



UK Registered Charity No: 1113836

KORT Newsletter Issue No: 23 – Nov 2021

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF KORT

Assalamu Alaykum and Hello!

Welcome to our 23rd KORT Newsletter. We pray that you are in the best of health.

Praise be to the Almighty, KORT has again served thousands of needy people this year through your donations and support.

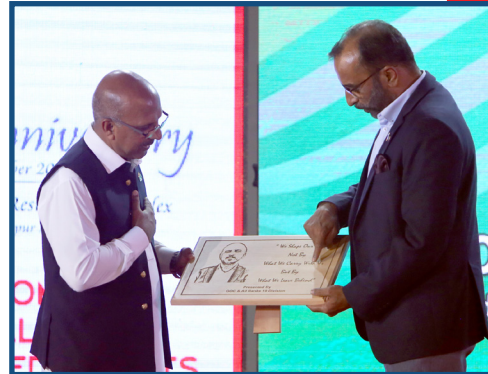
Despite being unable to hold our annual fundraising events during the start of the year due to covid restrictions, your amazing generosity and support throughout the year enabled us to continue doing what we do best, serving humanity.

All being well, we will be hosting fundraising events starting November 2021. Please see page 7 for further details.

We will also be building the largest free-of-cost hospital in Azad Kashmir very soon in collaboration with Indus Hospital to provide free healthcare for all. Stay tuned to our social media channels for further information.

Please continue to support KORT as we aim to alleviate poverty in Azad Kashmir & Pakistan.

KORT MANAGEMENT, UK



With the blessings of the Almighty and the support of our generous donors, KORT has grown from strength-to-strength year after year running a successful orphan's home and now being a big source of relief for the needy and vulnerable people of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan. We have served hundreds of orphaned children over the years keeping them safe, and providing them with the education and skills required to look forward to a bright future. KORT has also been on hand to support communities affected by natural disasters and has implemented many projects to empower children, widows, and disabled people.

On 8th October 2021, KORT remembered the victims of the 2005 earthquake by holding a remembrance rally in the city of Mirpur AJK. Later that evening, the students of KORT organised a celebratory event to mark our 16th anniversary with amazing performances by the children in the presence of esteemed guests from around the world including the President of AJK Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry and Labour MP for Bradford West Naz Shah. Three KORT students also completed Hifz of the Holy Quran, praise be to the Almighty.

It is through the will of the Almighty and the support of our donors that the children in our care have grown up into confident individuals who are extremely happy and grateful to be at KORT.

ANOTHER HUGE HONOUR FOR KORT AND AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

A beautiful ceremony was held at the Pakistan National Assembly in Islamabad on 22nd October 2021 to award, recognise, commend, and appreciate the hard efforts of three amazing individuals who are trying to bring relief to the suffering humanity in Pakistan. One of those individuals was our Chairman Ch. Mohammed Akhtar (TI) who was awarded the highest honour of the National Assembly of Pakistan in recognition of his services for humanity. As Ch. Akhtar was unable to attend the event, one of KORT's daughters accepted the award on his behalf.

The event was also attended by many parliamentarians and members of the civil society. A group of KORT children also gave an outstanding Qawali performance. Our Chairman would like to thank and dedicate this award to his family, the children of KORT, the Trustees, the staff, and to all our Muskorteers and donors from around the world.



NOT ALL CLASSROOMS HAVE FOUR WALLS!

School trips are a way of enhancing the learning process by taking children outside of their usual classroom environment and getting them to have a different learning experience. The children at KORT are taken on trips every year to parks, museums, and tourist attractions to familiarise them with the world around them. In September, the children were taken to various parks and attractions where they learnt about different animals and species, and experienced different cultures. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and looked forward to more trips in the future.



THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT POVERTY IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Despite a universal declaration of human rights which states that "Everyone has the right to education," thousands of children remain out of school across Azad Kashmir. With the support of our donors, KORT has pledged to build many schools under our project "Education for All". Two schools have already been built and handed over to local authorities in Mawa Islamghar and Janiyal Mirpur with the construction of many more schools in progress across AJK. We would like to thank all our donors who have contributed towards this amazing project, especially our dear brother Zahir Kassam & family from Malawi, Africa.

Education also plays an important role in developing a country in every field and helps reduce poverty. In view of this, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the chairman of KORT; Ch Mohammed Akhtar and the Education Secretary for Elementary and Secondary AJK; Khawaja Ahsan, to improve the standards of education in Azad Kashmir. The Education Minister Dewan Ali Chughtai lauded the services of KORT for orphaned children and how it has maintained a high standard of education. He also mentioned that steps are being taken to attract over 80,000 children into education.



TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY PROJECT UPDATE



Praise be to the Almighty, since we started our 'Turning Disability into Ability' project in 2017, thousands of people have benefitted from our wheelchair distributions with many users experiencing some sort of independence and freedom for the first time. This year we have provided wheelchairs to needy people in Dhirkot and Bagh in Azad Kashmir, and in Chillas, Gilgit, and Astore in Gilgit Baltistan. Thank you to the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan and former Prime Minister of AJK Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan for attending the distribution events and providing their support.

A common problem for people with disabilities in Pakistan is the lack of dedicated and accessible washrooms. KORT raised this issue with the Honourable Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly and with his support, KORT is constructing wheelchair accessible washrooms across Islamabad. Accessible washrooms are already open to the public at the Shah Faisal Mosque, F-9 Park, and The Lake View Park, with many more to be completed very soon. Thank you to all our donors who have donated towards this amazing project.

KORT IS ON HAND TO PROVIDE RELIEF AND REBUILD HOUSES FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN NEELUM VALLEY AJK

In July, a devastating cloudburst struck the village of Salkhala in Athmuqaam Neelum Valley AJK, claiming 3 lives, destroying many houses, and injuring many people. Team KORT were on hand to assist in rescue and relief efforts to ease the hardships of the affected families. KORT pledged to rebuild 17 houses thanks to the generosity of our kind donors for needy families who had lost their homes. Torrential rain also devastated the capital Islamabad sweeping away cars and flooding low level homes and businesses. Team KORT also supported the affected people with hot food, care packages, blankets, and duvets. Thank you to all our donors and Muskortees who supported this appeal.



UMRAH 2021 UPDATE

Since 2016, a small group of orphan children are sponsored by our donors to perform Umrah each year. The trip is an opportunity for the children to gain valuable social skills, meeting people from different backgrounds and cultures, and experience travelling abroad for the first time.

We have 2 groups of children already sponsored to perform Umrah from our appeals in Ramadan 2020 and 2021, and we hope to make a trip very soon now that the restrictions for travel have started to ease. Thank you to our generous donors who supported this appeal.

THE LARGEST FREE-OF-COST HOSPITAL IN AZAD KASHMIR COMING SOON

Building a healthcare facility has always been an ambition of KORT since our inception in 2005, and the time has come for this plan to be put into action. In collaboration with Indus Hospital, KORT will be building the largest hospital in Azad Kashmir to provide free quality healthcare for all. The hospital will be built in Mirpur and will not only bring quality healthcare for the people of Azad Kashmir but will also boost the local economy by creating jobs and training opportunities for local residents. The Founder and Chief Executive of Indus Hospital Dr Abdul Bari Khan visited KORT earlier this year and was very impressed with the care and facilities provided for orphaned children. He looked forward to work with KORT to provide a 500 bed multi-disciplinary hospital for the residents of Azad Kashmir. Further details about how you can donate towards this amazing project will be available on our website very soon at www.kort.org.uk



CLEAN WATER PROJECT UPDATE

With water related diseases claiming thousands of lives each year, KORT has prioritised providing clean drinking water to communities across AJK to save lives. Over 20 water filtration plants have been built this year with many more installations to follow. Not only are you providing clean water for consumption, animals, and crops, it is a great way of attaining Sadaqah-e-Jariyah (continuous reward) for oneself or deceased family members. Please contact us if you would like to donate a water filtration plant at £5,250. Thank you to all our donors and Muskorteers who have generously donated towards this appeal.



A NEW RECORD FOR OUR ANNUAL QURBANI PROJECT

Praise be to the Almighty, KORT carried out another successful Qurbani project this year, supporting needy people in over 20 different locations of Azad Kashmir. A record 212 large animals were sacrificed for the sake of the Almighty on behalf of our generous donors benefiting over 12,000 needy families. Thank you to our Muskorteers and staff across Azad Kashmir for their hard efforts in delivering a successful Qurbani project. A big thank you also to our generous donors who donated their Qurbani for the needy communities in Azad Kashmir.



A GIFT FROM KASHMIR TO THE CRISIS AFFECTED PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is being pushed to the limit during recent times. The country has had a complete takeover once more, and many are severing ties and trade with the country out of fear and disagreement, leaving people to rush to the markets and sell off anything and everything to survive.

After learning about the struggles of the crisis affected people, KORT sent 23 trucks to Afghanistan with humanitarian aid consisting of food packs and medical supplies for those desperately in need.

Unable to distribute the aid in Afghanistan ourselves for security reasons, a handover ceremony was held at the Governor House in Peshawar KPK in the presence of The Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Mr Asad Qaiser, The Governor of KPK Shah Farman, Consul General of Afghanistan Najib Ulla Ahmedzai, and other members of the Pak-Afghan National Assemblies and Cooperation forum.

