

SPRINGBOARD~Girls' Schools Newsletter

June 2007

Facts & Figures

- 200 Springboard Schools for Egypt's Girls completed
- 7000 out of school girls are now in school
- 402 Teachers trained and hired



The young, once shy & timid girls of Abu Seir are now beautiful young ladies, with a bright and hopeful future ahead.

Dear Donor,

We know, it's taken us long till we were able to sit, breathe and communicate and give you feedback on the fruits of your generous gift to the Girls one room schools project in Egypt.

With a true sense of amazement, we were able to complete the construction of 200 one-room schools for Egypt's Girls. The goal was successfully achieved and on schedule!

In the coming few paragraphs, and

future newsletters, we would like to invite you to join us in our journey riding the rough roads of rural Egypt, and into the villages and communities where it all happened, and where you made your significant mark.

We trust that this letter will make you feel as proud as we are for being a part of this worthy project. Your gift has offered a hope and a future for many underprivileged young Egyptian girls.

"Your gift has offered a hope and a future for many underprivileged young Egyptian Girls."

What a Gift you have given to the Girls of Egypt! – By Glenn Joyce

Springboard is a great project that has made an impact on the underprivileged girls in villages in Egypt - from Minya in the south to the delta regions to the north and to the Fayoum areas to the west. I have personally witnessed young girls transformed from shy little girls that hide when a stranger walks by to young girls that welcome visitors when they arrive. Visitors like the Governor of their state, Suzanne Mubarak, Laura Bush and many others just to name a few of the visitors the schools have received during our involvement with the project.

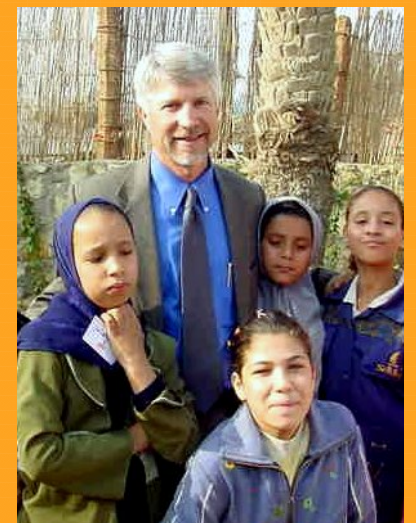
These young girls have improved their confidence and self esteem through education. Their opportunities and dreams have grown to new horizons that were never even considered prior to their educational opportunities that you helped provide.

Unlike many of their parents that are illiterate, these girls will be able to explore and understand many things

through books, newspapers, magazines – this is something many of us take for granted. Their thirst for education is amazing as many appear at the beautiful school every day of the week to learn, to experience educational opportunities that were never available to them before the school was built.

What a gift you have given to these girls and to the country of Egypt! Now with their ability to read and write, they can make decisions and educate themselves on basic life skills and practices that were not comprehensible before their ability to read and write was introduced. Many of these girls are the first ones to read and write in their family.

Apache, Springboard and you have made a difference! Thanks again for making a difference in the lives of underprivileged girls in Egypt and making distant dreams reality for 7000 girls in Egypt!



Glenn with the Abou Seir Girls when the school first Opened December 2004

One success story after another – By Nancy Mina

It started in early 2004 when Mr. Raymond Plank, Mr. Steve Farris and a convoy of Apache's Board of directors came to visit a newly opened Girl Friendly school (GFS) in Giza, one of the first donated schools to the Girl's Education Initiative (GEI), a national project under the auspices of the first lady of Egypt, administered by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM).

That day, while the board was visiting, more girls than permitted showed up to enroll at the school. It was evident then, from the endless questions asked that Apache was getting involved, they knew what they needed to do and it was to create educational opportunities for young Girls in Egypt. From that point on, things happened very quickly, like everything else in Apache!! It was four months and Abou Seir School was completed, and in a matter of weeks it became the model school for NCCM's GEI. Built in an environmentally friendly beautiful design, was key to its success. It became a land mark in the community, affirmed the importance and value of education and was

inviting for the teachers, the girls and The community. It made them proud. A series of events then took Apache's vision to the next level; Springboard, was created, and the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development volunteered to handle the financial management. The project was launched and 200 school sites were on the construction schedule.



As an Egyptian, looking back at the past two years to see what I was privileged to partake in achieving, I am in complete awe!! Apache and Springboard's venture to invest boldly in a government project, is unheard of! And it set a model for businesses and corporations in Egypt to realize their capacity to impact and push the

development wheel if they partnered with the Government in projects with mutual goals. Governments cannot single handedly achieve development!! and I believe that this experience will impact future marketplace involvement in Egypt's development profoundly.

