STARFISH PAKISTAN

Company Profile

OUR MISSION

Giving hope to The Children Of PAKISTAN

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Message From The CEO

Starfish Pakistan was established in 2003, with an aim to help and launch a platform to aid the Christian community. This remarkable work was started by Mike and Kirsten Wakely who made sure that the problems the Christian community was facing in Pakistan were catered to properly. The medium that was opted for this task was education. It is our belief that giving an individual the right to an education makes a huge difference in their tomorrow. Today, Starfish Pakistan stands as a reputable establishment which acts as a helping hand investing in the individuals so that they can have a brighter future, full of opportunities.

Perhaps, this would be better understood if explained this way: We want to change the mindset that many in our community have. Give identity to these children, inspire them, empower them and equip them with the skills that will help them build their own future.

We, as an establishment, do only a small part. The rest is the hardwork of the schools and individuals we invest in. Our main focus is to give back to the community, create a cycle where everyone is connected to each other in helping build a place where our oppurtunities are shared and their dreams are as important as any other citizen of Pakistan. In this way the Christian community can contribute to the prosperity of Pakistan.

This is why i call myself a proud Pakistani Christian. Pakistan Zindabad!

ANSER JAVED
CEO - STARFISH PAKISTAN

Introduction

Introduction

The inspiration and realization of the imminent need for a charitable organization, aiming to help and support the minority groups of Pakistan, was born out of a series of events. The 1997 flood in Lahore brought with it devastating consequences, that resulted in the destruction of homes. In answer to a pastors' call for help, a community of 35 Christian families was re-established with the help of funds raised through Tearfund UK. the said funds were used to construct houses and Churches. Collaboration with Caritas Pakistan to run the Ananias Home for Blind Girls, and with the Fellowship of Christ attempting to help and educate poor Christians, the idea that lead to the formal conception of Starfish Asia was born. Starfish Asia raises financial resources and channels these to starfish Pakistan that provides direct help to the poor. The support is given to schools and homes for disadvantaged children, with projects being run by trusted local frontrunners who share the aim of helping and bringing about a positive change in society. Mike and Kristen Wakely's vision of establishing a charity with the sole function of meeting the needs of the poor and the underprivileged lead to the birth of this Trust.

STORY

Several inspirational accounts have been documented from the work done by Starfish Pakistan. These accounts act as a reminder of the reasons and purposes served by these charities, and inspire everyone to work harder to help build someone else's future.

10 year-old Imran who worked alongside his mother and father making bricks at a brick kiln near his house, fell ill with TB. Around Easter 2007 a Christian family that runs a school for brick kiln workers' children found him lying in the sun while his life was ebbing away. They took him to the hospital, and went the extra mile to nurse him back to health, providing care that is rarely shown to the poor.

The events of the October 2005 earthquake were a devastating tragedy, killing more than 70,000 people and making millions homeless. A small community of Hindu survivors made their way to Hasanabdal, a Sikh pilgrimage center, to find refuge. As a minority community they received little help from official agencies. Robinson, who was working in senior insurance management in Islamabad, was moved by the refugees' plight and opened a school for the children. RCDM School in Hasanabdal, west of Islamabad, now provides education till the high school level to 130 children from Hindu, Sikh and Christian families.

What We Do

Schools

Orphanages

Scholorships Programme

Blind Centres

Teacher Development

Services

The main aim and focus remains on providing education that will strengthen communities and enable them to eventually support and build a future for themselves. The trust is built on compassion for the poor and the downtrodden, as well as collaboration with all local and individual parties attempting to shape a similar reality. This fosters a trusting and committed relationship with those who possess greater insight and a conviction to the purposes and aims which first lead to its conception. These aims continue to shape its ideas and struggles, and exhibit staunch belief in the principle “we know we cannot help everyone, but we can help some.”

Starfish Pakistan focuses mostly, but not exclusively, on Christian minority populations who face prejudice and often lack any other means to educate their children. The importance of such charitable trusts can be seen due to the social and religious divide in Pakistan where fundamentalism and institutional injustice towards minority religious groups have left millions deprived and marginalized.

Christians in Pakistan originate mainly from the poorest sections of society, and are therefore limited to manual labour and little to no educational opportunities. A long and violent history of discrimination and injustice has followed minority groups, especially Christian communities, since 1947.

