



Meeting The Needs Of Humanity Through Kindness And Compassion Driven By Faith



Education



Medical Aid



Water Well Fund



Monthly Grocery Hamper



Skills Training/Self-Sufficiency



Aid to Women in Domestic Violence



Orphans

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

April 2021 - Ramadan 1442

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Assalamu 'Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh
May the peace and blessings of Allah be with you

Greetings with sublime gratitude to Allah, Subhanawata 'alaa for His infinite mercy and protection upon us. In the past year of tests and challenges upon the entire world, **it is with faith and hope in Allah's promise "Verily with hardship comes ease"** (Surah 94:6) that we ground ourselves with strength and reliance on Allah. Due to the pandemic, many have been stricken with illness and have lost loved ones. May Allah ease our griefs and comfort our loss with Iman (Faith). I pray that Allah gives you the ability to move forward with a sense of solitude and certainty.

Before the pandemic, the impoverished were already struggling, but their difficulties were exacerbated as a result of this crisis. Both in the USA and abroad, Amaana Hands (AH) role has rapidly evolved to meet new needs and expanded financial assistance. These include burials, distribution of weekly grocery hampers and daily hot meals to the elderly and families with illnesses. I admire **the strength and commitment from our dedicated assemblage of volunteers** serving those in need with purpose and desiring to please Allah. At AH, **we strive to achieve ihsan** (excellence in pleasing Allah) to help those who are **suffering from disease, unemployment, homelessness, hunger, abandonment, illiteracy, discrimination, debt, injustice, ineptitudes and economic setbacks.**

It's now a year later, and the fallout has been globally disastrous. There have been numerous shadow pandemics and increased economic burdens; AH is contributing globally to **pivot and paddle through these rough tides.** Fortunately, donors like you are the lightning force that energizes our mission to fulfill our obligations to the needy. I implore you once again to selflessly support so that we **can continue our extensive work that you have been an integral part of.** At AH, we place importance on financial integrity and do our utmost to ensure that your dollar is spent in the best possible manner. Your giving is an Amaana (trust) in which we place high value.

I pray Allah grants you and your family 'aafeyah (well-being). May He soften our hearts to the plight of others and make us resilient to embrace life's challenges with bliss, courage and wisdom. Aameen.

Zeelena Hack
Executive Director (Volunteer)



OUR MISSION

To provide support to struggling individuals and families so that they can sustain themselves, build assets and acquire self-sufficiency to improve their standard of living.



OUR FOUNDATION IS TRUST

"Empowering the Poor and Needy with Dignity and Respect"



OUR VISION

We believe that your donations can create a brighter future for those who live in the wells of darkness. We hope that everyone who we encounter can experience life at its fullest as they work to reach their potential.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى وَالنَّقَى وَالْعِفَافَ وَالْغِنَى

O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, dignified restraint, and freedom from need.



COVID-19 Relief

Staying Positive in the midst of it all

Delivering Care with Calm and Compassion

Indeed, for everyone 2020 was a year of struggles to cope and survive with the suddenness of isolation and restrictions, much less for those who were already underprivileged. Their means of survival were limited. They battled with the emotional loss of loved ones, anxiety, depression, loneliness and fear of not being able to provide for their families.

We encountered a father in Morocco who owed six months' rent and additional debts due to losing his job as a street vendor. He couldn't handle the constant pressure from his landlord to pay the owed rent. Overcome with frustration, depression and weakness, he had tempting thoughts to do the worst... Alhamdulillah, his wife, talked him out of it. This devastating case came to our attention by an AH volunteer in Morocco. Without any delay, AH paid off all of the debts for this father and his family. We pray that Allah continues to guide us to those in dire need and to alleviate their inner pains and silent sufferings, Aameen.

A resilient, single mother in Guyana grew up as an orphan and is now raising her two special needs children. Prior to the pandemic, she received AH monthly grocery hamper - she exemplifies someone whose situation was already difficult. As a direct consequence of the pandemic, she lost her job. She found herself struggling to get through day-to-day necessities, having to choose what to spend with the little she had. It was a bitter decision to choose between food or medications for her children. Set aside, she had no means of paying her rent. Alhamdulillah, she felt hopeful to reach out to AH. With your support, we were able to provide the assistance for this mother and her children's special needs. This mother raised her gentle hands in praise to Allah and asked Him to grant you shade in this life and the Hereafter as you shielded her from her most difficult times.



