



ARIANA'S CHILDREN

memorial scholarship

Background

There's a group of children that seems to live on the muddy sidewalks of the Green Zone in Kabul, Afghanistan. They huddle over tiny fires in the winter, burning bits of trash and plastic bottles. During the dusty summers they run skateboards up and down the cracked asphalt.

The children support their families by selling bracelets, scarves, and sunglasses to the international crowd that walks back and forth from military bases and embassies in the area, all year long. When they aren't offering their latest trinkets, they show off their Texas Longhorn hats or beg for a snack from the nearest dining facility.

Over the past few years, several PHC alumni have befriended this group during their time working in Afghanistan. We talked with them while waiting for deliveries or used the little Dari we knew to joke around with our friends in the smiling, dirty little band.

On September 8, 2012, a teenage suicide bomber killed five of them, an attack far too common in this war-weary country and far too quickly forgotten in the rest of the world.

Too often, humanity's response to tragedy is short-lived and little more than a nod to the sadness of lives cut short. Another response, our response, is to work within our God-given vocations to love our neighbors and help prevent future loss such as this. With that goal in mind, we want to support PHC students who are preparing themselves to influence international crises positively through prudent, localized approaches.

The Ariana's Children Memorial Scholarship is founded in the memory of five children who can no longer grow, learn, and provide for their families and community; those things that preoccupied them before their lives were taken. The Scholarship supports PHC students who want to use their talents in the same manner to minister to their neighbors, wherever they may be.

IN MEMORY

KHORSHID HAWA PARWANA HAWA

NAWAB MOHAMMAD EEZA ASSAD