

Blessed Be Egypt  
My People (Isaiah 19:25)



Coptic Orphans

Photo by Lara Gerges

*2011 Annual Report*

# From the Executive Director

Last year was one of the most turbulent in Egypt's history. It started with the Alexandria bombing, then came the Revolution, runaway inflation, rampant crime, and instability at every level. Nevertheless, Coptic Orphans was unwavering in its mission to strengthen Egypt's fatherless children, no matter the hardships surrounding them.

Coptic Orphans Reps, the backbone of our work and 90% of our total workforce, braved thugs and robbery to visit families, just as they always have. In light of the security situation, many mothers kept their children home from school. What could have been a disastrous situation for our kids was turned for good thanks to the faithful Reps who either tutored the children themselves or provided tutors for them.

Mothers were empowered to create their own businesses through our new micro-loan program, B'edeya. From raising cattle to running a mini-market or selling galabayas, mothers were required to put at least 20% of their profit into a savings account.

And our faithful sponsors around the world stood with those suffering in Egypt. Almost half of our children now have sponsors praying for them and supporting them at every turn. This was truly a landmark achievement for Coptic Orphans. Sponsorship is a powerful connection between the diaspora and Egypt.

In spite of the turbulence we all came together with one heart, united and committed that nothing will stop us from giving our children what they need to succeed. We will continue to serve them at all costs.

Thank you to all of you. May 2012 be even more blessed as we stand together.



*Yervan Riad*  
Founder & Executive Director

## About Coptic Orphans

When most people think of "orphans," they think of children in orphanages who have no family at all. In fact, many orphanages in Egypt are filled with children who have living family, only because their widowed mothers cannot afford to feed them. This is an injustice.

Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization that works through a grassroots volunteer network to unlock the God-given potential of fatherless children in their own homes and families. We equip them to break the cycle of poverty and become change-makers in their communities. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans has touched the lives of over 27,000 children in underserved villages and urban areas throughout Egypt, from Alexandria to Aswan.

## The Year's Highlights:

- > 1,000 new children enrolled in our *Not Alone* program, gaining access to educational support for the first time
- > Nearly 50% of our children now have sponsors
- > New interest-free micro-loan program helps hundreds of widowed mothers get back on their feet
- > Renewal of high-quality medical insurance for 2,000 orphaned children from Egypt's poorest areas
- > New medical insurance for 1,000 more orphaned children
- > More housing renovations and medical assistance than ever before, thanks to sponsors
- > With Egypt's instability, Reps went to work installing locks, new doors, windows, and roofs so families could be safer
- > The First-Ever Survey of Copts in Diaspora Commissioned
- > Launch of "Copts Got Talent" fundraising event with His Grace Bishop Angaelos in the UK provides more programming dollars
- > First staff training on trauma through the "Walking with the Wounded Child" series
- > First pilot of a new literacy project using phonics methods
- > Coptic Orphans girl runs for parliament in Upper Egypt



Widowed mothers earned a total of 39,486 EGP (\$23,000 USD) in profit from new businesses that Coptic Orphans helped them launch.

## What's Changed, What Hasn't?

- > Coptic Orphans volunteers now work with more local coordination because of difficult travel from villages to major cities like Cairo
- > Workshops and trainings are one-day affairs, so volunteers don't have to leave their families
- > Despite everything, we haven't changed our focus on education, or shrunk from our dedication to each child's future
- > More widows are self-sufficient with their own businesses
- > Field staff and volunteers are united to accomplish our mission



Photo by Nicole Ghobrial

## After the Revolution, Our Work Has Just Begun

With new possibilities but village streets unsafe a year later, there is new work to be done to accomplish our mission.

### Safety Renovations Big in 2011

The first question that Coptic Orphans Reps ask when they go into homes? Is there running water and electricity? This year, when they talked to families about getting these basics, the families often replied: "We would much rather have iron locks on our doors, and a concrete ceiling instead of palm fronds. Every night we fear people breaking in!" In response, Coptic Orphans made more safety renovations (new locks, doors, windows and roofs) in 2011 than ever before.

