



# SOMALI ORPHANS PROJECT

*WORLD ORPHAN CONNECTION*

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Somali Orphans Project

## “Healthy Mind, Body, Soul through Play”

### ***History***

Somali Orphans project is a Non-Profit organization dedicated to preserving and advancing the health and well being of orphans in Somalia. It serves the unmet needs of the scores of orphans that call Somalia home. Without a functioning central government, and weak patch-work regional governments; Somali children who have been orphaned by the civil war have no place to turn to. This heartbreaking situation is what sparked to formation of “Somali orphans Project”.

### ***Background***

The “Somali Orphans Project” was incorporated in Kent, Washington in 2006. It was formed by a dedicated and passionate advocate of orphans, Asha Gelle.

The administrative office of the Somali orphans Project is located in Kent, Washington, but the services and support it provides is seen in full effect in Somalia. It runs a small yet thriving orphanage located in Goldogob, Somalia in the Semi-autonomous region of Punt land. The Somali Orphans Project provides a whole host services to the orphans living in its facility.

The Somali Orphans project made a concerted effort to acquire land from the Regional administration of Punt Land, and was successful in that endeavor. Subsequently the orphanage building was erected and opened its doors in 2007. Healthy and nutritious meal are provided three times a day to the 35 orphans that call the orphanage home.

The orphans also receive basic education from five full time teachers that instruct them in English, Somali, Arabic, Science and Arithmetic's.

As an organization have been able to provide the most basic and rudimentary of needs these children; Shelter, food, and education. But in no way shape or form, are we content with the quality of services we provide to these Orphans, and we are continually looking for ways to improve what and how we do things as an organization, and in ways of providing more quality oriented service.

### ***Mission Statement***

“Provide a safe home for the orphaned and abandoned children of Somalia to grow, learn, heal, and build a better life for themselves and for the Somali people.”

### ***Governance***

The governance structure for Somali Orphans project is similar to that of many other Non-Profit Organizations. The Board of Directors make the final decisions that affect the organization, but the board goes to great length to involve staff, community members, stake holders, and the children of the orphanage in the decision making process.

The Board of Directors for Somali Orphans project comes from different backgrounds, professions. Some members have business backgrounds, others have academia and a whole host of different skills and incite that helps the organization achieve its goal in serving the orphaned youth of Somalia.



## Who are Orphans

Somali Orphans Project believes that an orphan is a child 18 and under in which one or more parents have died. Also an orphan could be a child who has been abandoned by their parents or have been separated from their parents through civil unrest or natural disasters.

There is a very old and famous Somali proverb “*No one looking out for them, or access to resources*”; this is the predicament orphans are in. We as an organization work towards making sure the orphans we serve know and understand that they are not alone and that they have the love and support of our staff, directors and the community members that make Somali Orphans Project what it is. We as an organization work diligently to make sure that they also have access to the vital necessities of life.

Somali Orphans Project is not the only Non-Profit organization that is working to serve orphans in Somalia. We as an organization know the importance of working in collaboration other stakeholder and organization that serve this population. That’s why we have taken upon ourselves to work hand in hand with the Punt Land Ministry of Education to ensuring that we are using all available resource to the benefit of our children. Also we plan on reaching out and find other organizations and see what we can learn from them and use those best practices at our orphanage.

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## Soccer Field Project

### Project overview

The necessary and rudimentary needs of the orphans we serve such as food, shelter and education are being met, but our orphanage lacks a proper play ground facility for the children to play in. The children currently play in an empty lot owned by Somali orphans Project adjacent to the orphanage, but is covered with rocks and shrubbery that make it dangerous for them to play in.

The children that currently live in our orphanage have been through many traumatic experiences that no child should ever go through. They live with that fact of know that their loved one have passed away or have been lost in the turmoil of civil war. These children should have an avenue of escape from those thoughts. What better way in achieving that goal then play. We see the clearing of the adjacent field to be used as a playground in which the children can play soccer is need addition to the orphanage.

This idea of creating a soccer field has been in the works for several months but we haven't been able to secure the funding to start the clearing of the field. This is a standalone project in which we are asking financial support to build. The proposed soccer field would be used all 35 orphans that live at the orphanage, of whom all fit the definition of an orphan. After securing Funding for this field, we would immediately start the process of clearing the field and tilling the soil to bring the softer and more pliable soil to the surface and purchase the two goal post need. From start to finish, this entire project would take 30 days to complete.

This type of project has not been undertaken yet by our organization, but it is one that we feel comfortable in being able to accomplish. The total estimate for the project has varied between \$2,000. We have so far to date been able to secure \$1,000 from the Board of Directors for the construction of a simple soccer field. If we were to receive the \$1,000 grant from World orphans Connection, construction could immediately begin, and within 30 days the project would be complete. This is a onetime project, but we hope through other charitable donation that we can increase the quality of life for our children.



### Measuring Success

In every new venture Somali orphans project has taken on, we have always made sure that before we start anything; we have a rubric in place to measure the success or quality of our intended outcome. The first being whether or not we have completed the task at hand within our allotted budget. What we can also look at for this particular project is the overall popularity of the soccer field and taking a census to see how many of our children are using the field on a daily bases. And most importantly documenting and studying the overall change in mood and behavior exhibited by the children.

# Somali Orphans Project

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