jane, Mona's sponsor in the USA, provides Mona with financial support and encouragement through Jane's regular letters, gifts of clothing and school supplies, and visits. In 2006, 1,575 new children like Mona joined Not Alone. By the end of 2006, a total of 9,463 children were enrolled and empowered to break the cycle of poverty in their communities.

BY EMPOWERING WITH LITERACY

While Egypt's graduation rate is nearly 80 percent, illiteracy is rampant even among children in school because Egyptian education is often ineffective. Yet in order to break the cycle of poverty, children need literacy skills. The Rosetta program brought Hany's literacy to an age-appropriate level. His progress will help him and his family receive the material support that they need for him to complete his education. In 2006, we empowered 277 other children like Hany with the single skill they will need most.

BY EMPOWERING GIRLS WITH CONFIDENCE AND RESOURCES TO REACH POTENTIAL

Thirty percent of all girls in Egypt will drop out or be pulled out of school because of gender bias, early marriage, and other causes. Lack of education for girls is the single most significant contributor to poverty, so the Valuable Girl Project empowers girls to complete their education and succeed through a mentor relationship between a "big sister" in secondary school and a "little sister" in primary. The "big sister" demonstrates by example to her "little sister" that she can be successful. She encourages her to complete her education, pursue her goals, and shows her that she has other options besides child marriage. The "big sister," in turn, receives the opportunity to help transform a younger child's life, encouragement from seeing the goal-driven determination of a younger girl, and money for books and school expenses to help her accomplish her goals. In 2006, we empowered 530 girls, giving them the confidence that they need to overcome obstacles and complete their education.

BY EMPOWERING WITH ENVIRONMENTS FOR SUCCESS

Poverty leaves many families with progressively inadequate shelter. Through the Emergency Housing Fund, Sara's family repaired their roof so that it protected her from the harsh sun. Now, Sara can concentrate when she



...TO TRANSFORM OBSTACLES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

studies in the afternoon and can succeed in school. This year we have empowered twenty eight other families with vital environments for success with new roofs, electricity, wall re-enforcements, and other vital components to necessary shelter.

BY BUILDING BRIDGES FOR EMPOWERMENT ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS

In 2006, fourteen Serve to Learn volunteers from Canada, Australia, American and the United Kingdom traveled to Egypt to teach English to Egyptian children in a fun and engaging way. The volunteers return to their home countries enriched by their cross-cultural exchanges, enhanced by their teaching experiences, and transformed by their encounters with the children with whom they build relationships. The children that they teach learn a skill, English, that deepens their confidence in Egyptian society and prepares them with a marketable language skill.

The children also find the confidence and motivation that they need to succeed in a constrictive educational system when they experience learning as fun and engaging. The children sharpen critical-thinking and creative skills not fostered in their schools. Both children and volunteers become empowered to change perspectives in their communities and with the resources to overcome. To date, Serve to Learn volunteers have impacted over 500 children.



“...the family, as the fundamental group of society... should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.”

Preamble, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

EMPOWERING CHILDREN...

Often, the children participating in Coptic Orphans' programs face many obstacles besides a lack of adequate food, clothing, and shelter. They face injustice wherever they turn. Through the Reps, our highly trained child advocates from the communities they serve, Coptic Orphans helps them discover that with their courage, resources, and trust in God, they can overcome injustice.

“YOU ARE A BRAVE CHILD ...”

Mina always worked hard in school and earned good grades. Then, a school teacher began beating him and giving him low grades, extorting Mina by demanding that Mina hire him for private lessons or he would fail him. Mina courageously told his Rep, Nargis, who confronted the teacher. Because the teacher vigorously denied his crime, Nargis reported the teacher to the school administration, who in turn reviewed Mina's exams and opened an investigation. When the administrators discovered that Mina's teacher had indeed been giving him unfair grades, they transferred the teacher. The police investigator who interviewed Mina after the case was surprised with Mina's rare initiative and courage. With a broad smile, the investigator packed his astonishment and admiration for Mina in few words as he shook his hand; “You are a brave child.”

“The children we work with are not objects to be pitied, but our partners for transforming communities in poverty and their members spiritually, physically, psychologically, and socially, and in transforming the hearts of beneficiaries and contributors alike.”

Excerpt, Coptic Orphans Privacy Policy



...TO TRANSFORM INJUSTICES INTO RIGHTS

“SHE IS A GIRL. SHE DOES NOT HAVE TO LEARN ...”

