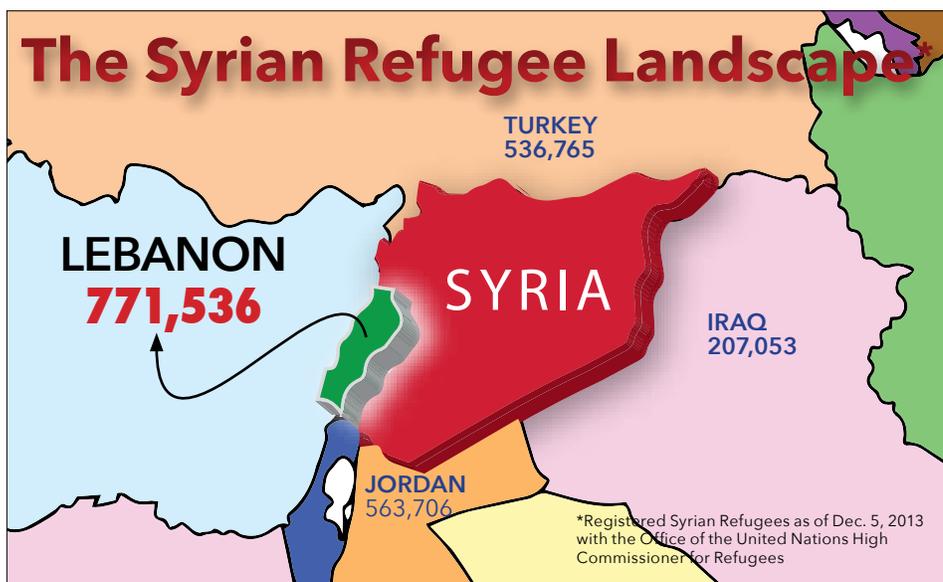


Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development

January, 2014

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Lebanon, a Refuge Struggling to Serve

Lebanon, the smallest and one of the poorest neighbors to Syria, is hosting the highest number of Syrian refugees. Program Manager for Social Development, Raghed Assi of the United Nations Development Programme is quoted as saying, "The areas that received the highest numbers of Syrian refugees are, at the same time, the poorest and most deprived communities in the country. The burden of this crisis is higher on these communities than any other."

The Wadi Khalid region in Northern Lebanon is one of these impoverished areas hosting thousands of Syrian refugees, and is a focus for aid from Mercy-USA.

Bread, a staple of the Syrian and Lebanese diet has become an expensive commodity in Wadi Khalid, costing much more than a refugee family can afford.



Mercy-USA distributes fresh bread to between 2,500-3,000 families three times a week at eleven different distribution sites.

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Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA's projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

- Registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
- Member of InterAction

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Lebanon, continued from pg. 1

Wadi Khalid lacked modern or adequate medical services, and the refugee crisis has strained the health service infrastructure beyond its capacity. Mercy-USA has several initiatives on the ground addressing this serious threat to the refugees and their host families' health.

With our health partner, Makassed Charitable Organization, we provide health services to Syrian refugees and their host families by way of a modern mobile health clinic that runs four days a week providing disease-preventing vaccines, pre- and post-natal care, and regular medical exams.

Mercy-USA has also purchased an ambulance for the region and renovated the Stationary Medical Clinic. By improving this permanent clinic, the local Wadi Khalid and Syrian refugee population now has better access to sorely needed basic emergency health services.

Twice-Over Refugees, Palestinians Flee Syria

Palestinian Refugees who had been taking refuge in Syria are now twice-over refugees as they have had to flee from Syria into Lebanon. The misery these people are facing is unimaginable. Stateless and homeless, they are a group slipping through the cracks of the world's aid and relief efforts due to this major catastrophe in Syria. Mercy-USA is currently providing bread to 1,200 families in the Beddawi Refugee Camp, Lebanon. We are also providing families with babies, three bags of diapers per child, for up to 250 infants per month to help with the miserable conditions that exist right now in the camp.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: WASH

The influx of thousands of Syrian families into the under-served Wadi Khalid region has strained the already struggling sanitation infrastructure in the region; Mercy-USA is now implementing a WASH, (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), program in Awade, one of the least developed towns in the region. We will be trucking in fresh water, providing waste management and training, as well as distributing permanent garbage bins in public areas of the town and providing garbage bags to families. We will also be helping the community to organize neighborhood clean-up and arrange for regular trash pickup. To sustain this program beyond our involvement, Mercy-USA will train health promotion staff and volunteers to implement and institutionalize this program.



