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“Egypt is not a place in which we live.
Egypt is a place that lives in us.”

-His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

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Photos in this annual report by Maryse Farag, Anand Kokha, Sandra Kunz, Miray Makram, and by various staff and volunteers.

Sydney Opera House on cover from David Pruter photography.

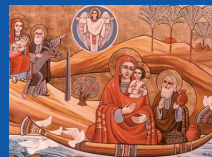
All names used in this report have been changed to protect the dignity and privacy of program participants unless special permission has been granted.



ONE BODY
IN
CHRIST,
BEARING
HOPE FOR
EGYPT



COPTIC ORPHANS 2009 ANNUAL REPORT





2009 AT A GLANCE

2,000+ - New children our programs reached for the first time

150 - Widowed mothers who started new income-generating projects in Southern Egypt

200+ - Workshops held for girls, fatherless children, and their families

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NERMEN RIAD

In 2009 we saw Coptic communities around the world come together with renewed strength and unity around Egypt. We showed that we are indeed one Body in Christ.

In 2009 Coptic Orphans strengthened its capacity to work for Egypt's fatherless as the hands and feet of a strong Coptic diaspora. We strengthened the systems that connect all of our work in the worldwide diaspora with the field in Egypt, even as we expanded globally.

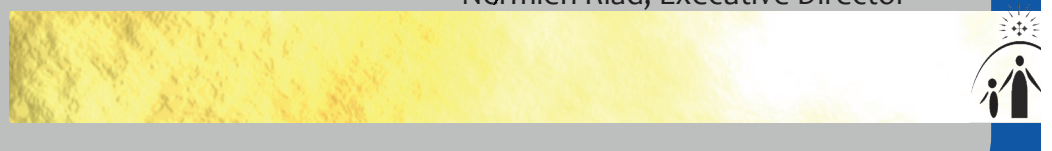
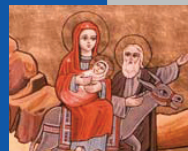
Of course, uniting around Egypt is only cause for celebration if our efforts truly make a difference. We revamped the way we monitor and evaluate our work in Egypt in 2009 so that we can see where we can improve our work for maximum efficiency. We look forward to increasing our impact in coming years with new scientific data.

You opened your homes to us more than ever in 2009 so we can connect person-to-person. This helped get the word out about the need in Egypt and also cut out the fundraising costs of big events.

Thank you for your passion for the fatherless of Egypt. We really are one Body because, as His Holiness Pope Shenouda said, "Egypt is not a place in which we live; Egypt is a place that lives in us."

One Body in Christ,

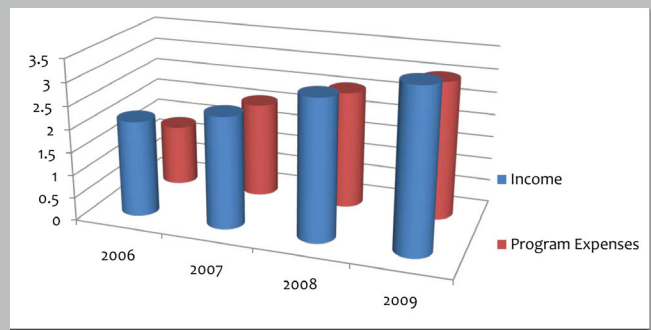
Nermen Riad
Nermen Riad, Executive Director





2009 FINANCES

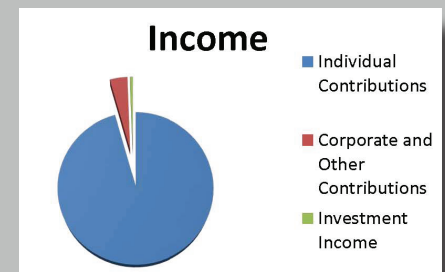
Creative cost saving measures allowed us to expand program services in Egypt even while the global economy flagged.



(Figures above are in millions.)

Income: \$3,499,147 Expense: \$3,809,974 Net Assets: \$3,016,548

Individuals still contributed the vast majority of Coptic Orphan's income in 2009.



Staff everywhere help cut costs.

With creative cost-saving, two Egypt field workers organized 15 workshops in one quarter for fatherless children - five workshops more than the 10 budgeted for their area.



ADVISORY BOARD: Robbie Samanta Roy | Julie Meawad

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nermien Riad | Amira Roess | Emile Beshai | Ash Rofail | Mark Nakhla





NOT ALONE REPS BEAR HOPE

Our flagship program, *Not Alone*, connects fatherless children to a wide array of resources through one of over 300 volunteer representatives, or “Reps.”

