



# The Posterus Foundation

BUILD THE FUTURE

## Contact and General Project Information

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Organization Name	International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF)
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Email Address	byrneIRFF@yahoo.com
Project Name	Utter Bakchar School Construction (Bangladesh)
Total Requested Amount (USD)	\$5,000

## Detailed Organization Information

*Please indicate the organization's tax status. Is the organization a 501(c)(3) or tax-exempt entity under non-US jurisdiction? Please provide details of the organization's state/country of incorporation, tax and legal status and any pending/prior litigation.*

The International Relief Friendship Foundation, Inc. (IRFF) is a duly registered 501(c)(3) tax exempt not-for-profit organization. IRFF was incorporated in Maryland in 1976.

*Please describe the organization's past experience with receiving grant/aid monies, including receipt dates, amounts, sources and contact information of donors. Please provide start and completion dates of related projects and details on current project operations, if available.*

1) In May of 2009, IRFF received a grant for \$3,500 from the Posterus Foundation, which was used to complete the construction of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at the Mackenzie Community School in Zambia. Work began in early June and the classroom was finished

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in July. It is now being used by the school to better serve the needs of its students and will be used to house the first 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at the Mackenzie Community School in the coming 2010 school year.

2) IRFF received around \$350,000 in grants from the Universal Peace Federation (Shunichiro Yoshida - shyoshida@mindspring.com) in the past two years. These grants were used to cover administrative expenses, but primarily to fund microfinance programs in Zambia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru, Uruguay, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal, Vietnam and Palau. These programs are ongoing, as is UPF's support of IRFF programs.

3) In December of 2007, IRFF received a grant of \$13,000 from Divine Acres (David Wolfenberger - david.wolfenberger@gmail.com), which was used to cover the expenses of the Discover True Friendship Service Tour - a service learning program - in Zambia, in which participants began construction on the addition to the Mackenzie Community School that this grant would complete. The dates of this program were July 23 - August 7, 2008.

*Has the organization been able to fully accomplish its previous grant/aid funded goals? Please explain all instances donor-funded projects have not met initial objectives.*

IRFF is committed to using its resources responsibly and takes great care to ensure the success of its programs. With only one exception, all recent IRFF projects have been completed according to plan and budget.

The grant from Divine Acres mentioned above funded a service learning project in Mackenzie, Zambia where participants worked with members of the local community to begin work on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. The main factor that prevented the project from being completed was the fact that the grant was applied for in mid 2007 and given at the end of the year. By the time the project took place, the value of the dollar had dropped significantly, gas prices in Zambia had increased incredibly and the funds - which were meant to cover not only the construction, but also the administrative and travel costs of the entire two week program - were no longer enough to purchase all of the necessary building materials.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom was, however, completed with a grant provided by the Posterus Foundation this year, and was done so according to plan, in a timely manner, and within the stated budget.

*Has the organization worked with volunteers in the past? If so, please provide contact information, dates of service and projects worked on.*

Yes. A significant part of IRFF's work has always involved volunteers, in the past mostly on disaster relief projects and recently mostly as part of service and experiential learning programs. Below is a list of our volunteers from the past three years, as part of our Discover True Friendship Service Tours and our International Experiential Learning Program.

Heylan Tsumagari	hanahetchan333@yahoo.com
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## Detailed Project Information

*Please provide a brief description of the intended project including the expected benefit to the community?*

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As part of its "Community Based Health and Education" program, IRFF-Bangladesh has been running two primary schools in small villages of Bangladesh for 18 years. These two schools in the villages of Jaigeer and Utter Bakchar provide a free education to over 600 students in grades 1 through grade 5, and in addition serve as health centers - where residents are regularly checked by visiting doctors and nurses, treated when necessary, and educated on hygiene and healthy decision making - and as centers for meetings and education for women participating in IRFF-Bangladesh's micro-credit program. These schools are the center of their communities and are vital to their progress. Unfortunately, the Utter Bakchar school, which was built in 1991 and is the only school in a very poor farming village, is in bad physical condition and the community would like to replace it with a new building. The tin roof of the three classroom building is leaking in several spots, damaged by the severe rains that Bangladesh experiences every year from June to September. The walls, made of bamboo and tin are also broken in several places and several of the doors and windows are damaged. The floor, which is only dirt, has become home to cobra snakes and insects, especially during the flood season. While the community has made repairs to the school many times, the continued deterioration of the building and the desire to develop the school into a more structurally sound community center that can serve as a shelter during floods has convinced them that a brick building is needed.