In just two years, Apache and Springboard were able to help enroll 7000 girls in school, helped create hundreds of Jobs for Teachers, supervisors, guards, trainers, impacting 200 communities, changing their perceptions on the role of women in society, that when you educate a woman, you educate a family, and the return on that education is priceless in value for the coming generation. A transformation that can eradicate poverty and ignorance from their roots! But, without people like you, none of this would have happened. It is because of your generosity that the lives of hundreds of young girls will never be the same! Simply because, one day, came along a group of people who really cared and who decided to do something about it.

Thank you for your generosity – By Youssef Youssef

When I joined apache almost 2 years ago, this job was just another job for me and it remained like that for a while. I was an engineer supervising construction, making sure that everything in the buildings worked correctly – and while visiting the schools, I used to see girls in the schools, I learned about my country and went to places in Egypt that I never thought I would visit.

After awhile, I went to the school first built by Apache (Abu Sir School) and that day my whole perspective on this project changed. When I saw how the girls were behaving and the difference between these girls and the girls in the newly started schools I was really touched and realized what these schools are doing for the girls.

I then started to concentrate, and realize a lot of small details that I did not notice before. I started to understand why in almost all the communities we build schools at, we are offered to have lunch or tea with them! why they try to sincerely

help as much as they are able! and why they gather around us when we arrive to the site!!!? It is because we have truly enabled them to change their lives and provided opportunities they did not have before. They may be for us, just a community in a village that we are building a school for, but for them we are very special, we are doing something for them that no one did before, we are helping their girls and we are improving opportunities in their village.

A question that I was often asked is; why would Americans bother themselves to come and build these schools? and when I answered that our chairman wanted to give back to Egypt because Egypt was good for our company, this answer was not very convincing for them until they saw donors giving off their time, effort and money to come and spend a day with the girls in the classroom to make sure that they have everything they need for their in their classroom.

In response, the village people started to also feel responsible for the well being of the school.

So thank you our donors, thank you for helping these little girls, and thank you for making a difference in Egypt. I now fully understand the quote that we use in our Girl Friendly School's Project, that : "If you educate a woman, you educate a family".



Youssef taking a break with the Girls

Our Contacts:

Girls' Schools
PO Box 27582
Houston, TX 77227
Phone:
+(202) 5193835
Fax:
+(202) 5193900

E-Mail:

glenn.joyce@apachecorp.com
nancy.mina@apachecorp.com
youssef.youssef@apachecorp.com
haytham.gamal@apachecorp.com
salma.zaky@apachecorp.com

Web Site:

For more information on your school, go to school locator at:

www.springboarded.org
www.schoolsforegyptgirls.com

A Life changing project - by Haytham Gamal

It's been over a year since I joined this heart beating project of Apache's schools, and throughout this short period of time I have learned a lot about human nature.

I have learned the true meaning and value of giving to others. What I have witnessed from people generously giving money, land, time and effort to achieve a noble goal has changed my perspective of life.

The process was hard and difficult at some points, but we all learned & gained a massive amount of experience during the construction of the schools which are set in very remote areas of Egypt to serve the young girls who otherwise would be deprived of education. Ultimately, amongst everyone involved in this project, I believe that those girls are the ones who have gained the most.

Now that the goal of constructing 201

Apache Schools is achieved, we are now working on our second goal of assuring sustainability, progress & development of every school.



Haytham visiting the Girls in Fayoum. Its always the highlight to smile for a picture ...



Salma spending quality time with the Girls in the school.

**" IF YOU EDUCATE A
WOMAN, YOU
EDUCATE A FAMILY"**



From dream to reality

By Salma Zaky

It started as a volunteer job and then I joined Apache as an employee where I've been visiting the schools. I saw a lot of potential in the girls; their dreams of what they want to become posted on their dream board, I saw their eagerness to progress in order to achieve their goals, and I saw their shining faces and smiles when their lovely donors visited them or even sent them a "HI", it made their hopes rise because they knew someone really cared for them.

Being a part of the education of underprivileged girls has widened my scope in life. This project taught me that your potential in life should not and will not be judged by how impoverished or underprivileged you are. It takes hard work, dedication, and someone willing to bless you with an opportunity in order to achieve your dreams.

Through you our donors; working with those girls, giving them this opportunity and loving them has truly been an exceptional journey in my life and with no doubt in their lives.

Thank you so much for giving them such an opportunity full of care and love...

Dear Donor,

Thank you for your support of this project. Please feel free to contact us if you are planning a trip to Egypt and want to visit your school. Also, please feel free to communicate with us regarding any information you may need regarding your school.

You can also go to school Locator on:

www.springboarded.org

The underprivileged girls of Egypt thank you for your support and for enabling their dreams to become reality.

The Girls' Schools Team