

# HANDS ALONG THE NILE

ANNUAL REPORT



*Creating opportunities  
for the people of Egypt*

Dear friends of HANDS,

What an intriguing time this is for all of us working in Egypt. The reports we receive from our organizational partners there change daily, combining accounts of fresh unrest with news of progress toward a more open society. Your involvement with Egypt could not be more timely.

While HANDS has curtailed some of our training programs and educational trips to Egypt until the travel warning is lifted, your support for initiatives on the ground has allowed our local partners to continue their work. We have focused our efforts in recent months on job-creation programs, which you will read more about in the enclosed report, knowing that helping people find adequate employment addresses one of the main challenges in Egypt—and one of the root causes of the recent revolution.

As the people of Egypt work to recreate their society, HANDS stands poised to help. Thanks to your partnership over the past 22 years, we have developed a network of organizational partners on the ground. These groups have been active throughout the recent turmoil, utilizing your resources to bring hope and opportunity to communities across Egypt.

We look forward to joining you and the people of Egypt in working towards a better future for “omm iddunya,” the mother of the world.

Sincerely,



**Harrison M. Goodall, Jr.**  
BOARD PRESIDENT



**Jennifer A. Cate**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**HANDS**  
ALONG THE NILE

*“Building bridges between Americans and Egyptians”*



**HANDS ALONG THE NILE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC**

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### ▲ **OUR VISION:**

HANDS seeks to develop partnerships between Americans and Egyptians to increase intercultural understanding and to support Egyptians in their efforts to raise the quality of life for all in their land. Through successful development and dialogue programs, HANDS works towards a prosperous Middle East, in which everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential.

### ▲ **OUR FOCUS:**

Why Egypt? As recent events confirm, Egypt is a highly influential country in the Middle East. Yet, it faces major development challenges typical to the region: inequality, unemployment, and poverty. How Egyptians handle the challenges ahead will set an example for the rest of the Arab world. HANDS believes that supporting Egyptians in their efforts to create a more equitable homeland will provide successful examples of sustainable development initiatives which can be implemented in communities throughout the Middle East.

### ▲ **OUR PARTNERS:**

Local partnerships are the key to lasting solutions. Each HANDS program is developed in cooperation with an Egyptian organization. Working with local partners ensures that HANDS' projects are responsive to the varied needs of each community and can fully benefit from local ideas, skills, and expertise.

### ▲ **OUR APPROACH:**

HANDS' programs focus on two goals: socio-economic development and intercultural understanding. Towards these goals, HANDS aims to build the capacity of local partners to implement and sustain project results rather than relying on American direction. HANDS also serves as a critical link which connects US experts with Egyptian needs on the ground. We strive to support programs throughout Egypt, particularly in marginalized communities which lack access to opportunities and essential services.



## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

High unemployment and poverty rates pose a barrier to many Egyptians seeking brighter futures for their families and themselves. The World Bank currently estimates that over **17 million Egyptians live on less than \$2 a day**. Poverty is fueled by chronic unemployment. Particularly disheartening is the fact that **90% of the unemployed, and a large portion of those living in poverty, are under the age of 30**. Additionally, while male and female education rates are similar, **only 24% of educated women ever locate formal employment**. Many must accept informal jobs which often pay lower wages for more dangerous work.

HANDS' economic empowerment programs target these marginalized groups by providing financing and business training designed to foster a generation of entrepreneurs equipped to lead their communities out of poverty. To ensure all have access to these opportunities, several of HANDS' programs focus on youth, women, people with disabilities, and rural communities – groups which face higher poverty rates and limited access to development programs.