◀ Qur'an School For The Blind

The Qur'an School for the Blind is a long-running institution that AH significantly supports in its daily operations. Hafizh Farhaad is AH Project Manager in Bangladesh that manages the needs of this school in Khulna District.



YEMEN



CAMBODIA



EDUCATION

For many children, education is a dream. Conflict, disaster, and poverty are hindrances to attaining good education. In most cases, families need their children to help bring in income. Across the globe, education is correlated with better health outcomes, with better work opportunities for women, and with resisting gender norms that leave many women and girls unable to continue their schooling. AH is grateful for your donations that support students like Adam and Maryam:

- ▶ Adam's family members are Iraqi refugees that AH significantly supported upon their arrival to the USA. Adam is a bright student with a world of possibilities ahead of him. As the years went by, AH supported Adam's educational enrichment program which helped him to excel and achieve high awards. Masha Allah, in June 2020 **Adam received a full scholarship to a prestigious university in Pennsylvania.** SubhanAllah, this is the beauty of your Zakaah.
- ▶ Maryam is an 8-year-old schoolgirl in Morocco with a passion for learning. Her family was six months behind on her school fees. Due to the pandemic, Maryam's father could no longer earn his livelihood as a Street Peddler, causing her mother to resort to selling bread only to earn enough to feed her family. **The school Headmaster physically removed Maryam from the classroom due to the lack of unpaid school fees.** When AH learned about her inability to attend school, we immediately paid off the school fees debt. Upon Maryam's return to the classroom her friends asked "How did you get to come back to school?" **Maryam replied, "Kind people care for me and my family. I thank Allah and made du'a for them."**

Where To Turn For Help? Hmm... AH!

In the midst of a rapidly spreading pandemic, a mom is forced to homeschool her six children using a school-issued laptop. The mom was at loss when the laptop malfunctioned leaving **one of her children with no access to learning** especially when the school was unresponsive to this critical situation. All seems

disastrous, and she had no idea which resources to turn to for help. This was the reality of a mother in New York that came to AH for help. We advised her to contact the Board of Education and 311, both of which were unsuccessful attempts. No amount of struggles availed this helpless mother leaving her

Continued on the bottom of next page...

DISASTER RELIEF

Providing help to people who are impacted by natural disasters

With a sizable coast, Cambodia is no stranger to seasonal monsoons. Across the Mekong region, in the fall of 2020, tropical storms triggered floods that displaced 10,000 residents and destroyed their rice fields. These families became displaced: it was exhausting and frightening, to say the least. While monsoons are familiar, this season was unpredictable because it came early. It left Cambodians unprepared to vacate their shelters. AH, however, quickly stepped in during an unpredictable crisis. Here, Cambodians waded ankle-deep in the water that treacherously flooded their homes.



This young woman carries her infant though waist-deep water.



Over 150 families received relief packages of tents, mosquito nets, blankets, and dry food.



Glorifying Allah for your kindness.

child at a loss until a persistent AH volunteer lent a trusting (amaana) hand to navigate her situation. With integrity and anticipation, this determined volunteer reached out to the local Islamic Institution. Alhamdulillah, they responded eagerly by providing a laptop to the child and bringing some

relief to the mother. Excited with this kind gesture, the child is all caught up with her class work and assignments! While this is only one account depicting the chaos of a real time crisis, there are many more stories equally daunting. Indeed, it is only with kindness we prevail through these difficult

times. Our volunteer acted immediately to serve as an intermediary between the person in need and a community resource. This volunteer embodied the AH mission of assisting those in need. This spirit of collaboration is so important as we rely on each other when "the chips are down."