### Revolution Awakens Hope in the Hopeless

"Nothing will ever change, and nothing I can do would make anything change." We used to constantly hear this from widowed mothers and their families. They felt hopeless about education, and providing basic needs for their children. Even widows who have hardly set foot outside their homes since the death of their husbands 20 years ago emerged to vote. For the first time, a hope for Egypt's future became bigger than the social expectation that widows stay hidden away.

### Coptic Orphans Develops Literacy Tools

Coptic Orphans began a pilot Head Start program in this year. It uses phonics to help more rural children learn to read. Meanwhile, former program participants who are becoming leaders are now tutoring hundreds of children in our program. With the security situation after the revolution keeping many children away from school, Coptic Orphans will be developing more informal literacy and educational tools in 2012.

## Workshops for Children

In spite of security concerns, Coptic Orphans held workshops to prepare orphaned families for Egypt's changes.

### Integrity

Marian and her sister had attended one of our workshops on integrity in early 2011. They have an older brother who committed a robbery and was sentenced to five years in prison. During the revolution he escaped with thousands of other prisoners and went directly to his family. His sisters told him about the workshop and begged him to turn himself in. Eventually, he did. He made Marian proud, but he also shocked the authorities. They were so impressed, they reduced his remaining sentence from three years to only one year. The whole family considers it the Lord's reward for encouraging and acting with integrity.

### Unity

After the revolution, most workshops focused on issues of unity and belonging. Children talked about what they can do to become a part of the New Egypt, by becoming active in their villages. Workshops also included the topic of forgiveness after field staff noticed that unity is not possible without first taking account of injustices.

## Workshops for Mothers

Mothers also learned about integrity and unity, and about how to prepare their families for the coming elections in a changing Egypt. Many mothers said that they came away from the workshops with new courage and a determination to vote.

### Workshops in 2011

302 – Total workshops for children  
5, 356– Total child attendance  
122 – Total workshops for mothers  
3,090– Total mother attendance

Photo by Mark Voss

## Sponsors United for Egypt

Sponsors from around the world united for Egypt with nearly half of our children receiving sponsors this year.

Sponsorship is extremely important because fatherless children in Egypt find tremendous encouragement from sponsor letters and visits. Sponsorship provides private tutoring, mentorship, advocacy, housing renovations, running water, food, electricity and special skills training.

## Surprise Visit in Egypt Gives Inside Glimpse into Coptic Orphans

A sponsor paid a surprise visit to their family in Egypt. The mother did not know that the visiting guest was their sponsor. Instead, she thought he was part of Coptic Orphans. The mother kept thanking the Rep and sponsor for all that Coptic Orphans does, and told them about recent sponsor gifts and how the family needed them. She also told them about the letters she got from the sponsor and how those encouraged her children to press forward for success.

At the end of the visit, the Rep told them, "Actually, this is the sponsor you've been talking about." You can imagine their surprise!

The sponsor said the visit was fun and warm. He told us, "I know what I got to see was the way your program works without preparing it for any special outside scrutiny. That proves the high credibility of your organization. You really make a clear difference."



Photo by Mark Voss

A home visit in Middle Egypt

Photo by Nicole Ghobrial



## Reps in 2011

- 90% - Reps as percent of total Coptic Orphans workforce
- 342- Total active volunteer Reps
- 10, 260 - Estimated total of home visits by volunteer Reps
- 675 - Total villages with Reps working in them

## Reps: The Backbone of Coptic Orphans

Local, village-based volunteer “Reps” are the backbone of our work, and 90% of our total workforce. Reps are nominated by their local bishops. They spend between 10 - 20 hours per week visiting the homes of orphaned children in our program, and become their connection to everything children need to succeed.

### Protectors

In 2011, anxiety was high among Egypt’s families. Reps especially found themselves encouraging families and focusing on protection, from installing locks and more secure windows to making sure children were safe travelling to school.

