



## Neighborhood Health Education

In October 2002, our national staff in Karakalpakstan, began a program to meet the health needs in neighborhoods of Nukus. They began to collect materials and study various current approaches to the problems that the people faced. They produced brochures, each one adapted to the local culture, making it appropriate and easily implemented even in a poor household.



JDA Health Education Staff

the various neighborhoods that are active in administering the overall the program. They help our staff select new areas in which to work and carry out the research needed to determine the needs.

“The most popular topics in our neighborhood meetings are those that deal with temptation, gossip, anger, unforgiveness and STD’s. The people seem to recognize that emotional issues have an affect on their health and well-being.” - Svyeta, JDA’s Health Education Coordinator

In the last two years, 100 volunteers from 5 neighborhoods have participated in the 3 month training seminars given by our staff. The volunteers, in turn, convey the principles and methods to their neighbors through instruction and by example.

Suicide prevention, especially in youth, is their newest topic to research and prepare materials.



Blind community volunteer

As neighborhoods began to see improved health, they recognized in a new way, that they were able to impact other areas of their lives. These communities found themselves empowered with the confidence to use the resources available to them to bring about change economically and socially.

When the seminars are completed, the people are energized to work, to start their own businesses and there’s a sense of pride, belonging and support that pervades the community that wasn’t there before.



Small business: Groceries sold from an apartment window

These volunteers have begun to receive computer training to help them to continue to promote and teach health education.

The added benefit is that they are able to obtain jobs with these new skills.

### 60 Neighborhood Health Care Topics

- Sanitation
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Water Purification
- First Aid
- Family Planning
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- STDs and HIV/AIDS

Our staff recognizes that the possibilities are limitless through this simple neighborhood intervention of practical health care education and training. They have seen trust and forgiveness among families and neighbors where once there was suspicion, isolation and fear.

Currently, there are 15 volunteer trainers from

### Transformation

Ayapbergen and Svyeta, neighborhood volunteers, have 4 children and were very poor. They began with simply a desire to improve their lives, knowing that they would not receive a salary for their work in the program.

They have become influential leaders in their community and are responsible for implementing new ideas for the program. They have also begun their own commercial business raising chickens.



Clean water demonstration

## JDA Partners in Education—Colorado to Afghanistan

This fall, **Colorado School of Mines** freshman will be challenged with a required project—an appropriate technological design for the manufacture of school chalk, from chalk found in a deposit in the now dry sea bed of the Aral Sea. Upperclassmen will be creating designs for simple generators that will produce electricity from the flow of water in irrigation canals in rural northern Afghanistan, where there is currently no source of electricity. This is part of a new effort to encourage students to apply their engineering skills to the ever increasing demands of the application of appropriate technology in developing countries.

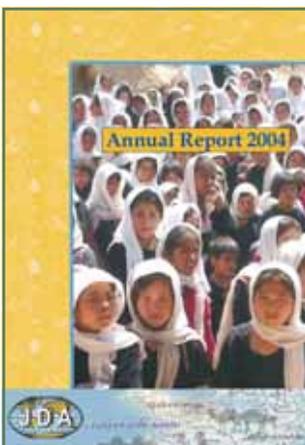
Students graduating from the **Balkh University Faculty of Agriculture** in northern Afghanistan do so with little or no practical knowledge of how to conduct even simple agricultural research due to poor research infrastructure and limited funding. A recent grant is funding a 4 months learning opportunity that will focus on providing professors and 250 students with experience in applied agricultural research. They will gain hands on knowledge by running a soybean variety trial and by conducting “simple mass selection of a corn variety” to improve it. These are skills basic to agricultural research and development and they will gain valuable learning in plant breeding and agronomy.

### A note from Bob Hedlund, CEO and Founder

Since the beginning of the year, my wife Cathy and I have met with civic groups, church groups, business men and women, educators and students. We've spoken in large meetings and in living rooms. We have enjoyed every opportunity you have given us to raise awareness for the need for continued development in Central Asia. It has been encouraging to find so many of you interested in the lives of the people and their culture, and most recently, the changes in the political climate of the region.

If you haven't had a chance to attend a presentation of JDA's work in Central Asia, visit our website <http://www.jdainternational.org/>.

There are stories about fashion, lives of crime, creativity, aquaponics, RALF—soybeans for Afghan poppies, past newsletters and most importantly, transformed lives and communities.



Our Annual Report for 2004 will be printed in Uzbekistan in September and available for mailing in October. The report was delayed due to a financial audit, which JDA provides to its funding partners. Regular financial supporters will automatically receive one in the mail and we are happy to send copies by request as well. It will also be posted on the website in October.



*Equipping and training our staff to be agents of change in their countries, includes computer design and layout. Nozila took up the challenge, and has professionally designed JDA brochures, the Annual Report and our website.*

Annual Report and our website.

Thank you for your continued support,



Go to [What's New](#) on our website and check out our videos and photos.

Audiences are always moved when we finish our presentation with the video:



Karakalpak Images

***The families living in the rural communities of Uzbekistan and northern Afghanistan need your help in developing their capacity for education, jobs, clean water, and health. They need our assistance now, but not forever. You can help now, when they need it the most, by giving financially or by donating your time and skills.***

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