Rep Mohsen approached a tiny, dirty house on a hot afternoon as he had done so on several other occasions. The small hovel was crammed with several families who had to sleep side-by-side across the floor. A man approached him, the father of the girl that Mohsen came to see. He had pulled his daughter, Olfat, out of school when she entered high school. “Why should I starve my sons to send her to school, when she will only get married and leave to raise her own children anyway,” he had asked Mohsen two years ago when he took her home from school for the last time. “She is a girl. She does not have to learn a trade to provide for a family. It is not worth it to educate her.” But Mohsen did not relent. He visited Olfat’s home repeatedly, often to witness her crying in anguish because she so desperately wanted to go to school. Mohsen explained to her father that Olfat truly deserves an education. After repeated endeavors, Olfat was finally allowed to return to school. Olfat now has the resources that she needs to pass her exams and face technical school with hope and confidence.

“These children are not criminals but victims who have been deprived of their rights – the right to education, health and social care, and especially the right to family care.”

Moushira Khattab, secretary-general of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, Egypt.



EMPOWERING CHILDREN...

The goal of Coptic Orphans is to start a cascade of change that will become an avalanche in future generations. Hence the children that participate in the programs are our partners: when we empower them, they transform the lives of others.

“EVEN WHEN HER FAMILY FORCED HER INTO AN ENGAGEMENT...”

Hanan holds her head high. Her eyes flash with a sense of worth immediately apparent to anyone meeting her. Hanan chose to become a social worker so that she could help other girls like herself. Even when her family forced her into an engagement with an apprentice painter, Hanan held fast to her dream of first completing her social work degree. When her fiancé demanded that she drop out of school and become a housewife, she broke the engagement despite her family’s opposition. Soon, with degree in hand and goals accomplished, Hanan will have the skill and qualifications to empower many.

“Education is empowerment....

The priority of priorities must continue to be the education of women and girls.... There can be no enduring success in basic education until the gender gap is closed.”

The Amman Affirmation.



...TO TRANSFORM GENERATIONS TO COME



“When we teach a child to read, we not only help the child, but the entire family.”

Reading is Fundamental, children's literacy organization.

“FROM THEM HE LEARNED ...”

For youth and young professionals from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, a revolution is simmering just beneath the surface of Western life. Disillusioned with materialistic mediocrity, some are returning from Egypt transformed by a new perspective on life, prepared in turn to transform the perspective of an entire generation. Tony, a Serve to Learn volunteer, traveled to give Egyptian children a positive experience in learning. He came back a revolutionary. “Here,” Tony says about American life, “people are continually focused on mortgages, bills, car payments, on and on.” The children that he taught in Egypt taught him in return a new orientation in life towards God. From them he learned “simplicity, thankfulness, and a sense of always being in the present. They had pretty much nothing, but are so rich with God’s love.”



EMPOWERING CHILDREN...



“I have learned more English in three weeks with the volunteers from abroad than the whole year of studies in school.”

Nabila

“My situation is extremely bad and I pray that you will be by my side during these hard times.”

Hany

“Now that I’ve learned to read I am ranked 3rd in my class. Next year I plan to be top of the class.”

Manga



...TO SPEAK OUT

“I would like to tell you that I have succeeded thank God and I am now going to university.”

Angie

“I thank you for your love that is full of care. I have passed my exams and I am going to 4th grade!”

Mariam

“I am in high school and I want to be a doctor. It is a dream that I want to fulfill so that I can be a good example.”

Basam

“I would like to tell you that both my sister and I are enrolled in Coptic Orphans’ programs. I had two older sisters that were also in the program but they have graduated, married and are very happy.”

Mariam



EMPOWERING CHILDREN...

Great strides were made this year to ensure the continued growth of the organization's programs and reach. Reps at the fourth bi-annual Rep Conference democratically selected a new name for the Child Assistance program to better express its goals and activities. The new name **Not**



Children attending a workshop are given a performance by some special characters.

Alone signifies that child rights are assured by community activity: we are not alone, but we must all work together, hand in hand with the children, in our quest to make sure that all children have access to their rights.

A very special summer visit was made to the children in Luxor by a group of ladies from Japan. They had come to visit with the children and to teach them the **singular art of origami**. One of the children's favorite events was getting their picture taken individually next to the bamboo tree. The women brought a Polaroid camera with them and were able to give the children the pictures immediately after they were taken—a very special gift to help them remember the day.

Egypt had a very special celebration this year when it organized its first ever **high achiever party**. The party was held to recognize all the students who had overcome great obstacles and succeeded despite these obstacles. Additionally many of the children had their **first ever birthday**

party and some even got to go on their first trip to the beach! For many it was their first trip anywhere.