Reps are appointed through the Church and serve as advocates and mentors to the children and their families. They regularly visit children in their own homes to evaluate areas of potential in children’s lives.

Christine is a full-time pharmacist who spends 40 hours a month visiting children in her neighborhood as a Coptic Orphans Rep.

She became a Rep after hearing others in church talking about their work with Coptic Orphans, and then saw the work for herself. “I see how we are doing something different. We don’t just give money to a widow and leave her. We stay with her and advise her. Because of that, and working directly with the children, I believe we are making a real difference for their futures,” she said.

“My work is to change the mindset of the children. To let them know that money isn’t everything. I want them to build self-confidence through education. I want them to know it is in their hands to change their futures.”



REPS AT A LOCAL TRAINING.
CHRISTINE IS AT CENTER.

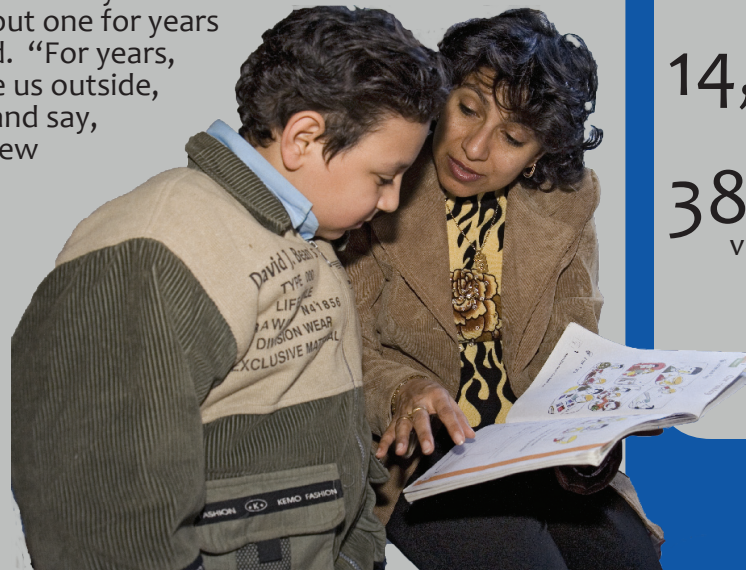


HOPE TO HOMES AND VILLAGES



Reps serve as advocates and mentors for families and assess and follow up on needs during home visits. They connect children and families to a wide array of resources including literacy tutors, special tutoring, food, clothing, adequate housing, skill-building workshops, personal advocacy, and others.

Yasmine likes to paint pictures of Sesame Street characters, and wants to be a doctor. “Just bringing her some art supplies every once in a while keeps her developing her skills,” explains her Rep, Irini. But the biggest difference in the family’s life is having a roof. They lived without one for years after the original one collapsed. “For years, every time someone would see us outside, they would shake their heads and say, ‘Oh, you can’t afford to get a new roof, yet, huh?’ Now, we don’t have to hear that sentence anymore,” beamed Yasmine’s mother.



2009
REPS OF
NOT ALONE

653 - Egyptian villages
where Reps work

14,000
- Total home visits
by Reps in 2009

38 - Average number of Rep
visits every day of the year





NOT ALONE CHILDREN C

Marina

Not Alone participant for 2 years.

In 2009, field staff report that the *Not Alone* program is blurring the lines between social classes. At a church carnival in El Marashly, Cairo, church organizers couldn't believe that the confident, well-behaved *Not Alone* children were what people called "the poor."

Bishop Lukas of Abnoub said that *Not Alone* children are not like other fatherless children he meets who "present themselves as needy, broken unsure," but "independent, confident, and proactive."

The loss of her father devastated Marina. Being alone was far worse than the fact that Marina and her brother now had no money for school, little food on the table, and no one to fix the sagging ceiling.

"You know," Marina's mother said, "When her father died, Marina was so withdrawn. It was hard to get her to smile. But through this program, she found the care that was missing: her father's care."

A Coptic Orphans Rep started visiting Marina two years ago. He won her trust as he noted her greatest needs and connected her family to resources through the program. From the Urgent Need fund they got a new roof. With a tutor we provided, Marina caught up and excelled in school.

In the regular visits of her Coptic Orphans Rep, Marina saw proof that "a father to the fatherless and a protector of the widow is God in his holy habitation." (Psalm 68:5, ESV) Marina realized that she isn't alone at all. With God as her loving Father, she knows the saints and the departed are part of her family, too. "Now Marina feels her father's presence. She comes in front of his picture on the wall and shows him the things she made in school," her mother says.



GAIN HOPE AND FUTURE



Before Magdi became part of *Not Alone* twelve years ago, he was at risk for dropping out of school to become the primary breadwinner for his family. He was only a young child. *Not Alone* came just in time to give his mother the support to keep him in school. “We joined as soon as it came to our area,” his mother says.