### Education Advocates

Convincing widowed mothers that it’s better to keep their children in school than put them to work or marry them off early has always been a big part of a Rep’s job. But this year, families pulled their daughters out of school because of widespread kidnapping rumors. Our Reps found creative solutions to keep girls in school and on the road to graduation, like arranging tutoring for all subjects, and even chaperoning girls to their exams.

## Reps Brave Meaner Streets

After the January 25 Revolution, local police security collapsed in many villages and neighborhoods. Robbers and thugs abounded in the alleys and highways of Egypt. Reps had to complete their home visits before sunset to stay safe, but that did not stop them from travelling nearly every evening and weekend to check on their orphaned family.

## Rep Rescues Boy from Ransomers

Bedouins kidnapped the nephew of one volunteer Rep and held him for ransom. The Rep’s training and work with Coptic Orphans had built his leadership skills, and he commanded tremendous respect in the village. Instead of allowing a small group to exploit the religious division of the village, the Rep rallied all the men of the village--both Christian and Muslim--who then went into the desert and rescued his nephew.



“I had a class of girls tell me about life as a woman in Egypt. My students explained how they wait, without aspirations or expectations, for husbands and children and how many of the freedoms I love are denied them. Even for widows, who take up both male and female roles for their families; once their husbands pass away there is no respect or help. The intense sexism steals the most important thing from these women and girls: the desire to improve their situation. -Margarethe, USA

”

Photo by Yustina Riad

## Serve to Learn

A Serve to Learn volunteer sat on the church roof, enjoying the quiet sounds of goats bleating and crows cawing. Suddenly, loudspeaker crackling tore the evening air from a nearby minaret: “Everyone get your guns and come outside!” It turned out to be a ploy to scare away strangers visiting from another village. While most avoided Egypt in 2011, some brave Coptic Orphans volunteers understood that the year’s uncertainty was an even more compelling reason to go and help the disadvantaged.

College students from the United States flew to Egypt for Serve to Learn 2011, visiting El Barsha-Mallawi in El Minya. They conducted informal English lessons for children and shared a journey of self-discovery and transformation. All who went had a fun and life-changing time, free from fear. One volunteer reported home, “No incidents . . . Now, no one has an excuse not to go!”



## The International Volunteer Program

### Volunteers from Seminary, the University, and On their Own

They came alone and in groups from the University of Maryland, Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN), and as individuals; Britons, Americans, Canadians, and Europeans. Volunteers led workshops and hands-on activities for children and helped renovate homes and orphanage facilities. As wide as their origins and activities ranged, they all had their lives touched by the children they met.

One volunteer spoke for many. “I had one little boy follow me around all day. He repeated everything I said and picked up English very quickly. He spent the entire day trying to learn how to say my name correctly. At the end of the day, he told me he loved me and didn’t want me to leave.”

### Football Beyond Borders

Football without Borders brought a group of students and sports players who gave 200 girls and boys a lesson in teamwork. Some children had never held a ball before, including girls who weren’t used to being allowed to play sports in their conservative villages.

The children also noticed that the volunteers played and worked together, though they came from different religions. Some of the children said this opened up a fresh possibility in their minds: it is possible to live in harmony across religious boundaries.



“How do you love each other and play with one another like this, [despite being of different faiths]? I’d like to be able to play with my Muslim neighbors like that.

- Boy  British pro football volunteer

## *B'edaya* - Microfinance Projects Empowers Widowed Mothers



Coptic Orphans has found that one of the best ways to help a child is to empower his mother. Our *B'edaya* ("With My Own Hands") micro-finance initiative provides income-generating opportunities to help families become self-sufficient. Donations cover all aspects of the loan process from beginning to end, and gets reinvested countless times to help multiple families.

Most of the mothers we meet want to provide for their children, but don't know how. We start by giving the mothers in our program some coaching on starting a business, then pick the mothers of children in our Not Alone program who show initiative. The mothers apply for an interest-free loan and we assess a project's potential for success, its budget, and anticipated obstacles, giving guidance along the way.

Once a mother is selected and her project is funded she can use the profit to improve the quality of life for herself and her children. Mothers are required to put at least 20% of their profit into a savings account.

