

ANNUAL REPORT OF BEHBUD ASSOCIATION USA, INC. 2016



Behbud Model High School: Rawalpindi

In 2016, Behbud Association USA's main focus was to raise funds primarily for the Education program at Behbud based in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Pakistan. In addition to providing educational opportunities to those living in underprivileged communities, we continue to work towards empowering and sustaining the livelihoods of women, children and their communities, and addressing their needs during natural disasters and emergencies. With the support of our generous donors, our entire volunteer team at Behbud USA worked hard towards raising funds and organizing small fundraisers, proceeds from which benefited our projects. Please read on to learn about some of Behbud's projects and accomplishments from the past year.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Through your donations this year, we have provided education to students aged 5 to 17 in Behbud schools in the Rawalpindi/Islamabad area. Behbud USA funded 6 Primary level Home Schools in its entirety and supplements the Behbud Model School to a large extent.

Behbud Home Schools:

The 6 home schools that Behbud USA totally funds are located in the urban slums of Rawalpindi. With the extremely high level of inflation, the **annual** running cost of **each** school is now approximately \$5500 and it is expected to increase in the next year and the following years. Behbud USA provides a rental premise, teacher salaries, all utilities, books, and other educational material and covers any shortfalls and repairs for the schools.

- Currently, the number of children enrolled in the Primary Program is a total of 400, with the number

of girls and boys equally divided.

- Behbud worked to arrange the following activities for the schools:
 - Monthly parent teacher meetings
 - Annual functions to which members of the community were invited encouraging them to participate in school affairs
 - Academic events such as speech contests, delivery of national songs, daily assemblies
 - Field trips
 - Special activities related to special national holidays and events.



Behbud Home School

Behbud Model School, Rawalpindi:

This school is located in Rawalpindi and comprises of classes from Nursery to class 10 (Matriculation). Student body at present is around 230. Boys and girls are in co-educational classes until Grade 5 (Primary), after which the school enrolls only girls up to Matriculation, after which they are eligible to go to college.

Behbud USA supplements funds to a large extent for this school. The Model School features the following:

- The school has a **new** computer lab, a science lab, a library and an art program.
- All teaching staff have an B.A. or M.A. degrees and several have in addition special Education degrees. Teacher refresher courses continue to be given on a regular basis to further enhance their teaching capabilities.

- Extracurricular and sports activities are encouraged. Students celebrate the end of the school year with sports events, skits, a fun fair and fundraising activities.
- The “Adopt a Child” program is in its fourth year and we are grateful to those of the Rawalpindi / Islamabad membership who have supported this project. This year we were able to “adopt” several students. The opportunity is also available to our donors in the USA. The expense of 1 student from Nursery to Class 10 is only \$130 annually.
- Parent-Teacher meetings are encouraged and our Education Committee helps in facilitating these exchanges.
- Class 5 results were announced and all students secured good marks. The exam was taken by Punjab Education Commission. The results of Class 9 and 10 are awaited.
- Polio drops were given to the children under the age of 5 years by the Health Department Punjab.
- Health care instruction was provided by medical professionals regarding the cleanliness and personal hygiene, and how to prevent infection.
- The Model School is doing well and the teachers’ salaries were increased after a lapse of two years due to budgetary constraints. It is essential to give the teachers a suitable annual increase for retention purposes, especially given their commitment and their competence levels and to meet the rising costs of living.

Teacher Training

Behbud collaborated with DIL (Developments in Literacy) for a teacher training program, and are grateful for their support. The training program was meticulously designed and Behbud engaged the assistance of its best qualified members to head the effort. Extensive baseline tests were conducted to develop a suitable content for the program. Tests were developed for the subject areas including Science, Mathematics, Social Sciences and English, besides a general competency test. At the end of the training, which spread over a period of almost one year, assessment tests were held and further help was provided to the teachers. The training demonstrated Behbud’s commitment to its educational mission and to the teachers, who returned to their work with renewed commitment and vigor, using the techniques they had learned.

Fundraising Details:

Behbud USA in 2016 held a few Behbud Clothing Sales Exhibitions in New York and California. The Exhibitions were held at homes of Behbud friends and supporters, which helped immensely in cutting down venue costs.

- ❖ Behbud Clothing and Home Textiles Exhibition was held in June at the home of Mrs. Fozia Qureshi in Scarsdale, NY. Our many thanks to her for her generosity.

- ❖ Another Behbud’s Summer/Fall line clothing exhibition at the home of Mrs. Najma Mian in Scarsdale, New York in October. Our sincere thanks to her for her hospitality.
- ❖ A fall/winter Behbud Clothing Exhibition was held in Palo Alto, California, at the home of Mrs. Beth Sears. It was a first fundraiser in California and was very well attended. Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Sears for welcoming Behbud into her home.
- ❖ Behbud Crafts Exhibition in November in New York at the AMWA event.
- ❖ A couple of other Exhibitions and Sales were organized at various venues, all hosted by Behbud supporters and to whom we are most grateful.

This year our fundraising effort, which includes donations from Behbud supporters and sale from our Exhibition events, generated a total of approximately \$40,000. Our total annual expenses were approximately \$2,500, which include administrative costs such as Annual State Registration Fees for the 4 states we are registered in, Annual Filing Fees, Tax Accountant Fees, Postage, Office Supplies, Website fees, and a few items for our fundraisers. The reserve funds from last year covered the extra expense on schools for this year.

Heartfelt thanks to all our donors and supporters to whom we are deeply grateful and it is their generosity that helps run our various projects. Sincere thanks to our team of dedicated volunteers, whose hard work made these events a success!

Details of how we used the proceeds are as follows:

TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FOR 2016:

Behbud Model School:	\$7,000
Home Schools:	\$33,000
Maintenance:	\$ 1,000
Education Coordinator:	\$ 1,200
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TOTAL:	\$42,200
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IMPORTANT NOTE:

Our funds this year did not permit us to fund any other project besides Education as the cost of running the 7 schools that we support have gone up considerably.

We hope in 2017 to raise more funds and humbly request our donors to please contribute generously, making it possible to enhance our Education project.

BEHBUD WEBSITE:

Please visit the Behbud website for more in depth information on our projects and how you can donate.

The website address is: www.behbud.org

The Behbud USA Committee sends their heartfelt thanks to all its generous donors. We wish you and your families the very best of health, happiness and peace in the world in 2017 and in the years to follow.

Sincerely,

Behbud Association, USA – Inc.

For more information on donating, please visit our website at www.behbud.org. BEHBUD USA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. All donations are tax exempt to the extent allowed by US law.