Due to additional funds received during the year, KORT did not launch a separate fundraising appeal for this project. Our policy is always to handle all donations we receive with honesty and transparency, so any funds leftover from previous appeals will always be utilised on the neediest projects before we ask for more funds from our donors.



A BEAUTIFUL MOSQUE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PATTIKA-NASIRABAD IN MUZAFFARABAD AJK

At the heart of any Islamic community, a mosque can be found. A mosque is a sanctuary where people come for moral guidance, where we teach our children about the Qur'an, and where we come to honour and worship Allah.

The Prophet Muhammed peace be upon Him said, "Whoever builds a mosque, desiring thereby Allah's pleasure, Allah builds for him the like of it in paradise." [Bukhari]

Praise be to Allah, with the support of our donors, we helped build a beautiful Mosque called Masjid-e-Javed in Pattika-Nasirabad, a suburb of Muzaffarabad AJK which was in dire need of a Mosque for daily prayers and Islamic teachings. Thank you to all the donors who supported this amazing project.



KORT SWABI ISLAMIC STUDIES & RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX UPDATE

At KORT, handling and disbursing your donations with absolute sincerity is taken very seriously, and because of our donor's trust in us, a record £1million was raised in early 2021 during a live TV appeal for a new KORT orphanage in Alamabad, Swabi, KPK Pakistan. Praise be to the Almighty, the construction project is well underway with external work on the admin block, the Islamic Studies block, and the hostel block ongoing. Follow us on our social media platforms for regular updates of this amazing project. May the Almighty accept the donations of all those who have contributed towards this project, and may He make this a means of Sadaqah-e-Jariyah for us all. Ameen.



WHEN WE EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES, WE ARE ALL BETTER OFF!

The situation of unemployment and poverty affects women the worst. They rely on men for everything because they have no source of income. This problem is exacerbated if the men are unemployed as well. Through vocational training, women can start their own businesses or enter the workforce, enabling women to become independent. KORT has established a Sewing Training Centre in Mirpur to help empower women so they can earn an income from home using basic tailoring skills.

In March 2021, Team KORT along with our Chairman Ch. Mohammed Akhtar (TI) and The Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur also distributed sewing machines, wheelchairs, unstitched ladies' suits, tailoring accessories, prayer mats, and copies of The Holy Quran among the needy people of Deraa Ismail Khan.

While addressing the audience at the distribution ceremony, Mr Ali Amin Gandapur said that it is an honour that KORT is adding to the development and success of Pakistan by providing the needy and competent people with opportunities and tools for a developed society. The Federal Minister also thanked the donors of KORT who are continuously contributing towards the prosperity of Pakistan.



RELIEF AND JOY FOR THOUSANDS OF NEEDY FAMILIES DURING RAMADAN

For many of us, our Ramadan fasting experience is eased by eating nutritious food for Suhoor and Iftar. However, many Muslims are unable to afford the nutritious food they need to sustain themselves after a hard day of fasting. Ramadan is the month in which one experiences the hunger and thirst that less fortunate people suffer living in conflict areas, and poor and developing countries around the world every day. With the generosity of our donors, KORT provided food packs to thousands of needy families across Azad Kashmir and parts of Pakistan. Each food pack contained essential food items to feed a family of 5 for 1 month. Thank you to all our donors and Muskorteers who supported our Ramadan appeals to bring relief and joy to thousands of needy families during the month of blessings.

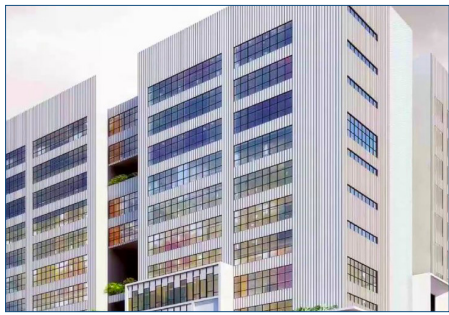


KORT PROVIDES 150 LIFESAVING OXYGEN CYLINDERS TO DHQ MIRPUR

KORT is always on hand to help the needy when called upon and in March 2021, KORT provided 150 lifesaving oxygen cylinders to the District Headquarters Hospital DHQ Mirpur to save lives during a surge in covid related admissions. Thank you to our generous donors who have always supported our emergency appeals to help the suffering humanity.



CURRENT APPEALS



INDUS-KORT HOSPITAL IN MIRPUR AJK

KORT will be building the largest hospital in Mirpur Azad Kashmir to provide free healthcare for all in collaboration with Indus Hospital. Sadaqah, Lillah and Interest donations are accepted for the building project.

DONATE ANY AMOUNT



KORT SUSTAINABILITY

We have multiple teams of carers, cooks, cleaners, security staff, teachers, and admin staff at KORT who work around the clock to support our orphan children. You can donate any amount of Sadaqah, Zakat, Lillah and Interest funds towards the running of the KORT Educational & Residential Complex.