"Those who spend their wealth [in Allah's way] by night and by day, secretly and publicly - they will have their reward with their Lord. And no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve." (Surah Baqarah 2:274)



Medical Aid

AH medical program is an expansive project that aims to dignify those who cannot access adequate medical care. AH has been aiding the sick and giving hope to families who were in need for medical procedures, medication, and medical equipment.

The pandemic has uniquely elevated the significance of subsidizing care in many countries:

- In **Yemen**, where malnourishment is rampant, your donations assist adults and children alike. Our volunteers traveled amongst hospitals to directly cover prescription expenses, IV drips and surgeries.
- In **Morocco**, AH pays for patients' dialysis treatment and purchased wheelchairs for those who lack mobility.
- In **Guyana**, the elderly sick population suffers from the need for adult diapers. They cannot afford diapers and are compelled to stay in diapers for longer periods. AH has been providing adult diapers in order to alleviate this need.
- In **Bangladesh and Senegal**, AH was financially instrumental in supporting hysterectomy and other surgeries that were medically necessary!



Fatima is a 13-year-old Syrian living with scoliosis. Her doctor notified her family that **if she did not have corrective surgery within a year, her breathing problems would be aggravated more than they already are.** SubhanAllah, AH was able to subsidize the costs of the surgery and Fatima beams brightly.

In our quest to relentlessly dignify AH recipients, we do not publish photos of famished children and disfigured bodies. Children and babies with visible ribs is a heart-wrenching sight. It is a blessing to be nourished and not endure the extreme circumstances that some of our recipients do. Allah (SWT) reminds us in **Surah An-Nahl: 16:53** **"And whatever of blessings and good things you have, it is from Allah. Then, once you are touched by distress, to Him alone you cry for help."** May Allah (SWT) reward all of our donors who make AH Medical Program possible.

This 9-year-old boy slowly lost his ability to walk after being diagnosed with spastic paraplegia. He came from the West Indies for treatment at Shriners Hospital in Florida. **AH purchased this mobile stander for him. This stander is medically needed to support his increasingly feeble legs.** Additionally, monthly financial aid is given to this family for living expenses. These acts of good deeds are life changing not only to this young boy, but to his entire family.



After Many Broken Promises...

With several unfulfilled promises of a wheelchair for this young man, he and his mother lost hope in ever acquiring one. AH volunteers from Florida visited Morocco and heard of his misfortune. Although the mother was informed that AH would buy him a new wheelchair, she thought it was another empty promise. **She and her son were in absolute awe upon our delivery of the new wheelchair.** This young man was in praises to Allah; for many years, he prayed for a wheelchair. His case is just one amongst the five wheelchairs that were purchased last November in Morocco.



Monthly Grocery Hamper

Every year, the Monthly Grocery Hamper program remains one of Amaana Hands' largest initiatives. Donors understand the significance of malnourishment and hunger, and so it is with your help that we are able to address these critical needs globally. The pandemic has created a deep, long-lasting increase in global poverty, and this is where Amaana Hands stepped in during numerous crises in global health, the environment and hunger to ease their sufferings beyond their control.

- In **Cambodia**, we are able to assist families with grocery hampers annually. They are receiving rice, sugar, flour, noodles, oil, soy sauce, fish sauce, canned sardine, and either bath or detergent soap.
- In **Yemen**, lies the intersection of multiple issues: conflict, cholera, and malnutrition. These have been invariably amplified by the COVID-19 crisis, and your donations have been crucial. They are receiving flour, sugar, oil, rice, and other products. Alhamdulillah, this is relief in turbulent times, and with your assistance we will continue providing, Insha Allah.
- Throughout the regions of **Guyana**, the Monthly Grocery Hamper continues to serve needy families and remains one of AH sustaining projects. **With your generosity, as of April 2021 AH started the Monthly Grocery Hamper project in the poverty-stricken villages of Bangladesh as well.**





ABANDONED & FELT ASHAMED

This is a one-year-old baby living in **Bangladesh**. When the father learnt that his son was diagnosed with autism, **he began to torture his wife**. The child's grandparents and father **evicted both the baby and his mother** from the house. Her situation was perilous: Where would she take shelter? In Bangladesh, it is very difficult for abused women to seek external help. **They are faced with guilt, shame and persecution**. Vulnerable women in circumstances like hers are also at increased risk for gender-based violence (GBV). This mother found no other option and sought shelter at a relative's house. However, he was unable to bear their expenses. Alhamdulillah, with your Zakaah, **AH was able to wholeheartedly undertake the monthly financial care for both mother and son** to live safely with her relatives. Our plan is to coach this mom in becoming self-sufficient.



