



BOND STREET THEATRE

peacebuilding, empowerment & healing through theatre



August Newsletter

Greetings!

We are excited to share this update from Afghanistan!



Here is an uplifting **success story** from our ***Creativity in Action*** project. In **Balkh**, in northern Afghanistan, we trained a group of youth to identify and solve problems in their community. These youth volunteers are now changing the lives of street-working children throughout the city of **Mazar-i-Sharif!**



Background: This winter, we initiated our ***Creativity in Action*** program in **25** provinces across Afghanistan. Here's the gist: BST trainers teach week-long youth leadership workshops using techniques from theatre and visual arts. Next, youth from two disparate provinces come to our facility in Kabul and, together, share the needs in each community and work on practical plans to solve them. The youth, ages 18-25, are inspired and motivated to address issues that they identify, and encourage other youth to join them in their efforts. This volunteer teamwork has been wildly successful! Projects range from cleaning city streets, to getting working children to school, to creating awareness on domestic violence and women's rights. You can read more details about the project [here](#).

The Balkh group's project, developed during our training session in Kabul, is to counter child labor, support working children, and foster the next generation. The group bought a tent, selected 30 children to work with, and led **one month of creative activities, educational field trips, and workshops in literacy, basic social skills, and children's rights.**



And look at all they've accomplished!

- Since the workshop, **16 of the 30 street children have been enrolled in school**, some for the first time.
- Local businessmen and provincial council members agreed to fund the children's school fees and supplies, thanks to the persistence of our youth leaders.
- The original group of 15 trained youth inspired **40 additional volunteers!** Through an active Facebook group (200+ members) and word-of-mouth, the leadership team continues to grow.
- The project has had a major impact on the local government: they have **established a new commission to focus solely on children's issues.**
- The program has proven to be **sustainable!** The leadership team secured additional funding to continue the program with a new name: *Khaima Mehrabani (The Thank you Tent)*. Now, additional street children can join in the programs.

This project started with **a small grant, an intensive training process, and a big idea.** It has had a **huge** impact across community lines. We are proud of the Balkh group's dedication, resourcefulness, and impact, and wish them luck as their project continues!

Want to hear more stories like this? Consider [making a donation](#). Your hard-earned dollars can directly impact arts-based community improvement programs, like in Balkh!



Next month: Results of our youth-led projects in **Kunar** on women's rights awareness and actions to save their fragile environment. Stay posted!



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In the face of global challenges, Bond Street Theatre continues to bring creative, humanitarian assistance to troubled areas around the world... thanks to you! Your support makes our work possible. Please give what you can. Thank you!

Bond Street Theatre



Bond Street Theatre initiates theatre-based projects for education, conflict resolution, and healing in areas of conflict and poverty globally, currently in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Kenya and Lebanon.

Please [support our work around the world](#).

Bond Street Theatre is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization,
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