



Press Release: For Immediate Release

Make a contribution. Make a difference.

Give a child an opportunity and change a life forever with
Al Noor Training Centre

Sept 2nd, 2009, Dubai: Awarded the Princess Haya Special Education Award for 2009, the Al Noor Center for Children with Special Needs is home to almost 250 students. Established in 1981, Al Noor has been bestowed with the ability to grant a great gift to its children: to functionally integrate them into society.

Al Noor does not receive regular funding for its operational expenses. Additionally, with the recession, a recent plunge in sponsorships and inflation, the Centre is left with a budget deficit. Therefore, as with all nonprofit organizations, Ms. Isphana Al-Khatib, Director of the Centre, stresses the importance for regular contributions from the community. The programmes offered at Al Noor are comprehensive, professional and meet the holistic needs of the students. The staff to student ratio is high and training a child is expensive. The annual cost of training each child is approximately AED 50,000. However, the annual fee is highly subsidized and set at approximately half of the actual cost incurred by the Centre each year. Despite this, almost 65% of the families are unable to afford the fee.

Fundraising is an essential and ongoing effort. Through the years, Al Noor has had the support of many corporations and individuals. Without it, the Center would not have been able to achieve what it has today. However, the current economic crisis has constrained corporate generosity. But are only corporations responsible for something like this? Can the community play a role? Isphana encourages individuals to do their part in making a difference in the lives of the special children at Al Noor.

Continuing on its commitment, with the support of its sponsors, Al Noor has launched its Credit Card Campaign. Through this campaign individuals can give a child an opportunity by making a monthly contribution ranging from AED 25- AED 1000 through any Visa or Master card. One-time contributions of any amount can also be made on the Al Noor official website. Every Dirham counts!

To make the process easy, accessible and convenient, Al Noor has teamed up with leading banks and magazines to circulate the campaign donation forms. With the individual's authorization to debit their credit card for the dedicated amount, Al Noor Training Centre will process the donations on a monthly basis. A downloadable version of the form is also available on the Al Noor website or can be collected from the centre's fundraising department.

Starting this Ramadan, Al Noor invites you to join them in their quest to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs by participating in this campaign. For more information on Al Noor, or how to be a part of the Credit Card Campaign, please visit www.alnoorsneeds.ae or call 04 340 4844 today!

About Al Noor Training Centre:

Al Noor Training Centre is a non-profit organization run under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Centre is dedicated to the nurturing and development of the Special Needs Community in Dubai. Al Noor Training Centre fulfils the needs of the multi-cultural special needs community of Dubai from infancy up to functional integration into society by providing professional and effective training programmes. Al Noor uses a transdisciplinary approach for its training programmes, and in addition to teaching, offers– Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychology, Sports and Music. Al Noor also has its own Work Placement Unit which trains children with an aptitude for open employment.