

JDA International

Afghanistan

November 2011



Discover Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the richest countries in mineral reserves; it has one of the largest natural resource treasures in the world but frequent wars have prevented the country from making profit, investing in its economy or building its wealth.

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to **Scenes from Afghanistan**. We've created a monthly letter that will give you a glimpse of Afghan life and what JDA does there. It's an opportunity for you to meet the people we touch and see the places we visit.

One family, one community, one school at a time, the JDA staff works in a country most of us might be afraid to visit. They do an amazing job. Our community development programs such as Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), agricultural initiatives and university training provide the basis for peace, economic stability and human development.

We are always interested in your feedback and questions. Please feel free to copy and share this letter with others interested in our work. **Scenes** is also available by email. Visit our website www.jdainternational.org to sign up.

For all of us in the US and Afghanistan,

Bob and Cathy Hedlund

Puppets Teach About Germs

JDA is pioneering an innovative approach to teaching young children basic hygiene practices.

The program for 1st through 4th graders was the first of its kind in Afghanistan, and children and teachers alike enjoyed the presentation. Students followed the story of a girl who got sick because she was eating unwashed fruit, didn't wash her hands and her home was not clean.

Children watched and listened to the speaking microbe puppet and understood how it came from a dirty environment, especially latrines and how the microbe could spread disease.



The kids were also introduced to a bio-sand filter, how it works and the importance of drinking clean water. Each school received four bio-sand filters, and the school's technical staff learned how to take care of them. All kids and teachers who participated in the program received a special coloring book about the importance of hand washing.