

# World Forgotten Children's Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

701 E. Chocolate Avenue, Hershey PA 17033-1240, USA  
Tel: 717/533-8845 (ext 122); Fax: 717/533-8661; help@world-forgotten-children.org



Dear WFCF Friends and Supporters:

As you may know, you have not received WFCF Newsletter during the past two years while the foundation commitment, providing helping hands to the less fortunate children of the world has not changed. We are pleased to share with you the latest issue of the WFCF Newsletter and as always ask for your support and ideas to find our next project to fund!

Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour  
Executive Director and President  
World Forgotten Children's Foundation (WFCF)

Executive Director & President

**Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour**  
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**Saeed Otufat-Shamsi**  
NovoTech Software

## Why Is The Sky Blue?

Anyone who has spent time with a child knows that they often ask the most candid questions. Where do I come from? Why is the sky blue? Why can't I do that? They are also upfront about their wants, needs and feelings. It's mine. I want to walk. Carry me. It hurts. But not all the children are receiving the care and attention that they require.

The United Nations on the World Report on Disabilities estimates 10% of the world's population—approximately 650-700 million people, of whom 200 million are children—experience some form of disability. Many live in unbelievable poverty and isolation! The vast majority of people with disabilities are excluded from schools, churches, and opportunities to work, as well as poverty reduction programs and HIV/AIDS information and services. As many as 80% of working age people with disabilities are unemployed and make up 15–20% of the poorest communities. They live marginalized, isolated lives and often begging is their sole means of survival.

Disabled children are three times more likely to become victims of sexual violence and rape. Other factors, such as physical dependence, life in institutions, and lack of access to legal rights, also make them particularly vulnerable to infection and abuse (UN Report on Disability and Rehabilitation).

Disability in Africa and in other parts of the world is seen as a stigma – a mark of disgrace in the family, bringing bad luck, or a punishment for sin that the parents have done. As a result, disabled children are most often excluded from education, social and community activities. They are virtually guaranteed to live out their lives as the poorest of the poor.

Since the inception of World Forgotten Children Foundation (WFCF) in 2005, the foundation and its board members have demonstrated a deep desire and passion for helping disabled orphans in the most isolated and poorest places in the world. WFCF is an entirely volunteer-driven initiative and 100% of contributed funds go to help orphaned and disabled children in third world countries.

By Saeed Otufat-Shamsi, a member of WFCF Advisory Board

### Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.



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Photo Credit: Live Action News & Opinion

There are many children around the world who are born into loving families, but regrettably, this is not always the case. A percentage of the world's children are physically or cognitively challenged at birth, and are born into low income families where their arrival is not always welcomed. In many third world countries, physically and mentally challenged children are viewed as liabilities and in some extreme cases, due to lack of education and the presence of societal taboos, the birth of these very children is viewed as a curse or God's punishment for a wrong doing of the family. Unfortunately, these children receive the least amount of recognition and treatment, and tend to have a very short life span. Luckily, there are many kind-hearted individuals around the world who do whatever they can to assist these children and provide them with a decent home and upbringing, including Pastor Lee Jong-Rak from South Korea, who provides homes to neglected children such as these.

In a country such as South Korea, every family's dream is to have a perfect child. After the birth of his physically disabled son, Pastor Lee came to the realization that all children deserve a chance, and he has been providing loving homes to neglected infants through his drop-box program, which he initiated in 1998. Outside of the program's building there is a sign with a very strong message that reads, "This is the facility for protection of life, and if you can't take care of your disabled babies, don't throw them away or leave them on the street, bring them here." Through his drop-box program, Pastor Lee has lovingly taken in many children, sent them to school to receive an education, and has simply changed their lives the better.



Photo Credit: Live Action News & Opinion

Throughout the years, children involved in the program have been inflicted with many types of challenges and disabilities, including deafness, blindness, quadriplegia, paralyzation, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and permanent brain damage. In the eyes of Pastor Lee, they all are perfect children of God. He has found them homes at the ad hoc orphanage that he runs with his wife and small staff, which is the only private center for disabled children in South Korea. Today, his orphanage facility includes 21 wards, which currently house children from 2 months to 18 months of age.

By Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, Executive Director & President

## Meet Our New Member!



### Saeed Otufat-Shamsi, MBA

Saeed is an innovative leader, dynamic and results-driven executive with more than 20 years of experiences in establishing and growing businesses. He co-founded NovoTech Software, a leading provider of geotechnical software tools based in Vancouver, BC. Saeed also co-founded West Angel Investment Group (West AIG) with the objective to connect early stage investors to promising start-up companies. As a father of two young children, Saeed is passionate about the wellbeing of all the children; especially those that are less fortunate.

## Members No Longer With WFCF:

Mr. Tom Campton, CPA

Mr. Rowland Harrison

Dr. Manuel Mora

Dr. Edward J. Szewczak

*WFCF thanks the former Advisory Board Members for all their valuable assistance.*