Coptic Orphans launched the Grant Making Initiative (GMI) which allocates funds to projects on the ground in Egypt. To date twelve grants have been awarded to projects in the areas of health education and awareness, education and literacy and orphanages.

Coptic Orphans was awarded the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP) grant for the third consecutive year. The grant provided Coptic Orphans with \$2000 to hire an intern who worked in the USA office over the summer. Patricia Graham of the College of William and Mary was a phenomenal asset to the organization during her time here!

KPMG awarded Coptic Orphans with a grant of \$2000 in honor of a KPMG employee who dedicated his time and effort to the organization as a volunteer.

The US Embassy in Cairo awarded the Valuable Girl Project with \$50,000 to further its work in Egypt for girl education. This additional funding enabled Coptic Orphans to carry out in-depth trainings of the local coordinators, purchase books, educational materials, and arts and crafts materials to enrich the educational experiences of the girls and broaden their outlook and also to upgrade the facilities of our program partners.



The boys enjoy the cool waters on a hot summer day.



...THROUGH DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE

Coptic Orphans' enjoyed a tremendous increase in media exposure in 2006. **The MidEast Connect**, a weekly e-magazine that profiles young middle-eastern professionals, profiled Nermien Riad as a non profit entrepreneur from the Middle East for her work in founding Coptic Orphans. Coptic Orphans' staff was interviewed by Nizar Shaheen for **Light of all Nations** and also by George Saad for Global TV. Coptic Orphans is no stranger to radio and was featured once more on **RBN Live Radio** in an interview with Mark Dankof for "Mark Dankof's America."

Nermien Riad was selected to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia in the national **2006 Non Profit Congress** held in November 2006 in Washington D.C. during which she helped identify the top issues, priorities, and values that connect all charitable organizations. President John F. Kennedy once said that the "rising tide raises all boats." It is with that in mind that Coptic Orphans places great importance on working with and reaching out to the non profit community at large. She was also invited to speak on a panel at **George Washington University** discussing the Christian minority in the Middle East.

Associate Professor Jennifer Brinkerhoff presented **Coptic Orphans** as a case study at the "The Role of Diasporas in Developing the Homeland" at the George Washington University in June 2006. Professor



Some children who graduated from Coptic Orphans programs now serve as National Literacy Teachers in their areas.

Brinkerhoff is with the Public Administration and International Affairs Department at George Washington University.

Coptic Orphans was awarded **third place** in the **GlobalGiving Olympics** resulting in a permanent feature on GlobalGiving's website and a monetary award amounting to over \$16,000. **The Catalogue for Philanthropy** selected Coptic Orphans to be featured in its international section deeming it as an "excellent, trustworthy non profit ... certainly among the best smaller charities in Washington."