### Some of HANDS' 2010 economic empowerment programs include:



**The Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE)** provides job-skills training for young women living in one of the garbage collectors communities of Cairo. Participants are taught paper-making, quilting, or weaving using clean recycled materials and receive fair payment for each product they produce. In 2010, HANDS held at least seven sales in the US, selling crafts made by these young women. Proceeds help to support educational and literacy courses for the girls and to expand the center to reach new girls each year. There are currently 90 women in the program and 230 graduates who make products at home



**The Technical Assistance program**, allows American professionals and students to travel to Egypt and lend their skills to build the capacity of local organizations. For example, a team of professional weavers volunteered with the Association for the Protection of the Environment to create new designs and to increase the market appeal of their products. Another team of university students and professor volunteered at Health and Hope Oasis, a care center for children with cancer, preparing the buildings for the incoming patients.

**Microloans** are distributed through **CEOSS**, one of our Egyptian partners. These small loans help socio-economically disadvantaged people start or expand a small business. Loans can be obtained either by individuals or small groups and can also be extended in the form of tools to enable grantees to learn a trade and open a business.

### Gomhoria's Story:

With the sudden death of her husband, Gomhoria Mohamed Faris found herself and her six children without any income. Lacking formal job training, Gomhoria decided to utilize her skills in the kitchen to provide for her family. Together with several other women, she applied for a group loan of \$35 and started selling baked goods and produce in front of her house. She has now received and repaid a sixth loan of \$420 and is confident in her ability to provide housing, food, and education for her children.

**The Spirit of Youth (SOY)** provides opportunities for children who have dropped out of school and are working in one of Cairo's garbage collectors' communities to take courses in math, literacy, and computers. A job-skills training program also guarantees that the children work in safe environments and are fairly compensated for their recycling work. The SOY reaches 100 boys in their job-skills program and a total of 20,000 children on an annual basis.



**The Young Entrepreneurs Program** provides business training and networking opportunities for Egyptian entrepreneurs. Participants meet with relevant US organizations, successful American entrepreneurs, and business counselors who provide one-on-one business advice. In August 2010, the first of four exchanges took place in Chicago focusing on physically disabled entrepreneurs. During this exchange, participants met with the Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, city level policy makers, numerous organizations which encourage employment of disabled individuals, and non-profits dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities.



Future exchanges are planned for young female artisans. Upon completion of the exchanges, a revolving fund of loans will be set up to provide financing for alumni's business plans. This program is funded by a generous grant from the **US Department of State** and other HANDS donors.

"This trip was very helpful on the professional level. I was introduced to a lot of ideas and changed the way I do my business....With the great number of contacts I came back [to Egypt] with I am sure that [this program] is going to be useful throughout my career. Thank you for this chance."

– **Eslam F. Shaladem, Young Entrepreneurs Program alumnus**



**The Zaballeen Livelihoods** project aims to increase employment opportunities for the Zaballeen, or garbage collectors, who make their living by collecting, sorting, and recycling Cairo's trash. While they boast an enviable 90% recycling rate, this comes at a high human cost. These communities are among the poorest in the world and suffer from high disease and injury rates.

In 2010, HANDS and local partner **Spirit of Youth** began to implement a five year grant from the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to provide economic opportunities for the Zaballeen community and to further encourage recycling practices in Egypt. The program will reincorporate the zaballeen into the city wide waste collection system and will provide economic support for small and micro businesses within the community.

**BILL & MELINDA**  
**GATES foundation**

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Without quality healthcare and education, poverty and ignorance flourish. Unfortunately, many Egyptians cannot benefit from these and other critical social services on the basis of poverty, gender, or disability. HANDS' approach is to identify local programs which are already successful within marginalized communities and help them to expand their capacity to reach all in need. HANDS is eager to provide every Egyptian the opportunity to access these essential services.

### Some of HANDS' 2010 social service programs include:



During **Medical Mission 2010**, a group of American medical professionals shared their knowledge with their Egyptian colleagues working in underserved communities in Cairo and Minia. A new partnership emerged with the University of Minia's College of Nursing as volunteers presented during their International Conference on Nursing.



