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To whom it may concern:

My name is Cpl Jeff Evans. In Jul 2007, I was posted to the MSG Det at the Canadian Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan. There are 10 MSG's here at the Embassy and we make up approximately 1/3 of the Embassy staff. Upon my arrival at the MSGU Det Kabul, I was appointed the Detachments' Blind Fund representative.

Within weeks, we had located the Kabul Government Vocational School for the Blind and met the principle, in order to establish our goals for the year and obtain a list of items needed. Upon meeting the Principle and touring the facilities, we learned the school has 140 students, 40 of which are females ranging from Grades 1-12. Both the teachers and students were either born blind or had lost their sight as casualties of the war. The students are taught to read, type, play musical instruments, use computers and make crafts. They also have a wood working shop located at the school where the students learn to make wooden broom handles and brushes, which they sell to help finance the school.

With our new goals established, we began to put various plans into action and begin raising funds. We immediately began operating a canteen located within the Embassy, preying on the sweet tooth of many staff members. Once the canteen established a regular client base, we began holding other fund raisers such as: bi-weekly 50/50 draws, a hockey pool, held a spaghetti night, had draws for various hand crafted afghan wooden furniture, as well as draws on several items, which were generously donated by members of the Canadian Based Staff at the Embassy.

As the MSGU Det, Kabul MPFBC representative, I'm happy to report the MSGU Det Kabul, raised \$8000 this year for the Kabul Government Vocational School for the Blind. The money this year was utilized to purchase a new brail printer (embosser), a Dari translator program for the brail printer, 8 boxes of brail paper, several walking sticks, 8 boxes of plastic brail paper for printing books, 20 tape recorders, 125 blank tape cassettes, 120 locks for student lockers, 12 new bus tires, 8 new batteries for their buses, 4 electric power drills for the wood working shop and other school items desperately required by the Blind School. Our short term goal was to purchase the brail printer (\$3,679 CDN) for the school, as the one they had was very old and no longer functioned. Once this goal was reached, we purchased the other aforementioned items for the school.

On the 17 June 08, the Canadian Ambassador Arif Lalani and members of the MSGU Det delivered the supplies and were met by the school principal and all of the students. The students and staff of the school were very appreciative of the donations. I can not find the words that would clearly articulate the expressions on their faces. One had to be present to fully experience their joy and happiness. I walked away with a great sense of pride knowing we had surpassed our goal and purchased all items that the school had asked for, doubling the amounts of some.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank all the MSG's for their fund raising efforts and the support of the staff of the Embassy. Their hard work and support has ensured the Vocational Blind School has the items required to better teach the children and brought joy and happiness to some of the children of this war torn country. I wish to also extend my own heart felt thanks to all this year.

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