



Ali Hasan Mangi

Memorial Trust

Changing Lives. One Village at a Time

Newsletter
Summer 2019

Dear donors, supporters and friends,

We began this year with two primary objectives. One, to build on the community infrastructure we have provided to the village and its surrounding areas in order to provide a greater variety of facilities for the public. And second, to augment our health awareness and screening campaign especially in relation to hepatitis which is endemic throughout the province and to improve the understanding of HIV in the light of recent news about children in the Larkana area testing positive for the virus.

Toward our first objective, we completed construction and furnishing of a Public Art Hall within our Community Center premises. This has been set up in loving memory of our Late Mr Imam Manghi, brother and uncle to our trustees and an extraordinary artist who was born in Sukkur in 1934 and passed away in London last year. We are told the art hall is the first of its kind in Sindh and perhaps even in Pakistan because it is open to all members of the public all day long at no charge. Women, children, men and senior citizens alike can come in to take a free drawing or crafts class or simply enjoy free form painting. All supplies are provided by AHMMT and participants are encouraged to take their creations home. For children, this is a positive, safe space that fosters creativity and character development and helps keep them off the streets which are full of drug and gambling dens. For women, the facility offers a rare opportunity for self-expression and relaxation, away from the multitude of chores they have inside and outside the house throughout the day. And for men, it offers an alternative to the ubiquitous tea-shop and a chance to unwind after a difficult day in the fields or out laboring in the sun. The Art Hall was opened on July 1 as our board's most heartfelt tribute to Mr Manghi on what would have been his 85th birthday.



In addition to the Public Art Hall, we created a new and spacious playground for children complete with swings, slides, monkey bars, tunnels, see-saws and merry-go-rounds. Hundreds of children from Khairo Dero and its surrounding villages come to play in the playground, providing kids with another safe and positive recreational space. This is the only public playground for miles and miles around and has become an attraction for children from far and wide. Adjacent to the playground is our Community Park which we spent the spring developing; we planted lots of plants and flowers, put in park benches and added animal statues to beautify the park. Families from all over the area love coming here to relax and take photographs.



Several donors choose not to support community infrastructure projects such as the art hall, playground and park, dubbing them as non-essential. While we fully honour everyone's individual views, we would like to offer our team's thinking on this. Our project has been conceptualized as development-oriented rather than charity. Successive governments have failed to provide any sort of public infrastructure in villages across Sindh. We aim to help rural communities gain access to facilities that are their due right. Further, facilities such as our public art hall, playground and park really help develop communities of children and adults who are physically and mentally healthy. Nothing can be more beneficial than that toward the goal of development. We therefore appeal to our donors to help us maintain and stock these facilities by donating toward the running cost of these projects. Any help, no matter how little, will go a long way in ensuring these projects keep running smoothly and providing an important service. If you would like to sponsor either facility for a month, three or six months or a year, we would be more than happy to put up a plaque with your name in public recognition of your sponsorship. Here are some details of how much each facility costs per month:

Estimated monthly running costs

Playground & Park:

Staff salaries: Rs 16500

Seasonal plants and garden maintenance: Rs 2000

Playground equipment maintenance: Rs 1500

Total: Rs 20,000 per month

Public Art Hall:

Salaries: Rs 22,000

Art supplies: Rs 8000

Total: Rs 30,000 per month

On the healthcare front, we held an HIV awareness meeting for women to tell them what the virus is, how it is transmitted and how and where screening is done. Shizah Mangi, who is the great grand daughter of late Mr Ali Hasan Mangi, in whose name we set up our organization, visited Khairo Dero from the United States and ran the awareness training. Additionally, we collaborated with the government's Sindh Hepatitis Control Program and held a Hepatitis B and C screening camp in which 200 people were tested. Contrary to most government camps, this was well organized, all patients were seated with dignity in the shade with fans and offered ice water to drink. A token system was used so that a first-come, first-served system worked flawlessly and all patients were registered in a database. There was none of the customary chaos that is seen at government health camps. Those who tested positive were then sent for further testing to the government hospital where an AHMMT community worker coordinated with the medical team. Once those test results are back, our team will ensure each patient receives full medical treatment. We have been using our Community Clinic, which handles about 700 patients a month, to spread awareness among women about health, hygiene and disease prevention among children.