Mob violence in Gojra, Shantinager, Joseph Town and Kot Radha Kishan against Christian communities as well as terrorist attacks, such as those at All Saints Church in Peshawar and in Youhanabad, claimed the lives of hundreds of Christians. This is further proof of the importance of such an organization dedicated to protecting the interests of minority groups as well as providing them with equal opportunities and better quality of life.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan documents many cases of prejudice and discrimination against Christian minorities, where the State and the accepted social systems place any religious ideologies that are not consistent with Islam as unacceptable. This often results in women and children facing the greatest burden of religious extremism. The trust therefore, exists to protect the rights of these marginalized groups in Pakistan who often find themselves at the receiving end of prejudice, discrimination, bigotry and chauvinism.

School Support Programme

School Support Programme

As of 2018, Starfish fully or partially supports 50+ schools and has enrolled over 70,000 students. The schools vary in size, with the largest being a high school with a student body of more than 650, whereas the smallest contains just three or four primary School classes and fewer than 50 children. Currently, 18 schools are supported in city suburbs. Many of the Pakistani Christians live in family communities. Working labourers, domestic cleaners, street sweepers and sanitary workers survive on impossibly low wages. The Holy Shepherd Grammar School in New Mianwali Colony was opened by a Pakistani couple who were concerned with the plight of this needy community. Starfish Pakistan began supporting this school in 2004 when its founding donors retracted. It had 200 students studying in a school building which was in urgent need of repairs. Under the leadership of Anser Javed (now the Starfish Pakistan's CEO) and his wife, the school grew and injected new hope into the community. The student body is now 650.

Walter, whose family resides in a village in central Punjab was troubled by the lack of educational facilities and decided to open a small primary school in his village. He appealed to friends for help, to which Starfish Pakistan responded with a monthly grant that was supplemented by small school fees and other family help. Approximately 140 Christians and Muslims students study together, building a rural community with hope for the future. Starfish Pakistan currently supports 5 village schools, as well as several schools for the children of brick kiln workers. The Friends Primary School near Kasur has over 200 children, and another 200 go to the Miracle School in Youhannabad. A further 160 attend the Light School in Sheikhupura. The Holy Shepherd School in Karachi has served a community of low-wage Christians for 10 years, and currently has a student population of 650 students at the school, supported by Starfish Asia.

70,000+
Students Supported

50+
Schools Supported

25+
Schools Built

Support Centres

Support Centres

In a society that has limited avenues for the rehabilitation of abandoned and underprivileged children, Ashraf Naheed, a school teacher, and his wife Wilma opened the Abba Home in 2007. This was started with the support of Starfish Asia at the time, and is now is the responsibility of Starfish Pakistan. Abba Home came into existence as an outcome of the harsh realities Ashraf had to face growing up with two younger siblings, who had all been orphaned at a young age. He made his way through all the hardships to a point where he wanted to start an initiative that would serve as a house of love, compassion and respect for the young ones who have lost their families. Abba Home Orphanage, which literally translates to, Father's Home, is an orphanage for girls who have lost their families and had no one to turn to. Abba Home currently houses 32 Christian girls, who prevail from different areas with a dark story of their own.

According to Ashraf, the setup currently strives to provide shelter, medicines, clothing, and education, as well as recreational facilities, awareness, skill trainings, relief work and networking. For this purpose, Abba Home welcomes university and college students for weekly classes on extracurricular subjects and training sessions. The orphanage aims to empower the oppressed and deprived orphan girls to a point where they can emerge as confident, empowered and self-sufficient women, capable of earning for themselves and making a name in this world.

1
Blind Centre

80+
People accomodated

3
Orphanages

100+
Kids Accomodated

Scholorship Programmes

Scholorship Programme

According to the statistical data, only 1% of the current christian population have access to college education and are able to compete on grade 12 to 17 pay scale government jobs. In addition, only 0.5% Christians have the required level of higher studies and professional education. All schools supported by Starfish have access to a basic level of education i.e. matriculation. However that is just the first step. From this pont on, education becomes expensive. Keeping this bleak reality in mind, Starfish Pakistan offers scholarships. It prioritizes the students graduating from Starfish Pakistans' supported schools for the said scholarships but also extends this facility to other deserving students. These may be for educational purposes or for vocational training, such as the vocational training centre in Karachi or the Christian Technical Training Centre in Gujranwala. Some extremely talented learners have also been supported for their MA and MPhil degrees. Starfish Pakistan aims to strive for the very best, as per their abilities, to equip a generation of qualified Christians to reach their maximum potential. Current scholarship funding needs are about £1,000 / $1,500 a month.

