



Dining for Women

## Program Fact Sheet

### **Program: Central Asia Institute**

*For an in depth look at the story behind Central Asia Institute and its founder, Greg Mortenson, read The New York Times best-seller, "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission To Promote Peace...One School At A Time."*

<http://www.threecupsoftea.com/>

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**Web Site:** [www.ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org)

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**Mission:** To promote and provide community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia.

Central Asia Institute and Greg Mortenson have over a decade of experience promoting education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. CAI is a leading advocate of education, especially of girls, as a way to promote stability, peace and micro-economic growth.

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**Where They Give:** Pakistan, Afghanistan, Krygyzstan

Central Asia Institute (CAI) community projects are in remote mountain villages of northern Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and the steppes of Mongolia. The terrain varies from the highest consolidation of high peaks in the world to miles of high desert plateau. Most of the projects are community-based in the Karakoram Mountains of Pakistan, and the Pamir and Hindu Kush Mountains of Afghanistan.

Over 150 million children in the world (age 5-14) are deprived of education due to poverty, slavery, sexual discrimination, racial discrimination, racism and religious intolerance, and the cost of educating each child in the third world is about \$1 per month per child. Several global studies show that a (at least) fifth grade education level for girls, is the most significant factor in impoverished societies to: 1. Decrease Infant Mortality Rates 2. Decrease / Stabilize Population Growth 3. Significantly improve the basic quality of health and life quality over a generation.

CAI's projects focus on girl's education, literacy and basic health education. Recently, after the October 2005, Pakistan earthquake in Azad Kashmir, we have launched small community-based initiatives to help support ongoing education for children in tent schools. Often, CAI works in regions where the literacy rate is less than 5% and one out of three babies born alive dies before age one.

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**History:** Greg Mortenson, co-founder and Executive Director of Central Asia Institute, began his work in northern Pakistan in 1993. His efforts were first inspired by the local Balti people he met after a climb of K2 (world's second highest mountain).

Mr. Mortenson's work was catalyzed when he met Jean Hoerni, who provided funding for the first two projects, a bridge over the Braldu River and a school in Korphe village. From 1993-1996, Greg spent the majority of his time living in northern Pakistan's Karakoram mountain villages. This was an invaluable experience, learning from the Balti people. He realized how remarkably skilled the people are at survival in the harshest of living conditions.

In 1996, Jean established Central Asia Institute with a donation of one million dollars. Tragically, he died a year later. CAI's Board of Directors initially focused on one geographic region, Pakistan's Karakoram range, to gain expertise facilitating community-based projects. The Balti communities of northern Pakistan have taught us a critical lesson in our first five years of existence: Sustainable and successful development can only occur when projects are entirely initiated, implemented and managed by local communities. It is also important to listen and learn from the local communities served, rather than impose external evaluations or judgment of what is best from an outsider's perspective. The philosophy to empower the local people through their own initiative is at the heart of all CAI programs.

As of 2007, Central Asia Institute has successfully established 58 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which provide (or have provided) education to over 24,000, with an emphasis on girls' education. A few additional projects are in Mongolia (rural health education) and Kyrgyzstan (teacher training scholarships).

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**How They Work:** CAI believes in the parable: "Educate a woman and you educate a community. Educate a man and you educate an individual." Over the last decade, CAI has developed innovative techniques that encourage people to take responsibility for their own well-being and vitality.

Central Asia Institute supports community-based education programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Each project involves local people in all phases of projects: to plan, implement and evaluate. A committee of elders and experts guides each selected project. Before a project starts, the community matches Central Asia Institute project funds with equal amounts of local resources and labor. Such commitment ensures the project's viability and long term success. By 2007, this cooperative effort has produced, and provided, the following:

**Education:**

- 58 schools fully or partially supported
- 520+ fully or partially supported teachers
- School library projects
- 824 graduates from Porter Training Program
- Teacher Training Workshops
- 24,000 current students, including 14,300 girls supported

**Women's Education:**

- 14 Women's Vocational Centers
- Women's NGO assistance and training
- Infant Oral Rehydration Training
- Rural Women's Vocational Fund
- Maternal health care scholarships
- Eye technician scholarships

**Public Health and Conservation:**

- 24+ potable water projects
- Water Filtration System
- 3,000+ cataract eye surgery patients
- Sanitation and Latrine Projects
- Rural Health Care Camps

***DFW gifts will be directed to CAI's children and women's educational programs.***

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**Financial Profile:** In 2006, CAI directed 79% of expenses to programs and 21% to fund raising and administration.

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**DFW Giving History with Program:** DFW contributed \$4,240 in July 2006.

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