The Medical Mission was featured by USAID in a video interview in celebration of International Volunteers Day. The video can be accessed at:

<http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov/stories.php>

Grants from **USAID's Volunteers for Prosperity through Global Giving** and other HANDS donors helped to make this trip possible.

### Dr. Maaty, Medical Mission Volunteer

"We are not just volunteers that show up for two weeks and leave with our resources; rather we are volunteers that teach useful skills to leaders in the community and return to see those skills being passed on."



**The Combating Child Labor Program** continued to expand, providing assistance to 1,500 children a year. This successful program is run by **CEOSS** and operates in cities and villages across the country. Economic assistance for families allows some working children to reenroll in school. Children who choose to keep working are given safety equipment, retrained for safer jobs, and take part in sports and drama programs to enjoy their childhood.



HANDS continued to support the disabled community through two assistance centers in Alexandria: **The Village of Hope** and **Fairhaven School for the Disabled**. These centers provide care, training, and education for physically and mentally disabled youth. They also advocate for the rights of the disabled community with local and national policy makers. Over 185 students are enrolled in these two schools.

## ‘Horus Hospital’ Opens Its Doors to the Public



The HANDS-supported **community eye care clinic** has expanded! In 2010, the newly named **Horus Hospital** located in Minia, in Upper Egypt, proudly opened its doors to patients. The hospital is the culmination of five years of partnership between HANDS, local partner **CEOSS**, and HANDS’ donors. What started out as a mobile eye clinic is now a fully-established hospital serving Minia and the approximately 100 surrounding villages. The official opening ceremony is planned for next year.

While eye diseases are endemic in Upper Egypt, many are easily curable with modern treatments. Horus Hospital staff has access to state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical equipment. Yet, by evaluating patients on a sliding scale based on their income, the hospital is able to provide affordable healthcare to some of the poorest communities in Egypt, particularly for women and children, who are the customary victims of exclusion and neglect.

This partnership between Americans and Egyptians is far from over. American ophthalmologists and medical professionals will travel to the area to provide periodic training and technical support. Through these exchanges, Horus Hospital will continue to serve as a leading regional training center for health professionals.



This hospital was made possible through generous grants from **USAID’s American Schools and Hospitals Abroad** and other HANDS donors.



Over 21,000 lower income residents of one community in Alexandria received health and dental care from **The Center for Hope & a Cure**. The clinic services include surgical care, assistance with childbirth, distribution of free eye glasses, and more. This center is also one of the few places where the large community of Sudanese refugees in Alexandria can receive free medical and dental care.

## DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE

HANDS' programs emphasize the need for dialogue across communities and cultures. Studies have found that negative opinions flourish when groups lack direct contact with each other. Building on these findings, HANDS' exchange programs aim to form lasting partnerships between Americans and Egyptians from all backgrounds working together to break down mistrust and rebuild mutual respect.

### Some of HANDS' 2010 dialogue and exchange programs include:



Featuring one Muslim and one Christian woman, the **Women of Egypt Speak** tour provided a forum for American and Egyptian female leaders to share their experiences, hopes, and goals with each other. The group met with US women leaders, social and congregational women's groups, and civil and governmental groups engaged in promoting women's rights.



This year, four groups of Americans got their first taste of Egypt through **HANDS Insight Trips**. In between visiting the historical wonders of the Nile, Insight Trippers had a chance to get to know the true treasures of Egypt: its people. Travelers visited, and in some cases volunteered in, HANDS-supported development projects, shared meals with Egyptian families, rode camels around the Pyramids, and gained a newfound appreciation for the modern Egypt. Insight Trips are offered throughout the year and offer a unique opportunity to support HANDS' development efforts.



Egypt's role as a leader in the Middle East was demonstrated as HANDS and **CEOSS** organized and hosted a development conference entitled: **Conference on Social Justice and Development – The Role of Human Rights**. Held in Lebanon, this conference brought together over 50 development professionals from 12 countries to discuss the benefits and challenges of pursuing a rights based approach to development.