Our congenital heart disease program has become well known simply through word of mouth and patients are coming to us from all over the province. Due to the prevalence of first-cousin marriages in the culture, congenital heart conditions are not uncommon among children and adults. This year, we arranged and funded surgery at Pakistan's top Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi for six patients, mostly children, with congenital heart conditions taking our total so far to 34 cases. Our collaboration with the pediatric cardiology team at the AKUH has proved immensely beneficial to our patients. In the spring, Aga Khan Hospital's Dr Yawar Saeed performed Pakistan's first successful ablation of an Ebstein anomaly patient with atrial flutter using 3D mapping. Our patient, Anwar Ali, is doing great after suffering for over 15 years without any solution. We are most thankful to our generous donors who step up to fund such expensive surgery and to the AKUH for providing maximum welfare assistance. Under our healthcare program, we also assisted another 72 patients with specialist referrals, treatment and surgery at various other hospitals in Larkana, Sukkur and Karachi.



Over the summer holidays while school was out, we held camp at our Community Center for kids from the village and surrounding area. This included a daily story-telling session for younger kids and a daily world news discussion for older students at our public library, computer classes, a variety of indoor and outdoor games and sports, arts and crafts classes, parties to share healthy snacks, classes in personal hygiene and character building, meditation and stretching and even the distribution of a gift for each child on the special Eid holiday.



Once schools reopened on July 1, we started providing assistance to female students in the tenth grade at our TCF school with their books and supplies under the Anwar Mangi Scholarship Program for Girls. As these students complete their matriculation in April 2020, we plan to fund their further studies in Larkana, including tuition, books, supplies and transportation. Some of these students had spent the summer at our Community Center working as volunteers, helping kids with games and painting a cultural mural.



We have had the pleasure of two visitors so far this year. Veteran journalist Mrs Zubeida Mustafa made her second trip to Khairo Dero in April after a gap of five years, to assess progress made by the Trust in various projects. She spent time interacting with the community and training AHMMT staff and wrote an article for the Dawn Newspaper and another one for Truthdig.com in which she discussed the work we have been doing. Mrs Mustafa was very kind to arrange special training in Karachi for our Community School staff and coordinate with Mrs Farida Akbar of the Montessori Teachers Training Center and Ms Amra Alam, the story-teller, both of whom generously gave of their their time and effort. We are so grateful to all of them.



Shizah's visit later in the summer was another wonderful occasion for us. She spent time on health awareness, teaching arts and crafts, learning about the community and providing food assistance to a family in need. She also painted a beautiful mural that portrays the various roles women play in the community in recognition of their central role in society.



Earlier in the year, we finished off construction of another round of 100 toilets in the homes of families in the area. We have so far helped nearly 400 families in almost 40 villages build toilets at home to improve sanitation and convenience for women. Likewise, we installed another round of hand-pumps and have given over 425 families access to clean water at home. We also built some more kitchens—we now have built 130 of those so that women don't need to cook out in the open—and helped more families construct homes and install roofs. A total of 165 families have benefited from our housing project.



As we head into the second half of the year, we plan to focus on staff training so that they have the capacity to continually improve the running of our projects. We are proud of the fact that all our staff members are locals from the community. However that also means continuous professional development has to be a focus for our management. We plan to spend the rest of this year consolidating our existing projects and ensuring our operations are as efficient as they can be.

As always, we seek your assistance in meeting our goals. Our greatest need is your continued and sustained assistance with our operational costs. All our existing projects within the premises of our Community Center (with the exception of our Community Clinic which is already funded through the year) cost approximately Rs 200,000 a month to run including the salaries of about 13 staffers, utilities, fuel, maintenance, supplies and stationery. This total amount includes the costs of running the Public Art Hall and Playground/Park as outlined above. We would be most grateful for any assistance in this regard; you may choose to sponsor a single project for a single month or as many projects for as many months as you wish. Please contact us at mt@alihanmangitrust.org with any questions.

In the end, from the entire team at AHMMT, we thank you wholeheartedly for your support as we continue our work in the community. Please write to us with any feedback or ideas. We would love to hear from you.

Warmest Wishes,

The Team at AHMMT
Village Khairo Dero
District Larkana
Sindh, Pakistan

July 11, 2019