Today, he’s finishing up with technical school and faces another crossroads. He doesn’t want to be a burden on his mother and grandmother at home anymore. Magdi has been offered work at a hotel on the north coast. The job comes with room and board, and a stipend of around 150 Egyptian pounds (about US\$25.00) a month. His grandmother is pressuring Magdi to take the job. “He should work,” she said with a shrug to their Rep, Mariam.

“If you decided to go get a degree in, say, Hospitality Management, we would support you until you finished,” Magdi’s Rep told him. “And then you can get a job at a much higher level. You could be making 1,000 Egyptian pounds or more to start.” Magdi listened. Today he is in college and has a bright future in hotel management.

Magdi

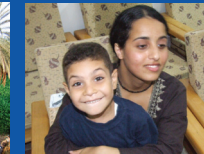
Not Alone participant for 12 years.

2009 CHILDREN OF NOT ALONE

645 - Sponsored
for the first time

1080 - Graduating from
secondary school

709 - Going to college





LEARNING TOGETHER FOR

“Something has especially changed this year with the mothers: they are stepping willingly into two roles, both mother and provider. They are speaking in front of a crowd, and they are now confident about starting income-generating projects and learning to read, all so they can support their children’s education.”

- Tharwat,
field worker from Upper Egypt

Sonia is a mother of three from Upper Egypt, and a widow. Sonia has been building confidence through her relationship with other mothers like her at special workshops for mothers. Sonia also attended a Coptic Orphans rights workshop for mothers earlier this year, and heard about how to access critical government services that might be available to her and her children. Sonia learned the procedure for getting birth certificates, health insurance, and voter registration cards. She learned that her children are eligible for special financial assistance from the government that will help with their education.

After the workshop, she went to the local social security office, a few towns away, to apply for one such service she had learned about. But the clerk thought that she was easy prey because she is a widow. He stalled her application and tried to take advantage of her sexually.

When she firmly refused, he ripped up her application in her face and ordered her out.

Instead, she appealed to the department head. Her uncommon courage earned a fast-tracked application for her and a serious reprimand for the clerk. Sonia said it was the confidence and support she gained at workshops that gave her the strength to stand up for her children to those who expected her to act helpless.



OR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



2009 WORKSHOP TOPICS

Topics for Children:

- Overcoming Barriers to Communication
- Resumes and Interviews
- Becoming Effective in Society
- Developing and Activating Creativity
- How to Study Effectively

Topics for Mothers:

- Legal Rights for Families
- Household Management
- Health and Infectious Diseases
- Home Entrepreneurship and Income-Generating Projects
- First Aid Training

2009 NOT ALONE WORKSHOPS

105 - Total workshops for children held around Egypt

6,612 - Total attendance at children's workshops, camps, and other activities

77 - Total workshops for mothers

3,387 - Attendance at mother's workshops in 2009

150 - widowed mothers who started new income-generating projects in Southern Egypt as a result of Coptic Orphans workshops





THE VALUABLE

In the Valuable Girl Project, we build self-esteem in girls at risk of dropping out of school in order to promote academic retention and access to civil and social rights through mentoring between “little sisters” in primary school and “big sisters” in secondary school and university.

Girls enjoy an oasis of social and educational freedom at local program centers. Advocacy visits to the homes and schools of participants help girls take this freedom with them into daily life.

BASMA'S STORY

At only eight years old, Basma's mother pulled her out of school and sent her to work at a local beauty salon for only 20 cents a day.

But Basma was a Little Sister in the Valuable Girl Project. As soon as Basma's Big Sister from the Valuable Girl Project heard what happened, she rushed to Basma's home. She negotiated with Basma's mother to get Basma back in school, helping connect the family to other resources to help meet their living expenses.

Later, Basma faced another problem. When it came time to take the exam for the religious studies part of Egypt's public school curriculum, Basma's teacher handed her the test intended for Muslim students. When Basma protested, saying she should have received the test for Christian students, her teacher ignored her. Not surprisingly, Basma failed the test.

This would hold Basma back for a year in school. But Basma's Big Sister joined forces with their Valuable Girl Project site manager and went to the school administrator. With the error exposed, the school immediately overturned Basma's exam scores.