Handing out freshly cooked meals to the homeless in the streets of **Georgetown, Guyana**.



HOMELESSNESS

In February, a deep freeze and whirling snow wreaked havoc in **Houston, Texas**. Thousands were left without power and heat - their only wish was warmth. The most marginalized group, the homeless, found themselves in harsh and unforgiving conditions. In response, **AH purchased gloves, hats, and socks to distribute amongst approximately 300 homeless individuals**. The refreshingly **hot cups of soup and coffee, packages of healthy food, and hygiene kits**, were immensely gratifying for us to share and for them to receive. AH continues to serve the needs of the homeless in **Houston**.

HOT MEALS

Hot and nutritional meals are served monthly in the **USA** and the remote villages of **Cambodia**. AH volunteers travel to locate underprivileged families to deliver fresh meals. It is a simple act that spreads and promotes kindness to humanity.





Golden Needle School

A prime initiative for cultivating economic skills, the Golden Needle School in Cambodia and Guinea currently have students from a variety of ages who seek to build their professional skills for the workforce. Two older women, for example, desired to expand their skill set after their husbands left them in economic precarity, have now joined the school. This past February, the students sewed uniforms for boys and these girls as shown in photo above. As the pandemic has heavily plunged them into debt, it is crucial that these women be prepared to enter the job market. Also, in Guinea AH is supporting a sewing school that is providing women with Islamic and Qur'anic studies.

Skills Training/ Self - Sufficiency



To empower individuals and families to reach their potential.

Our focus on self-sufficiency has become especially meaningful during the pandemic to date. The economic fallout has devastated communities, and in such trying times, it is extremely difficult to preserve a steady income. **AH supports families by providing them with investment in skills and key materials for businesses.** In turn, our recipients can continue to afford their basic needs, which is an even more exigent task in the past year. These families, Masha Allah, have attained self-sufficiency. They use what we provide and do not return for further assistance. In the countryside of **Guyana**, **AH bought fishing equipment for a father and his sons** who were skillful in fishing. Now, each family member fills their niche in the business: **The men were given the saine to catch fish, and the women ensure the fish are cleaned to be sold at the market.**



MOROCCO

In **Morocco**, a family-oriented young man cares for his single parent mother and grandmother. He needed transportation to his factory workplace, which is over 20 miles away. **Due to the lack of public transportation in his area and unreliable travel to work, he risks losing job.** Many times, he would have to beg strangers for a ride to work. **AH purchased this motorcycle to ensure his job stability, so he continues to provide for his family.**



MOROCCO



In Guyana, a fisherman's house was crumbling. **The wooden walls were paper-thin with huge holes giving away to the unstable foundations.** AH renovated and extended this house. We were motivated to help the parents of this home because they were housing their 3 married children along with their families. Outside the house, the family would cook meals on a deteriorating fireside stove. **AH bought them a gas range stove.** Alhamdulillah, no more worries about food and shelter. Currently, all four families have their own contented living quarters in this house.

Housing

AH has been facilitating the construction of a house in the mountains of Morocco. The family we have helped has three young children whose father, the sole breadwinner, works as a farmer. **Whilst their house was being constructed, the family used plastic and tree leaves to shelter from the rough cold, rain and the extreme heat of summer.** They were unable to complete their home as it was too costly for them. **AH stepped in and completed the construction of the house.** SubhanAllah, the family is extremely grateful for the protection and comfort that the donors provided.

In West Africa, a mother passed away after giving birth to triplets. With your support, AH is fully caring for these orphaned babies on a monthly basis.