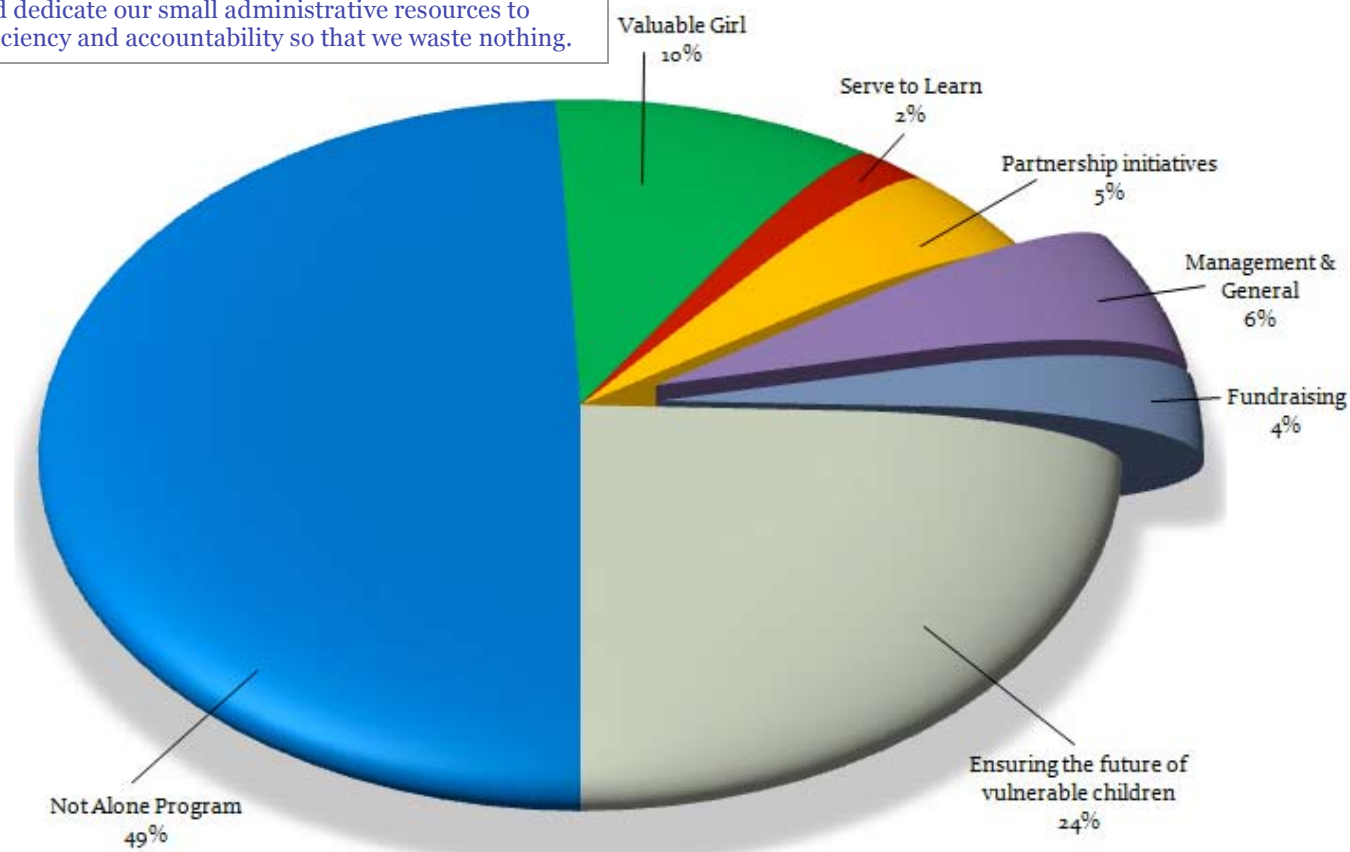


Children learn leadership skills with the YMCA in Alexandria

EMPOWERING CHILDREN...

2006 Finances: Stewarding the Future of a Generation

As faithful stewards, we manage what is entrusted to us to make maximum impact in the lives of the children. This commitment drives us to maintain a low overhead and dedicate our small administrative resources to efficiency and accountability so that we waste nothing.



Income	2005	2006	Expenses	2005	2006
Individual Donations	\$1,699,280	\$1,875,267	Program Services	1,156,393	1,343,808
Interest and Investments	\$49,403	\$148,435	Management and General	60,685	122,989
Corporate/Matching Gifts	\$62,072	\$63,615	Fundraising	45,551	75,581
Grants	\$48,409	\$39,023	Total Expenses	1,262,629	1,542,378
Total Income	1,262,629	\$2,120,507	End of Year Net Assets: \$2,906,780		

Coptic Orphans grew to a landmark of over **\$2.1 million** in revenue for underprivileged Egyptian children in 2006. With this growth, we reached thousands of children more this year than in previous years.

Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

*All amounts in US Dollars



...THROUGH CAREFUL STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIPS

- † Association of Upper Egypt for Education & Development
- † Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services
- † Al Sadaqa wal Eman CDA
- † Al Baraem wal Moqtamaa CDA
- † Caritas Egypt (Caritas Development Center, Ezbit el Haganna, Cairo; Caritas Library, Tahta, Sohag)
- † The Good Shepherd CDA, Al-Nobaraya, Alexandria
- † Abu Sefain CDA, Ezbit Khairalla, Cairo
- † El Ekhlas CDA, El Fashn, Beni Suef
- † El Salam CDA, Mallawy, Minya
- † Archangel Michael Church, El Helwa, Mattay, Minya
- † Coptic School, El Barsha, Mallawy, Minya
- † The Egyptian Karma Association for Development and Social Services
- † Coptic Renaissance Association for Development
- † The Mother of Perpetual Help Foundation
- † Coptic Catholic Diocese of Minia
- † The Egyptian Foundation for Development and Training
- † Saint Luke the Physician Association
- † The Coptic Association of al-Radeseya
- † The Holy Virgin Mary Orphanage of Abo Zaabal
- † Saint Youanes Coptic Charity Association
- † The Bishopric of Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS)
- † The Coptic Association for Community Development of Dewayna
- † Saint Mark Center for People with Special Needs
- † Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt
- † Coptic Orthodox Church of Sudan

The children came a long way in 2006 thanks to the partnership, networking and the support of over 3,000 donors, supporters, bishops, Reps, volunteers and staff.



Children1st



CFC number 0677





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