Aleppo: They Just Want Peace



During 2013, Mercy-USA, has been distributing food baskets to a thousand families in Aleppo, Syria. The complicated and dangerous process of delivering the goods to be distributed inside the country has limited us to serving the most vulnerable of families who, due to circumstances beyond their control, are stuck in the conflict zone and unable to move on to a better situation. Families headed by single females, (usually widows), families who care for disabled children, and the elderly are those being helped with our monthly food baskets.



Mercy-USA distributes enough shelf-stable food to keep these families alive: rice and legumes, wheat and pasta, tomato paste, oil, a bit of tea, salt and sugar, halva and some jam. It's just enough to feed a family of six, and if there is an infant in the family, baby formula is also given. Mercy-USA sources the food staples locally or from neighboring Turkey. So for only \$90, donors can provide a month's worth of food to one family of six.



The Forgotten Ones

Over the last two years, the horrifically violent acts of intimidation and ethnic cleansing toward the Rohingya people in Myanmar (Burma) have left an estimated 140,000 people homeless within its borders, and have forced tens of thousands to flee the country.

No one wants these people. Thousands of Rohingya are searching for sanctuary in neighboring countries that will allow them refuge. Instead of fleeing to other Southeast Asian countries in overcrowded boats on dangerous seas, (where many have perished), thousands of Rohingya, including women and children are making treacherous treks into India.

Safe from large-scale violence and persecution, the new refugees are seeking shelter under tarpaulins perilously held together on a small patch of ground in the crowded Indian city of Hyderabad. Compared to the hell these families have escaped from in their native country, life as a refugee in India is an improvement.

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development, with our local humanitarian aid partner, the Foundation for Economic and Educational Development (FEED), is helping these families as they arrive daily into the camp. We are providing "Fresh Start Kits" containing basic necessities for a family: some cooking pots, food staples like



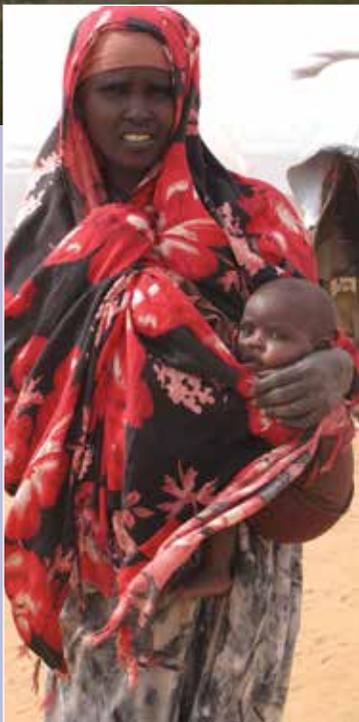
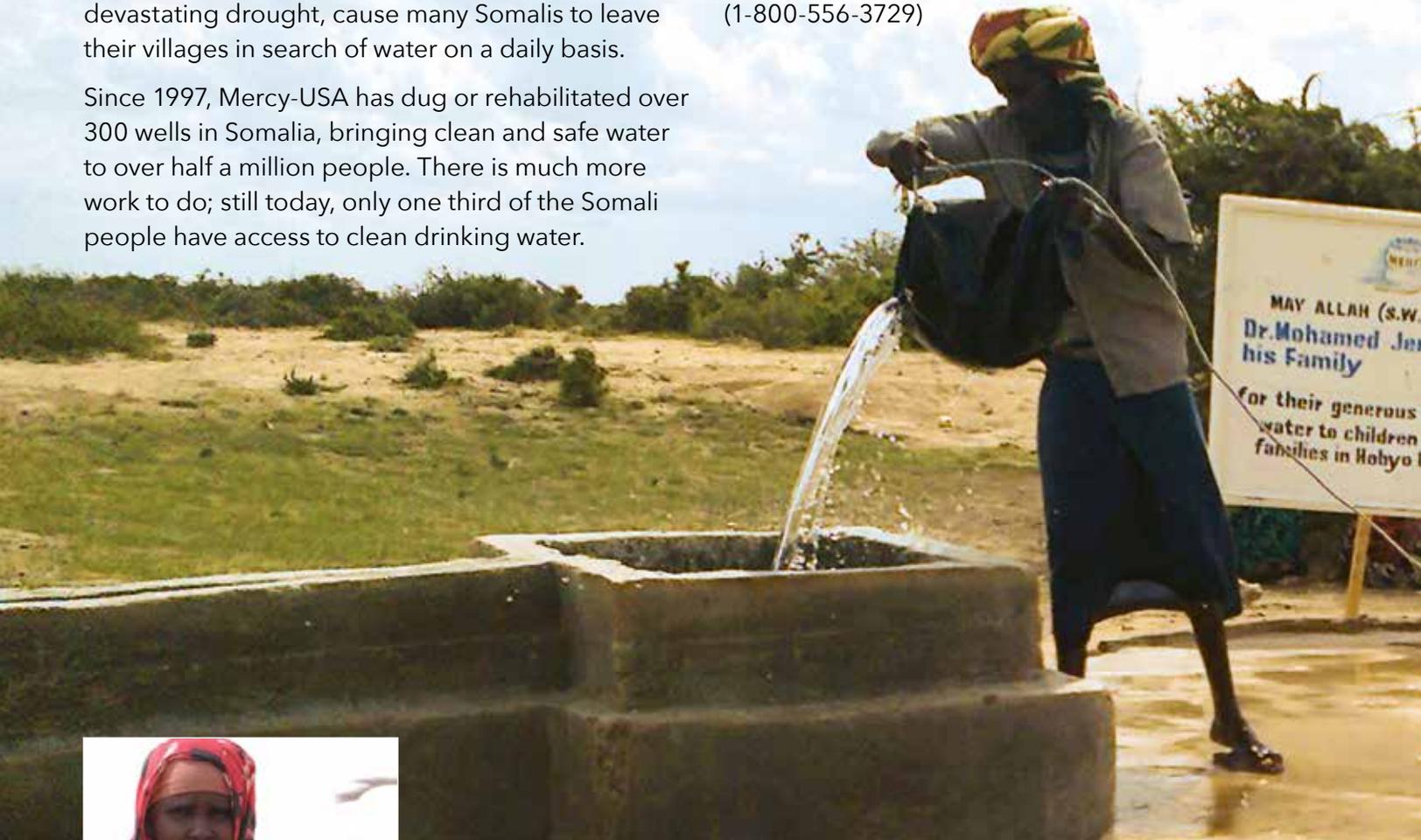
rice, wheat and grams, oil, a few rupees cash for daily fresh veggies and wholesome milk for the children, plus hygiene items like tooth powder, soap and washing detergent, and finally, clothes to replace the only ones they carried into the country on their backs.