Orphan & Child Sponsorship



WEST AFRICA



YEMEN

The Orphan/Child Sponsorship is a necessary lifeline for children living in vulnerable conditions. **AH sponsorships serve children in underprivileged communities around the world, regions with conflicts where hunger is prevalent and educational growth is deprived.** In Yemen, our volunteers visit schools to directly give school supplies and backpacks to the children. Many of the children are orphans or destitute. In the **midst of war, these school children are resilient and have some sense of normalcy** that is provided by our generous donors' assistance. **\$30 per month provides a child with life-changing opportunities in education, medical care & nutrition.**

We would like to say

"Jazakumullah Khairan"



إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَجْزِي
الْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ

... Indeed, Allah rewards
the charitable.

(Surah Yusuf - 12:88)



DONATION FORM

P. O. Box 200285 South Ozone Park, New York 11420 • Telephone 929-405-0188

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Tel _____

For your convenience, how would you like your receipt to be sent? { } Email { } Mail

Zakaah \$ _____

Iftar \$ _____ Sadaqatul Fitr \$ _____ Fidyah \$ _____

{ } Please use my donations where best needed

Comments: _____

Zelle to email info@amaanahands.org (Do not use tel #) Please include your name & address in the memo.
Online at www.amaanahands.org Or by mailing to PO Box 200285 South Ozone Park, NY 11420

Water & Well Fund:

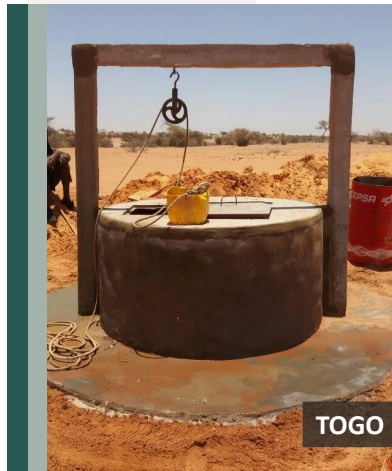
Water is essential to the continuation of life, to human health, and to hygiene. Our projects have included deep-tube and bucket wells in Bangladesh, Guinea, Mali and Togo. Our primary focus will pivot toward large community wells that cost approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 and are supported by the Water & Well Fund. In addition, we will be concentrating on impactful water distribution in Gaza and in refugee camps. Our brothers and sisters not only lack adequate and safe drinking water in a landlocked region, but they do not have enough water to cleanse themselves and for household needs. This is pertinent during the pandemic - while we are fortunate to have enough to wash our hands, they do not have to drink. As such, we are looking to fortify humanitarian health, water, sanitation & hygiene endeavors in two ways: with refillable water tanks, and support of decontamination and desalination facilities in the West Bank.

In Togo, carrying water jugs is arduous and taxing work. Wells in villages provide extra protection for the women and girls who trek many miles daily for water. They become exposed to possible gender-based violence (GBV), and closely located wells are one solution to this issue. AH remains an ardent defender of the vulnerable.



BANGLADESH

Ahmed is a poor day laborer who lives in a very low area of Bangladesh. In the rainy season, the land floods up to 8 feet. The flooding is so severe that villagers need boats for transport where they could previously walk. Ahmed and his wife are assiduous: they carried soil themselves to elevate their homes 10 feet above ground. This is remarkable given that they did this after their day labor. Despite the abundance of water, drinking water is scarce. AH constructed a well in this village to bring ease to Ahmed's family and other villagers, all of whom now have full-time access to safe and clean drinking water.



TOGO



Amaana Hands Inc.

P.O. Box 200285
South Ozone Park, New York 11420

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Jamaica, NY
Permit No. 358

Sadaqatul Fitr:

\$10 per person
(Distributed in grains)

Fidyah:

\$10 per day (This is for
those unable to fast due to
illness or old age)

Iftar:

Donate to the Iftar fund
(No specific cost)



24
Years
Of Humanitarian Work
& Empowering Lives

A 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization • Tax ID # 11-3488344 • April-May 2021 Ramadan 1442
PO Box 200285 South Ozone Park, NY 11420 • Email info@amaanahands.org
Tel 929.405.0188 • www.amaanahands.org