700+

Scholorships provided

Teacher Development Programme

Teacher Development Programme

Starfish Pakistan believes that a well-trained mentor is the key to making successful and responsible citizens of tomorrow. For this purpose, the Starfish Teacher Development programme has taken initiative to conduct workshops aimed at polishing the capabilities of teachers. Till date, 18 training workshops have been conducted which have benefited over 450 teachers.

On November 14th, 2014, a one-day teachers' training was held at Dar Ul Hikmat Education Center, near Youhanabad, Lahore, and encompassed the teachers of schools that collaborated with Starfish Asia. Organized by Mr. Ansar Javed, National Director of Star Fish Pakistan, the workshop featured two trainers, Mr. Ian Anderson and Mr. Steve Curran. Realizing the importance of building a strong foundation for young minds, Starfish Pakistan took the initiative to conduct a pre-primary teacher development program on the 12th March, 2016.

In June 2016 and June 2017, Starfish Pakistan conducted a survey with the help of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, of about 100 teachers, who then went on to attend a 3-day training workshops in Murree.

In addition, Karen Gledhill, a former School principal from British Columbia Canada took a 2 hour session on "Teaching Techniques" with teachers from Starfish supported schools on 8th October, 2016.

Starfish has also been involved in a range of workshops such as a workshop to discuss the importance of a strong curriculum on March 5th 2016 titled: 'What is Curriculum? Workshop'. The workshop attracted more than 35 teachers from ten various schools. Schools sponsored by Starfish Pakistan have also had training workshops conducted via 'The Citizens' Foundation." which explored an array of diverse themes, such as leadership & team building, problem solving, extending feedback to teachers. In addition they were given an introduction to school finances & human resource management.

29
Workshops Conducted

450
Teachers Developed

25+
Scholorships Provided to Teachers

Major Projects

Abba Homes
Adams Christian School
Agape Homes
Amazing grace School
Ananias home caritas
Aog Light
Cavalry Model School
CGA SCHOOL
Daud Grammer School
Dean Public School
Friends Public School 1
Friends Public School 2
Ghauri Wisdom School
Gordan School
Herf Home
Holy Field School
Holy Shephard School
Kingdom of Heaven Ministery
Light School System
Marjorie School
Mission School System
Morning Star School
Mother Nest
New Life Christian Education
New Life School
RCDM
Right Way School System
Rising Star School
Sambhal Education System
Shama Scholors
St. James' School
St. Paul School
St. Peters' School
Star Public School
Tahir Model School
Talent School
The Light Home School
The Shine Education
Wahidabad Middle School
Zeenat School

Major Steps Taken By Starfish Pakistan

Starfish Pakistan works diligently to bring about a positive change in the Christian community. The ideology enacted is one that aims to support, guide and liberate individuals in a manner that makes them capable of creating their own future. To bring this change, Starfish Pakistan embarked on a journey that was both challenging and rewarding. It broadened the horizons for the organization and received help from around the globe. This enabled it to establish firm roots in the country. Till date, approximately 70,000 children have received education in schools supported by Starfish Pakistan. Working with partner ministries in Pakistan, it supports 32 primary, middle or secondary schools, provides for 7 homes for disabled, blind and orphaned children, a vocational training centre and provide scholarships for students pursuing a higher education. They give numerous gifts directly to the suffering and needy kids and provide school books for children in our schools. Their partners in Pakistan are capable, committed people who often achieve goals with very limited resources.

70,000+
Students Supported

50+
Schools Supported

7
Support Centres

700+
Scholorships Provided

Our Donors:

Starfish Asia supports schools and homes for disadvantaged children in Pakistan.
Our priority is the Christian minority population who face prejudice and often lack any other means to educate their children (although our schools also educate many Muslim, Hindu and Sikh children).

STARFISH ASIA

Our projects are run independently by trusted local people who have a vision to bring about change in their communities.
We focus on education which we believe will strengthen communities to eventually support themselves, giving them hope and a future.

How to Donate:

Your donation, small or large, will make a huge difference to the lives of people in Pakistan.
Contact on the given number for information or visit www.starfishpakistan.com

Contact office:

Anser Javed
+92 346 280 2646
Starfishpakistan@hotmail.com

Bank deposit:

Account Title: STARFISH PAKISTAN
Account No. 0464-00509420-1026
Faisal Bank, New Garden Town Branch.

Contact Information

Adress:	H. 205, Opposite 58, S Block, Model Town Extension, Lahore
Telephone:	+923462802646
Email:	starfishpakistan@hotmail.com
Website:	Starfishpakistan.com
Twitter:	twitter.com/starfish_pak
Facebook:	facebook.com/starfish.pakistan
Instagram:	instagram.com/starfish_pakistan

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