Funding was generously provided by the **Ford Foundation**.

**Internships at HANDS' Washington D.C. - Area** office allow American undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to gain practical professional experience working at an international development nonprofit. Students are also encouraged to attend educational and dialogue events to increase their understanding of the modern Arab world. In 2010, HANDS hosted eight students.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION<sup>(a)</sup>

ASSETS	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	296,064
Investments	1,108
Grants receivable	378,452
Accounts receivable-other	125
Prepaid expenses	<u>5,028</u>
Total current assets	<u>680,777</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	
Furniture and fixtures	2,552
Computer equipment	<u>5,162</u>
Total	7,714
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>5,524</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u>2,190</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>	
Grants receivable, net of current portion	400,000
Security deposits	<u>1,455</u>
Total other assets	<u>401,455</u>
Total Assets	1,084,422
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Grants in Transit to Egypt	398,048
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	5,028
Deferred income	-
Total current liabilities	<u>403,076</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	(95,089)
Temporarily restricted	<u>776,435</u>
Total net assets	<u>681,346</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,084,422

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES<sup>(a)</sup>

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED <sup>(b)</sup>	TOTAL
Contributions	156,791	-	156,791
Interest and investment income	18	-	18
Program fees	144,344	-	144,344
Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	34	-	34
Sales income	15,059	-	15,059
Miscellaneous income	619	-	619
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>867,065</u>	<u>(867,065)</u>	-
Total unrestricted support and reclassifications	1,183,930	(867,065)	316,865
EXPENSES			
Program services:			
Grants released from restrictions	798,865	-	798,865
Other program services	320,935	-	320,935
Supporting services:			
Management and general	47,914	-	47,914
Fundraising	<u>33,987</u>	-	<u>33,987</u>
Net expenses	<u>1,201,701</u>	-	<u>1,201,701</u>
Change in net assets	(17,771)	(867,065)	(884,836)
Net assets, October 1, 2009	<u>(77,318)</u>	<u>1,643,500</u>	<u>1,566,182</u>
Net assets, September 30, 2010	(95,089)	776,435	681,346

## SELECTED STATISTICS, 2010

Percentage of most designated gifts sent directly to projects in Egypt:  
**95%**

Percentage of HANDS Board of Directors who contribute to HANDS:  
**100%**

Percentage of expenses used for administration and fundraising (which should be under 25%, according to United Way guidelines):  
**6.8%**

(a) For the year ended September 30, 2010.

All figures are audited. The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

(b) Restricted donations used for purposes designated.

# DONORS

The programs highlighted in this report were made possible by the generous donations of organizations and individuals throughout the US, including the following.

## CHEOPS CLUB

(\$10,000 and over)

### Organizations:

- Alternative Gifts International
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- International Ministries, American Baptist Church
- Jewish Communal Fund
- US Agency for International Development (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program)
- US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



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 Suzan Habachy  
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## GOLD CARTOUCHE CIRCLE

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

### Organizations

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- Global Giving Foundation (Volunteers for Prosperity; USAID)
- The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York, NY)
- First Presbyterian Church (Lake Forest, IL)
- The Walbridge Fund



### Individuals

Adel and Ghada Bassali  
 Makram and Hetty Girgis

## SILVER SCARAB SOCIETY

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

### Organizations:

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- Westminster Presbyterian Church (West Chester, PA)
- Calvin Presbyterian Church (Ellwood City, PA)
- Webster Presbyterian Church (Webster, NY)
- Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
- Wachovia Foundation Matching Gifts Program
- Auburn and Whiteside Presbyterian Churches (Lakeland, FL)
- Women's Association of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York, NY)
- Baton Rouge Christian Education Fund (LA)



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(\$500-\$999)

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- First Presbyterian Church (Wooster, OH)
- Iskander Films



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*HANDS is also indebted to the many volunteers and interns who share their time and skills with us.*



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# HANDS ALONG THE NILE

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