THE VALUABLE GIRL PROJECT

2009 SITE PARTNERS

The Friends of the Holy Bible Association
Shebeen El Kom – Beheira (Lower Egypt)
The Social Center
Ain Shams – Cairo
Abu Sefein Association, Ezbet Khairallah
Cairo
The Coptic Association for the Development of
Egyptian Women
Cairo
The Coptic Orthodox School
Dar El Barsha, Minya (2 schools)
The Peace Coptic Association
Mallawi – Minya
Association of Upper Egypt for Education and De-
velopment
Assuit (3 schools)
The Caritas Library, Nazlet Emarah
Sohag (2 groups)
The New Way Association for Education and Devel-
opment
Sohag
The Community Development Association of He-
gaza Kebli
Qena
The Friends of the Holy Bible, Kom Ombo
Aswan

2009 VALUABLE GIRL PROJECT

15 - Program sites

1290 - Participating
girls who graduated
to the next grade

465 - Girls who gained
national ID Cards

399 - Girls who gained
health insurance cards





BUILDING FUTURES WI

PARTNER PROJECTS

Three Types of Project:
1) Vocational training for people with special needs;
2) Computer learning centers for youth and children;
3) Orphanages.

Eight out of 13 projects established computer learning centers for youth and children. Computer centers are a high priority in the development efforts of local churches and organizations in Egypt.

GRASSROOTS PARTNER INITIATIVES OF 2009

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous enabled Coptic Orphans to partner with 13 local Churches, Dioceses, and organizations in Egypt in 2009. Coptic Orphans provided funding and programmatic guidance for projects designed and initiated by these local partners.

Here is one example:

The New Way Foundation purchased six computers and trained local volunteers who will serve as trainers for the youth at established community center with opportunity to partner with Intel for interactive educational software.

The computer center in Nag' Atya village will transform life for many children there. They have never had access to a computer in the isolated farming region. Many of them walk many miles to go to the nearest library of just a few books.



WITH LOCAL PARTNERS



GRASSROOTS PARTNER SITES AND IMPACT - 2009

Alexandria - 65 Participants
Tanta - 30 Participants

Cairo - 580 Participants

El Minya - 144 Participants

Sohag - 896 Participants

Qena - 29 Participants

Luxor - 186 Participants



2009 GRASSROOTS PARTNERSHIPS

1,930

- Children reached in
2009 by local partners

13

- Number of grassroots
partners in Egypt.





SHARING HOPE FROM

SERVE TO LEARN

In Serve to Learn, we connect youth from around the globe to Egypt. By day, volunteers lead activities in English, and by evening they visit the homes and families of the fatherless children they spend time with during the day.

REFLECTIONS FROM SERVE TO LEARN VOLUNTEER Jimmy Bebawy

In the classroom, I saw injustices against girls. Girls sat all together in the far corner, eyes glued downward. The boys laughed, joked, raised hands, scrambled to be the one to answer questions. The girls said nothing.

Once after class, we asked the girls why they didn't participate. One girl started crying and said that the boys might make fun of them if they got the answer wrong. Over the next three weeks, we tried to draw her out. Finally, by the end of it she was raising her hand, standing up and speaking in front of the class, and explaining the material to other students. We saw someone change.

I saw how, especially with girls, when they understand that people around the world care for them it makes a big impact.

You go in thinking, "these kids look so happy... but they're poor, so how could they really be happy?" By the end of it, the tables turn. You know that they are truly happy and you wonder, "am I really happy?" I had to totally re-evaluate my idea of happiness. I realized that my idea of happiness was only a 55" Flat Screen TV and an X-Box 360. But they have a heavenly happiness that I could not wrap my mind around.



1 AROUND THE WORLD



SEEING THE WORK, SPREADING THE WORD, CUTTING COST

In 2009 sponsors built close relationships with the children in Egypt. More letters came back and forth between Egypt and the world than ever before. More sponsors visited their children than ever before, too. In 2008, 22 sponsors visited their children. In 2009, 70 sponsors got to know their sponsored children in their own homes and villages.

In many places around the world during 2009, supporters spread the word about the work in intimate gatherings in homes and presentations in churches rather than big fundraising events. Coptic Orphans scaled back on events to cut costs and get back to spreading passion for Egypt through word of mouth.

At the same time, the events we did hold were phenomenally successful. A restaurant donated food and venue for a pre-Lenten dinner in Canada that raised \$12,000 for development that brings dignity, not shame, and drew five priests. A Canadian dinner later in the year attended by Bishop Marcos of Shobra and Kheima raised \$60,000 for housing.

Everyone was touched in 2009 by the story of Dolagy, a young girl home-bound for 9 years because of a crippling disability. Coptic Orphans supporters rallied around her to raise \$10,000 to get her life-changing surgery at Shriners' Hospital in Philadelphia.

2009 DIASPORA SUPPORT

318% - Increase in visits to children by sponsors from 2008 to 2009

75 - Homes renovated or built in 2009 with individual support on the website

3,000 - Number of hygiene kits Australians sent to Egypt children.