DONATE ANY AMOUNT



WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

You can donate towards wheelchairs for the less able people of Pakistan/Azad Kashmir as part of our 'Turning Disability into Ability Program' @£65 per wheelchair. Sadaqah, Zakat, Lillah and Interest donations are accepted for this appeal.

£65 EACH

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Saturday 13th in Bradford at The Madison, 210-218 City Road, Bradford, BD8 8JP
Sunday 14th in Slough at The Elite Banqueting Suite, The Park, Wrexham Road, Slough, SL2 5QR
Thursday 25th in Oldham at The Eastern Pavilion, Featherstall Road South, Oldham, OL9 6HL

FEBRUARY

Sunday 6th in Leeds at Yasin Banqueting Suite, 130 Beeston Road, Leeds, LS11 8BB
Sunday 13th in Peterborough - Venue to be confirmed
Wednesday 16th in Blackburn - Venue to be confirmed
Thursday 24th in Derby - Venue to be confirmed

MARCH

Wednesday 2nd in Birmingham - Al Miraj Banqueting Suite, 11-29 Wordsworth Road, Birmingham, B10 0ED

For ticket enquiries call our Leicester Office on 0300 123 7774

GIFT AID

giftaid it

Gift Aid is a scheme available to charities where we can claim an additional 25% of the value of your donation from HMRC, from the tax that you pay on your income.

This does not affect you in any way and you do not need to do anything apart from providing your consent for us to claim Gift Aid on your donation. Gift Aid funds are then used by us on our admin costs ensuring 100% of your donations are used on our projects.

OUR UK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mohammed Akhtar
(Leicester) Chairman
07866 715 483

Nasar Farooq
(Leicester) Vice Chairman
07764 454 921

Mohammed Yaqoob
Treasurer (Newcastle)
07581 123 325

Ali Latif
(Derby) General Secretary
07931 223 616

Mohammed Rashid Bashir
(Bradford) Trustee
07863 786 888

Zaheer Hussain
(Keighley) Trustee
07853 785 709

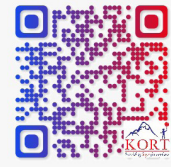
Mobashir Afzal
Trustee (Reading)
07788 850 042

Mohammed Nisar
Trustee (Birmingham)
07584 638 800

HOW TO DONATE

The easiest way to donate to KORT is by using either one of the following options:

- A) **Visit our website** - www.kort.org.uk
- B) **Ring us** on 0300 123 7774 / 07927 091 061 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
- C) **Cheques:** Please make payable to Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust
- D) **Bank transfer** to either of our following bank accounts:
(Use your door number and postcode as the reference)



KORT Website QR Code

Bank Name: Barclays **Account Name:** Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust

General / Sadaqah

Sort Code: 20-49-11
Account No: 93309231

Zakat

Sort Code: 20-49-17
Account No: 13444112

Lillah

Sort Code: 20-49-11
Account No: 43084736

To donate from outside the UK:

SWIFTBIC: BUKBGB22
IBAN: GB79 BUKB 2049 1193 3092 31

Alternatively, complete the form below to donate by a one-off card payment or to setup a monthly direct debit.

Post all completed forms to our Leicester Office address below.

STEP 1: YOUR DETAILS

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

STEP 2: DONATION DETAILS

PROJECT NAME: _____ AMOUNT: _____

DONATION TYPE: Sadaqah Lillah Zakat Other

PAYMENT METHOD: Cash Cheque BACs Card D/Debit

STEP 3: YOUR PAYMENT

One-off Card Payment

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiry date: ____/____ CVC (Last 3 digits on the back): _____

Monthly Direct Debit

Name of Bank: _____

Account holder Name: _____

Sort Code: ____ - ____ - ____ Account No: _____

Amount: _____ Date: 1st 15th of the month

STEP 4: GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and would like Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust to treat donations I have made for the four years prior to this year, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I will notify the charity if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or no longer pay enough tax on my income and/or capital gains. If I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the current tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

giftaid it

FINAL STEP: COMMUNICATION PREFERENCE

We would like to keep you updated with our news, activities and appeals. Your details will ONLY be stored by KORT. You can ask us to remove you from our database at any time and we will never give your information to other organisations. Please tell us if you are happy for us to contact you via:

Phone Post SMS/WhatsApp Email All None

CONTACT US



KORT, Leicester Business Centre, 111 Ross Walk, Leicester, LE4 5HH
www.kort.org.uk | info@kort.org.uk | Tel: 0300 123 7774

☎ : 07927 091 061

Charity Registration No. 1113836

YouTube : KORT TV

@ : kortofficial

📧 : KORT_Official

🐦 : @kort_org_uk

📘 : kortorphansrelieftrust