The Wells Project: Bringing Life-giving Clean Water to Somalia

Water, the life-sustaining substance that we in developed nations take for granted is often a precious commodity in Somalia. Political instability and armed conflict, combined with recent years of devastating drought, cause many Somalis to leave their villages in search of water on a daily basis.

Since 1997, Mercy-USA has dug or rehabilitated over 300 wells in Somalia, bringing clean and safe water to over half a million people. There is much more work to do; still today, only one third of the Somali people have access to clean drinking water.

Mercy-USA will help your community or organization plan a fundraising event to sponsor a new well for a community in Somalia. Contact us for more information by calling 800-55-MERCY, (1-800-556-3729)

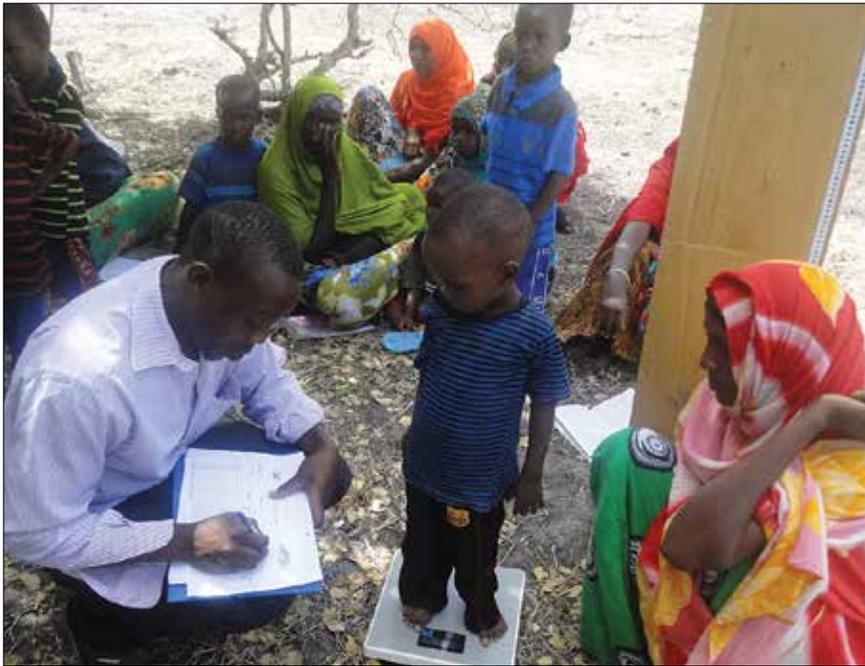


Water: Women's Work

Throughout Africa, women and girls are typically responsible for the household's water supply, sanitation and maintaining a clean home environment.

