

We want to tell you a story, one of the best ever told. It is a story of what has already been and what is yet to come, and exactly how you can help make a direct difference.

Imagine with me, a cricket game in the capital far away that everyone wants to watch in downtown Jalalabad, Afghanistan. For a variety of reasons, few ever get a chance to watch the big game. So an enormous screen and projector broadcasts the big game, and tens of thousands turn out to watch. Shops reopen, and people dance in the street.

Keep in mind, this is the same area where power is contested, where ISIS, Taliban, & the Haqqani network threaten local security and civilian action on a daily basis. And yet, in the midst of all of the insecurity, they watch the game, and listen to speakers. Drummers entice people to dance, sing, and wave the flag in celebration.

This is what winning looks like.



The story turns fast. Now it is the next event, this time hosted in a soccer stadium for tens of thousands, and the crowd swells. Fifty thousand people defy the security warnings and pack into the area, celebrating cricket and soccer, national past-times that children in the area have been playing with pride from a very young age. The Afghan national flag is flying. Afghanistan is back.



Supporting the strong, brave and resilient individuals already working in the community as part of an engaged civil society is critical to any lasting effort to counter violent extremism. We know that empowering civil society is a critical piece of any kinetic effort to defeat these groups.

But what about the women and girls? The page turns. Now imagine a women's day event in the very same district, now in planning stages for its sixth year. The first year, despite the well-known security risks, the women, fully cognizant of the warnings, nevertheless attend with pride. They win awards. There are categories: best poet, best speaker, best dancer, best singer. There are plays, and signing, and community. From the opening moment of the first celebration of Women's Day, women actually began to prepare for next year's event. They began working hard to become next year's best poet, best chef, best orator. They look forward to the event every year and eagerly await the next one.



Over the past five years, and despite the odds, Women's Day (Jalalabad) has attracted over 25,000 attendees. Women are being recognized in an important way for their expertise and contributions to society. And every year support grows for the event, with growing recognition from regional governors, to the US Ambassador in Washington, to the Office of the President himself. In fact, last year, the first lady of Afghanistan, the Honorable Rula Ghani, honored the women for their

participation with an award and personal letter of appreciation for those who organized this brave and important event.

Rula Ghani, First Lady of Afghanistan delivers award.

Women of RC East receive award of appreciation from the First Lady of Afghanistan, Rula Ghani, in 2015.



Currently, the team is rapidly gearing up for an even bigger event for this March 8, 2016, in Jalalabad. This time, our local partners will bring in women from smaller communities outside of Jalalabad for Peace Week, with a variety of events as before but also now including a Peace Feast where women will have

the opportunity to showcase regional specialties and cuisine. Thousands will be fed by local

women showcasing different regional cooking cultures. Women will bring what she can share, to showcase her cooking and celebrate life. A cooking show, an award ceremony, singing and dancing, all will take place in the face of some of the most extreme challenges on earth.



Women's Day 2013

We often don't hear these stories, stories of resilience and bravery. Such stories help fight the prevailing false narrative crafted by extremist groups and often simply projected by a foreign press as the sole narrative about the people from a certain place.

Now, the story turns again. We see the schools, complete with computers and internet powered by solar panels of local origin. These schools are seemingly "on the moon", as remote, cut off and isolated as they are from their counterparts in the cities. And yet, resilient young students work with their teachers and the community to write new stories, and educate and feed young minds.



Students today form the backbone for the citizen journalists that will tell the new stories that will be generative of the kind of narratives that help counter extremism. And some women are already reporting on issues facing Eastern Afghanistan. They will be commended at women's day with video tributes to their brave work from famous female journalists from around the world, shown on the big screen. They will tell their stories of women's day, and the peace feast, reporting and share on social media all about cooking, recipes, and food. In doing so, these journalists both document and demonstrate continued resilience and the pulse of life continuing despite incredible and growing adversity.

We aim to create a kind of synergy, whereby connecting journalists with one another and with their content creates a viral kind of flash mob and surge of attention on prominent women's issues in Afghanistan.

This project to connect local female journalists already enjoys the support from the regional governor, who is using his good offices to offer in-kind specific support in a way that contributes to their safety. Your contribution is therefore matched dollar for dollar (and onion for onion) by the contributions of food, expertise, and sharing that women bring to the stone soup peace feast, the brave work of our collaborators organizing these activities, the citizens that bravely show up by the thousands to attend these events, and by the hard working leaders helping to chart new paths forward for Afghanistan with their own in-kind contributions.

Remote parts of our team additionally offer local journalists continuing assistance via Owncloud, crowdsourced technical support, webhosting, data security, and network connectivity as volunteers who act out of love.

Who we are

The Synergy Strike Force (SSF) is a non-government affiliated volunteer team of networked individuals that provides support to brave local initiatives in Afghanistan to help them continue their truly inspiring and unbelievable progress and work in the face of the challenges they face.

Our team has worked closely with the community for over ten years. We know this region of Afghanistan deeply and intimately. SSF openly operates in eastern Afghanistan, and has empowered and electrified dozens of remote schools on the Af-Pak border, among many other activities.

SSF is comprised of a team of an eclectic array of individuals with a wide array of talents. Individuals are chosen /invited to participate based on their life experience, operational technical knowledge and demonstrated social skills in austere environments. Each of the participants is expected to function in multiple roles. The SSF has established a neutral base of operations where security could be maintained in such a way as to not exclude or greatly limit access by both local people and the volunteers. From that base we have established a base network of internet communications that are serving as a hub site to several outreach efforts in healthcare, education and capacity building activities. The model that we use in Afghanistan can be iterated into a broader initiative and in other societies challenged by the threat of radical extremism.

The primary role of SSF is to support efforts that lead to a higher level of health care, education and capacity for peaceful prosperity.

Summary: "Operation Everlight"

I. Empowering Community Through Sports

II. Women's Week & Peace Feast

III. Empowering Schools with Physical Infrastructure, Computers, Electrification & Connectivity

IV. Empowering Female Citizen Journalists

... & much more

We are powered by a can-do attitude, where we make the seemingly impossible happen, despite the odds. There is no better way to affect both the overall trajectory of Afghanistan and the war on terror as well as help empower and reward Afghan citizens than through making a contribution to a volunteer-powered outfit involving no overhead costs.

SSF has a dedicated relationship with the San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities Program which serves as the vehicle through which all of the funds received directly in the hands of people and powers these activities. We request funds to empower young journalists and to help keep them safe, to offer awards for our Women's Day celebration, to rent projectors for

stadiums, to buy uniforms for the cricket and football teams, and to purchase solar panels, computers, and continue to connect outlying areas. These projects depend on citizens like you for their support as we are not an entity of any government organization. Even a small amount of money in this part of the world goes a long way. It is the difference between a game or not a game, an event or not an event. We thank you for your kind consideration.



All donations are tax deductible via the 501c(3) organization and checks or paypal are accepted INFO HERE. Further documentation about any of these projects and information happily provided upon request. Thank you for your kind consideration!

The donations are being handled by the San Diego ~ Jalalabad Sister Cities Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible.

<http://www.sandiegojalalabadsistercities.org/donate.html>

or

Checks payable and mailed to:

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