When a mother becomes successful, she repays the interest-free loan to Coptic Orphans. We reinvest it by giving it to another mother to make her project a success. And the cycle continues.

### *B'edaya* in 2011

53 – Pilot Projects

139,486 EGP (\$23,000 USD) – Mothers' Combined Profit

99.3% - Repayment Rate

Photo by Mark Voss

# High Stewardship for the Highest Yield

## Board of Directors:

### US

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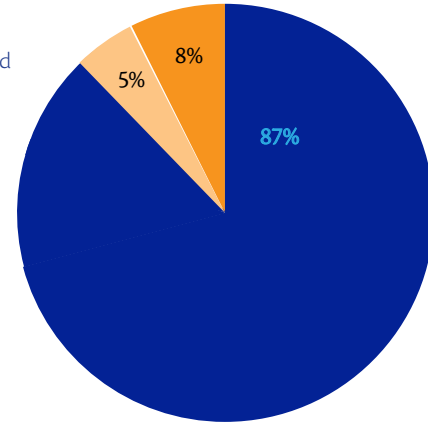
### Australia

Ben Morcos  
Rhonda Farag  
Debbie Armanious

“In these times of economic crisis, you have done very well; and now with what is happening in Egypt, it is more important than ever to have good reserves.”  
- Bob First, CPA

## Expenses

- **Field Programs**  
What we spent on our child development and community development programs
- **Management & General**  
The support that keeps our programs running, like office expenses and financial accountability
- **Fundraising**  
What we spend to raise funds, like credit card fees on donations, events, and printing



## Statements of Activities

Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

	2011			2010		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE:</b>						
Contribution income	\$ 5,478,012	\$ -	\$ 5,478,012	\$ 4,170,888	\$ -	\$ 4,170,888
Grant income		1,088,330	1,088,330			-
Interest income and investment income	58,826		58,826	78,024		78,024
Unrealized gain in investment value	55,303		55,303	22,182		22,182
Net assets released from restrictions	183,884	(183,884)	-	-		-
<b>Total unrestricted support and reclassifications</b>	<b>5,684,054</b>	<b>1,004,441</b>	<b>6,688,535</b>	<b>4,279,804</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,279,804</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
<b>Program services:</b>						
Child Development Programs	3,582,058	-	3,582,058	2,028,070	-	2,028,070
Community Development Programs	288,008	-	288,008	162,218	-	162,218
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>3,848,066</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,848,066</b>	<b>3,088,288</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,088,288</b>
<b>Supporting services:</b>						
Management and general	304,400	-	304,400	370,794	-	370,794
Fundraising	220,008	-	220,008	276,220	-	276,220
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>583,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>583,400</b>	<b>645,883</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>645,883</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,431,471</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,431,471</b>	<b>3,734,282</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,734,282</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>1,282,023</b>	<b>1,004,441</b>	<b>2,287,004</b>	<b>545,532</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>545,532</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of Year</b>	<b>3,785,504</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,785,504</b>	<b>3,170,781</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,170,781</b>
Change in currency value	(134,284)	-	(134,284)	80,258	-	80,258
<b>Net assets, end of Year</b>	<b>\$ 3,651,220</b>	<b>\$ 1,004,441</b>	<b>\$ 4,655,661</b>	<b>\$ 3,251,039</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,251,039</b>

Audit report prepared by Farmer and First, CPAs. Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

# Sponsor a Child Today.

United States | EIN: 54-1637257

P.O. Box 2881  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
800-499-2989

Australia | ABN: 92 753 235 136

P.O. Box 469  
Belmore, NSW 2192  
02-9787-9777

Canada | Tax ID: 879517712RR0001

P.O. Box 52033  
Laval, QC H7P 5S1  
450-736-0975

United Kingdom | Charity No.: 1133307

\*Use United States Address  
0203-372-4475

Egypt | Registration Pending since 2005

3 Rafik Salah El-Din St.  
Heliopolis, Cairo  
02-2638-9227

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