In Somalia, a country still roiling from 20 years of instability and armed conflict, the further a girl has to go to find water not only means she has less opportunity for education, but a long trek alone or even with a small group poses a serious risk to her physical safety. A Somali mother who has to walk distances to fill and carry enough safe, clean water for her household faces a choice; does she bring her small children with her across the hard and perilous landscape, or must she leave them behind without her? Neither is a choice she wants to make; however, if water is not nearby, she has to choose.

Fighting Malnutrition and Promoting Mother and Child Health in Kenya and Somalia



With grant funding from the US Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mercy-USA has set up 200 outpatient sites and 10 inpatient locations to treat malnourished children in Kenya. In partnership with the Kenyan Ministries of Medical Services and Public Health and Sanitation (MoMS and MoPHS), tens of thousands of Kenyan children suffering from moderate acute and severe acute malnutrition have been helped.

As in Kenya, with funding from USAID/OFDA, UNICEF and additional grant funding provided by the World Food Program, Mercy-USA is providing nutritional support and health services for mothers and children in Somalia.

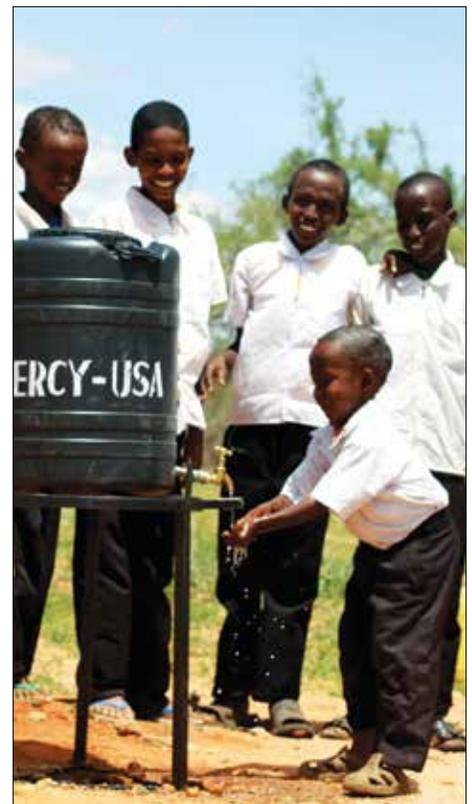
Mercy-USA has set-up thirteen Mother and Child Health Clinics, ten therapeutic feeding centers, five supplemental feeding centers and one stabilization/in-patient center. Thousands of pregnant women and children have been treated in the program so far with nutritional support, supplements, as well as immunizations, and medical services.

Through these programs, Mercy-USA is providing rural health services to vulnerable populations in both countries who would otherwise not have access to these important health and nutrition services.

Water and Sanitation for Health

Diarrhea is widespread in rural Kenya, where 43% of the population gets their drinking water from nearby springs that are often contaminated by the lack of hygiene stations and adequate latrines. According to UNICEF, more than 250,000 children under the age of five die from diarrheal diseases in Africa each year.

Mercy-USA, with grant funding from the US Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), has constructed water storage tanks, latrines and hand-washing stations at 24 elementary and pre-schools. The children now have access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities and are taught vital hygiene practices reducing their risk of infectious disease.



Skills Training Around the Globe for Sustainable Futures



Computer skills training in Bosnia and Herzegovina



English language instruction in Albania



Agriculture training in Indonesia



Vocational training in Beddawi Palestinian Refugee Camp in Lebanon

Mercy-USA takes pride in our educational, vocational and agricultural training around the world. Teaching valuable computer skills, English, professional and small business skills and modern agricultural methods leaves a lifetime of improvement behind in the communities where we work.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Mercy-USA works with orphaned youth, at-risk teens and young adults teaching skills for gainful employment with three-month computer office software training courses.

Mercy-USA also runs a holistic Agriculture Education Center benefiting farmers, displaced Bosnians, and agriculture students with knowledge of modern and efficient farming techniques, plus the skills and seedlings necessary for family sustenance gardens.

In **Albania**, Mercy-USA has been providing three-month computer office software and English language training courses to orphans.

