Dear Child Foundation friend,

We gather online or in small groups over this holiday weekend to mark the United States’ independence. If there is anything we have learned in 2020, it is that America has a long way to go before the promises of the Declaration of Independence are felt equally and by all Americans.

We are encouraged by words and actions of our community members. Among them, supporters in Iran who testify to how important education is for children to learn about their rights and potential.

As we move forward toward a more perfect union, a more equal society, and a more peaceful world, our children are at the center. It is their future we work for. And access to education is crucial to their financial and personal independence as creative and critical thinkers.

May we celebrate this 4th of July with our eyes on them. Their pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness is everything to who we are and what will be.

Sincerely,

Navid Seyedali, President
Below is a report about the recent work in Iran to combat the financial hardship in the shadow of the coronavirus. They say that good things come in small packages and the Iran office is increasingly giving grocery store gift cards instead of distributing bags of goods.

Funds donated to our Care Package campaign to stave off urgent hunger and essential needs went toward Phase 1. Child Foundation will continue to send your donations to help these families throughout Phase 2 of this emergency campaign. Please join us in meeting their immediate needs immediately.

Report from the Tehran office

During its 26 years of its activity, Child Foundation, with the help of domestic and foreign partners, helped and empowered low-income families under many different circumstances.

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus and its exacerbation in recent weeks, Child Foundation distributed more than 2,800 grocery gift cards to its students across Iran.

Because the Child Foundation’s target community is students from low-income and vulnerable families, not supporting them at this critical time would lead to severe problems and difficulties for them. To mitigate the situation, under the theme of distributing livelihoods and with the support of partners and cooperating chain stores, we provided 2,800 gift cards with 300,000 toman credit in the first phase of support.

Providing grocery gift cards instead of buying food items and distributing them through our 36 representative offices maintains the dignity of students and their families. It also allows them to spend the money according to their own food preferences. Last but not least, using gift cards significantly saves our organization time and overhead costs.

In addition to grocery gift cards, the Child Foundations social workers have monitored the physical and mental health of students and their families. We have tried our best to help them learn how to deal with the virus, stay calm, and overcome anxiety.

With the aid of our amazing sponsor community, we will not allow the food insecurity and lack of essential items to become a barrier for our students’ education.

With the help of this charitable community, the second phase of preparing the gift cards for other Child Foundation students will begin in the coming days.

Send help to an Iranian family
Vahid is a twelfth-grade computer student. He lives in Karaj, Iran, and is returning to school after dropping out. He is very interested in computer science. He also regularly attends language classes, though the tuition and book costs are difficult for his family to pay. Vahid’s father is a veteran and has been hospitalized for several years due to mental illness. He receives a pension, but a significant portion is spent on his medical care. The family pays rent for their home, and life is challenging for Vahid’s mother.

Maryam is a lovely eight-year-old girl in third grade. She lives in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan and is an excellent student. Maryam’s parents divorced when she was only two years old. Now, her father is not in the picture. Maryam’s mother greatly values education helped neighborhood kids learn when she could. Because she cannot be a teacher herself, she is a seamstress. This is their only income and they cannot depend on it. They are under financial stress to pay for food, fuel, and water.

Sponsor Vahid or Maryam

Child Foundation’s Legal Means of Aid to Iran

Child Foundation is proud to stand by the people of Iran despite how difficult it is to send aid. We are actively involved in all four of the below actions in Iran:

1. Under OFAC’s General License E, Child Foundation can transfer funds in the case of a natural disaster such as the flood in Sistan and Baluchestan province.
2. Under OFAC’s General License E, Child Foundation can transfer funds in the case of humanitarian aid such as the coronavirus outbreak.
3. Child Foundation’s Iran Food Package Program for our over 6,000 students is needed more than ever and legal as importing food is not a sanctioned activity.
4. Child Foundation’s efforts to secure medical supplies that are hard to come by inside of Iran are also legal as importing medical supplies is not a sanctioned activity.

To learn more about OFAC’s General License E, please visit here.

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