



Pakistani Consulate officials, other guests and hosts photographed at The Citizens Foundation's eighth annual gala fundraising dinner at Dreams Convention Center

\$100,000 raised for TCF schools in Pakistan

The Citizens Foundation is a success story: Nafees Zakaria

TORONTO – The Citizens Foundation Canada (TCF Canada) held its eighth annual gala fundraising dinner at the Dreams Convention Center in GTA last week. The sold-out event was attended by more than 630 people who came to listen to the TCF story and how it is changing Pakistan's educational landscape for the underprivileged.

The speakers included the Consul General of Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Ms Uzma Shakir, Director, Office of Equity, Diversity and Human Rights, City of Toronto, who delivered the keynote address and really captured the audience with her passionate and candid speech; and Ms Najma Shamsi, the Founding Director of TCF

sorry state of literacy in the country. As a ray of hope, they pointed out the tremendous efforts TCF is making in improving the educational opportunities for the masses.

The speakers also highlighted the fact that despite the wonderful job done by TCF, the need is far greater and growing, and therefore, require the urgent attention of the Pakistani diaspora whose volunteer efforts as well as monetary support can make a big difference.

Consul General Zakaria in his speech also commended the dynamic efforts of The Citizens Foundation for promoting education in Pakistan. "The TCF is a success story, which has grown from five schools in 1994 to 910 schools all over Pakistan currently. It has become the largest

disparities between the Haves and Haves-not. TCF has benefitted Balochis, Pashtuns, Sindhis, Punjabis, Hindus, and Christians even handedly".

The Consul General pointed out that the TCF schools are model in the sense that the opportunities are for all regardless of religious affiliations, caste, creed, gender or sect. As for gender balance, the ratio of boys to girls is 50:50. So, it addresses the issue that the international community often expresses concern about or at times even criticizes Pakistan.

"TCF also gives a comfort level to all Pakistanis who are sometimes posed with questions regarding discrimination on religious ground," he said adding: "TCF has proved that there is no

The evening included raffle draws and other fund raising activities which in conjunction with the money raised through gala ticket sales, yielded in excess of \$100,000 for TCF. The evening, which was emceed by a well known comedian, Ali Hassan, included a sit-down dinner. The event concluded with an enthralling performance by the music group, The Avengers.

About TCF

TCF is a professionally managed, non-profit organization set up in 1995 by a group of citizens concerned with the dismal state of education in Pakistan. It is now one of Pakistan's leading organizations in the field of formal education. As of today, TCF has established 910 purpose-built school units nationwide with an enrolment of 126,000 students. TCF encourages female enrolment and strives to maintain a 50% female ratio in most of its campuses. TCF has an all-female faculty of about 6,300 teachers.

The vision of TCF is to remove barriers of class and privilege and to make the citizens of Pakistan Agents of Positive Change. TCF believes that access to basic education is the right of each individual and not a privilege.

To achieve these goals, TCF is constantly surveying education-deprived locations in Pakistan to extend its network. Each new location is appraised through an

extensive assessment of demographics, income level, number and standard of existing schools in the area, availability of qualified teachers in the area and a number of other criteria.

TCF Canada is a registered charity recognized by Canada Revenue Agency. All donations to TCF Canada are eligible for Canadian tax credit. TCF Canada is audited by KPMG LLP and its audited financial statements for past five years are available at www.TCFCanada.org
The Citizens Foundation Canada is located at: 1877 Featherston Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5L 2T2
Office: 1-905-607-2666 or 1-888-467-2552, Cell: 416-319-5929
email: tcfan@hotmail.com



Nafees Zakaria



Uzma Shakir



Aziz Rakla

Canada. These speakers were preceded by a welcome address by Mr. Aziz Rakla, President of TCF Canada, and a video message from Mr. Mushtaq Chapra, TCF Chairman. The speakers emphasized the urgent need for improving the educational opportunities to millions of under served children from the slums and rural areas of Pakistan.

Quoting numbers and statistics, they highlighted the gap that exists in the society and how some of the present problems Pakistan is facing are directly attributable to the

national education program by any non-profit, non-government organization". The significant growth of TCF schools, he added, is a manifestation of confidence that the people in Pakistan and abroad have reposed in its transparent, successful self-sustaining mechanism and the credibility of those who are running it.

Mr Zakaria further said that the TCF is promoting the spirit of coexistence in a diverse nation state of Pakistan. "The underlying objective is to bring national harmony and lessen

discrimination. Just to cite an example, Chak-58 Faisalabad Schools have 150 Christian children out of 301 students. It is a common situation in other locations as well. Likewise, in government schools also one may not see any discrimination".

Mr Zakaria concluded with his personal message and appeal to all Pakistani community members:

*"Ilm Ki Roshni Ko agar Hei Phelana
 Tau Mere Humwatno Humein Yeh Qadam Hei Aaj Hi Uthana."*



Ali Hassan



Guests at TCF's annual gala fundraising dinner at Dreams Convention Center

Super Asia
 Foods & Spices Ltd
 285 Vaughan Valley Blvd., Woodbridge, Ont L4H 3B5
 Tel: 416-746-5550 Fax 416-746-5449