In **Indonesia**, Mercy-USA has been providing livestock, feed-production machines, rice, corn and sweet potato seeds, fertilizer, and training to farming families in three provinces. Mercy-USA is also supporting and assisting these farmers to form cooperatives.

In Lebanon, in the **Palestinian Refugee Camps of Nahr-Al-Bared and Beddawi**, Mercy-USA supports vocational training courses that include pastry and sweet baking, ice cream making, English language, photography and video production, office administration training, basic computer software, computer and cell phone maintenance, hair cutting/styling and sewing.

Bringing Learning and Laughter Together in Rural Bangladesh

Poverty in Bangladesh has been significantly improved in the last ten years; however, much of this good news has not reached rural Bangladesh. According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the poverty rate in Bangladesh is highest in rural areas, and half of all rural children are chronically malnourished while 14% suffer from acute malnutrition.

Mercy-USA is supporting five rural schools and two orphanages in Bangladesh by providing everything from meals, uniforms, teacher salaries and more. Boys and girls, who might not have had access to any education at all, are now able to go to school and look toward a better future for themselves



and their families. The daily meals provided by the projects are often the only source of good nutrition these children have; Mercy-USA knows that learning doesn't happen when a child is hungry.



Mercy-USA Staff Spotlight: Mariam El-Fawal

Mariam El-Fawal, Mercy-USA for
Aid and Development Program

Officer stationed in Tripoli, Lebanon oversees our programs serving refugees in Lebanon and Syria. In the early spring of 2012, Mariam traveled to Lebanon for a three-month internship with Mercy-USA, and so impressed her supervisors with her hard work and dedication that she was subsequently hired as the Program Officer for the region. She writes from the field that she “did not really think of how big of an impact and need Syrian refugees are having in Lebanon,” when she first arrived, and is happy to be working with Mercy-USA serving the refugee population.

She says what most inspires her work is “my belief in the organization, I work with; Mercy-USA is here to make a difference in people’s lives and to support people as they work to overcome the distress of their situation.”

Mariam says that the sincerity and work ethic of Mercy-USA staff have created a positive impact on our international partners, as well as the beneficiaries we serve. “We go to a place to stay. We stay until we have nothing left to do,” she says.

Lunches for Learning in Gaza

Serious learning can only happen when a child’s tummy is free from hunger pangs. Mercy-USA, in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near

East (UNRWA), is providing daily school lunches and snacks to children in Gaza.

Being hungry makes learning in overcrowded classrooms even more difficult for Gaza’s school children. Mercy-USA is working to feed boys and girls in Gaza with a daily nutritious school snack. Thousands of children attending ten elementary and preparatory schools in Gaza are given a nutritious lunch/snack every day during the school year.

A residual benefit to this program is that the food items used to make the daily meals are purchased locally, which is helping to create and sustain jobs and benefit the devastated Gaza economy.



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Where we work • mercyusa.org



Albania

- English and computer skills training for orphans
- Read to Succeed program for school-age children and teens

Bangladesh

- Total support for five rural schools and two orphanages, (meals, teachers, uniforms, etc.)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults
- Agriculture Education Center to aid farmers, and local communities with sustainable farming methods

The Gaza Strip

- School lunch program for ten schools in Gaza serving over 1,500 school children daily

India

- Seasonal food aid
- Refugee Assistance for Burma Rohingya refugees in Hyderabad

Indonesia

- Aid farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assist farmers in forming cooperatives
- English and computer skills training for orphans

Kenya

- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
- Water and sanitation/hygiene program at 24 elementary and pre-schools to prevent infectious diseases

Lebanon

- Syrian Refugee assistance in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon
- Mobile Health Clinic serves refugees four times a week providing vaccines, pre-and post-natal checks and regular medical exams

- Three times weekly bread distribution for 2,500-3,000 families

- Bread distribution and baby diapers to recent Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Beddawi Refugee Camp

- Water, sanitation and hygiene program: fresh water trucking, waste management and sanitation

- Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps
- Vocational training courses

Somalia

- To date over 300 new or rehabilitated wells for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia
- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children

Syria

- Monthly food baskets and infant formula for 1,000 vulnerable families in Aleppo, Syria

Donate Online: www.mercyusa.org • Call Toll-Free: **800-55-MERCY (800-556-3729)**

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- One Time Donation** \$ _____
- Monthly Donation** \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____
- Check**
- Credit Card** (Fill out Credit Card Section)
- Pledge** \$ _____

I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my Credit Card the amount I have indicated above. I also understand that I may change or end a monthly donation agreement at any time with a written notice.

Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)

Account No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (Please print) _____

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