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Youth Leadership for Peace

Project Overview:

The Youth Leadership for Peace will be established in Kabul, Afghanistan. The project will focus on activities such as summer camps, community services and family picnics to promote national as well as international understanding among individuals and ethnic groups. This project will be conducted with the cooperation of the His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for Afghanistan¹, which is a very well known private international development agency has made significant contributions in areas of social, economical, health and education development in many countries including Afghanistan. Youth Leadership for Peace will utilize the Youth Club from this organization in order to host this particular project. Then the goals and objectives will also be discussed within the Youth Club. Applications for summer camp counselors will be given out, and those chosen will be trained in order to start preparing for a summer camp at a remote village called Neckpay, Baghlan. At this summer camp, I would like to accept twenty youths ranging in ages 11-13 year olds from Bait-ul-ilm (an interactive school established by Imami Ismaili Council for Afghanistan) and five counselors from the Youth Club. The team from Kabul would be able to teach basic Dari (Persian) as well as interact with children in the village through activities, i.e. games, art and music. This initiative will provide opportunities for Afghan people, especially youths, to establish and understand each other. The hope is that we will be able to launch this small, but greatly needed project, in July 2007 in conjunction with the school break schedule in Afghanistan.

Background Information and Statement of Problem:

Understanding and respecting differences are the most significant factors in conflict resolution and sustainable peace into the future. One of the major and most fundamental problems in Afghanistan is the lack of understanding these differences. This is something that has created conflicts, which as a result has been damaging to every aspect of society. The school system in Afghanistan has failed to implement activities that connect students; whereby, creating more understanding as well as increase the level of comfort and friendship among different ethnic groups. This would decrease the level of conflict caused by ignorance. Therefore, I believe the activities that **Youth Leadership for Peace** has planned will be a great contribution in achieving peace and understanding in Afghanistan. The youth leadership for peace project will help to promote community service awareness and extracurricular activities for the ministry of education in Afghanistan. The Neckpay village, located in district of Dowshi in Baghlan province, is very peaceful village in Afghanistan. I have chosen Neckpay village very carefully for reasons of security and familiarity. This village has been a very safe place for most people, including my family during the civil war. It is very hard to find information such as demography

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on small villages and even provinces. Since hotels are not available, I have already talked with friends and family regarding housing accommodations for rent.

With your assistance and cooperation, I hope that we can change the lives of the Afghan youth in a positive, and sustainable way for the future; one by one, this project will be like drops of rain that become a sea that nourishes the nature around it. Let us make this Afghanistan and this world a better place by teaching our children tolerance, compassion, and international understanding; and above all, respect for humanity.

Objectives and Goals:

1. To replace the social isolation and marginalization with positive creative encounters and opportunities.
2. To increase awareness of the existence of different ethnic backgrounds on a national level and to further promote as well as provide awareness and teach the practice of international understanding within the global community.
3. To increase youth leadership, confidence and participants in a wider community.
4. To provide an opportunity for youth, to discover themselves, realize their potential and set goals for themselves.
5. To increase the level of respect for differences among individuals, cultures, ethnic groups within Afghanistan and worldwide.
6. This project will focus on how to enhance the practice of pluralism and diversity in Afghanistan among the youths and the younger generations of Afghanistan.
7. To establish long-term role models from educational institutions and parents to adapt extracurricular activities as ways of training responsible and peaceful individuals, so that peace and harmony can be achieved nationally as well as internationally.

Outcome:

I want this project to be a source to listen and respond to those voices that have been ignored and are still rarely heard. **Youth Leadership for Peace Project** is geared towards educating youths to discover fundamental problems in such societies to make this world a better place and will continue to eliminate grassroots conflicts through its initiatives.

Supporting Documents:

Supporting documents available on request