In a country where the literacy rate is below 50% due to a severe lack of access to even primary schools, the Utter Bakchar School educates 300 children a year in grades one through five at no charge to the students or their families. Students come to the school not only from the village of Utter Bakchar, but from other nearby villages that do not have schools as well. A new school building will continue to allow these students to complete primary school in an adequate facility that protects them from the elements and allows them to concentrate on their studies. For students who have countless other distractions in their lives (poverty, a lack of educational resources and work responsibilities at home, to name just a few), having a comfortable and welcoming environment in which they can concentrate on school is an invaluable experience. As it does now, the building will also double as a community center for the people of Utter Bakchar village, serving as a location for the free health clinic and for microfinance training and meetings. The new school will be better able to serve these purposes, however, and will therefore improve the experience for all community members who use the building. Since the new building will be built on elevated earth, it will also be able to be used as a shelter during flooding, which occurs on a regular basis during the rainy season and displaces many families for days at a time.

*What is the expected timeframe/schedule for completion of the project? Has purchasing begun for the project supplies? If so, please provide details below.*

If funded, the construction would begin in December of 2009, after the rainy season is

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over. The school is expected to take four weeks to complete. Purchasing of project supplies has not begun yet.

*What resources (both human and physical) will be necessary to complete the project, including availability and transport? Who are the suppliers?*

A mason and a construction supervisor are needed for the building of the school. 10 full time workers and 15 part time workers (as needed) will work as volunteers, without pay. Materials needed are brick, cement, sand, iron, tin, wood, bamboo, wood, dirt, whitewash, paint and 20 sets of benches and tables. Most of the soil will also be donated by local community members.

*If the project involves construction, please provide a floor plan or diagram of the intended structure or machine?*

The classroom is a simple single-story rectangle, 40 feet long and 22 feet wide.

*Who will manage the deployment of funds and progress of the project?*

Our IRFF-Bangladesh Managing Director, Mr. Humayun Kabir (truefybangla@yahoo.com) will personally purchase all materials, make all payments to contractors and immediately supervise the progress of the construction. The IRFF-Bangladesh Director, Mr. Tetsuya Amano (amano215@yahoo.co.jp) will also monitor transactions and the project's progress. Both Mr. Kabir and Mr. Amano are based in Dhaka, 17 kilometers from the school. In addition, the "Community Based Health and Education" program also reports to the Bangladesh Government's NGO Affairs Bureau, which monitors all NGO programs in the country.

*Who will own the assets of the project? How will this be determined?*

The land for the classroom is being donated to the school by community members. The land and the school itself will be cooperatively owned by the village residents.

*Who will have access to and be able to use the project?*

The 300 students and 8 staff members of the school will use the building on a daily basis. Members of IRFF-Bangladesh's microfinance program will also participate in trainings and meetings at the school and community members will be invited to health clinics held at the site. At times of flooding, residents whose homes have been flooded or damaged will also be invited to seek shelter at the school.

*Please provide a detailed budget for the project including sources and uses of funds.*

14,000 bricks (incl. transport).....	\$1,300
100 bags of cement and 4 truckloads of sand.....	\$650
Iron and tin.....	\$650
Bamboo and wood.....	\$750
Mason and construction supervisor.....	\$450
Dirt.....	\$450
20 sets of benches and tables.....	\$500
Whitewash and paint.....	\$250
TOTAL:.....	\$5,000

*How and by whom will the project be maintained after completion? How will maintenance be funded? What materials will be necessary?*

The teachers of the Utter Bakchar School will maintain the school on a daily basis. Any significant maintenance or repairs will be paid for by IRFF. The materials needed would be the same that were used to construct the classroom - mostly bricks, cement, paint, dirt and/or wood.

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*What type of security will be in place to protect the project? How will security be funded?*

There will not be any formal security for the school other than simple locks on the doors. Utter Bakchar is a very safe village with virtually no crime. The school is an important asset of the community and is very valued by residents; any crime on it is extremely unlikely.

*Monitoring is a key concern for The Posterus Foundation. What types of monitoring will the recipient individual/organization provide Posterus to ensure effective disbursement of funding (photos, video, third-party accounting, etc.)?*

IRFF-Bangladesh will submit a report on the construction of the school as soon as the project is finished. This report will include pictures of the work and of the completed project. They will then submit updates on a quarterly basis to inform IRFF International and the Posterus Foundation about the use of the building.

*Please attach any additional information pages to the end of this request document.*