



The Marshall Legacy Institute Newsletter

September 2012

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### **Tell Your Friends!**



MLI is thrilled to announce that we have been rated four out of four stars by [Charity Navigator](#), a premier independent charity evaluator! Charity Navigator conducted an in-depth evaluation of MLI's finances, accountability, and transparency, and gave us their highest rating!

Additionally, MLI was vetted and approved to be part of the [Giving Library](#), a new forum for interested philanthropists to learn more about non-profit organizations by watching a series of short videos. Check out MLI's President, Perry Baltimore, speaking about our programs [here!](#)

If you have a [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) account, please consider sharing this great news with your friends!

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 10, 2012 - 15th Annual *Clearing the Path* Gala - Fairmont Hotel, Washington, DC**

Mark your calendars! On October 10, 2012, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) will celebrate its 15th Anniversary and again host the Clearing the Path Gala to honor leaders whose extraordinary efforts have improved lives in war-torn countries. It will be a night for food and dog lovers to unite to hear compelling stories and enjoy scrumptious dishes and entertainment from around the world.



MDD Team of the Year

This year's Mine Detection Dog of the Year, MDD *Spartacus* (sponsored by the schoolchildren at 7 Lakes High School in Texas), is flying in from Sri Lanka with his handler and the two will demonstrate how man's best friend "sniffs out" landmines to make the world a safer and better place for all.

We will also be honoring Mohammed Abdul Karim from Yemen, who lost both of his arms and an eye in a landmine explosion. This brave young boy has shown incredible tenacity in the face of tremendous obstacles. Unfortunately, Yemen did not have the capacity to meet his medical needs, so last year, we flew him to Jordan to receive one functional prosthetic right arm/hand and a cosmetic left arm/hand. This October, while he is in the U.S., we hope to provide additional rehabilitative care for his arms and eye.



Mohammed receiving a prosthetic arm last year in Jordan

The gala evening will also recognize the great work done by MLI's CHAMPS Afghanistan Program Manager, Akmal Ghafori. Mr. Ghafori will be joining us on a live video feed at the Gala's reception! The MLI Humanitarian Award will be given to two outstanding leaders, Jim Lawrence and Donald Patierno, who together have nearly 80 years of distinguished Federal service.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join MLI for a festive and exciting evening at the Fairmont Hotel on October 10th!

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**2012 GALA HONOREES:**

MDD Team of the Year - DKN Rohan and MDD *Spartacus* - Sri Lanka  
 Survivors' Assistance Award - Mohammad Abdul Karim  
 CHAMPS Award - Akmal Ghafori, CHAMPS Afghanistan Program Manager  
 Humanitarian Awards - Jim Lawrence and Donald Patierno

**ENTERTAINMENT:** World Children's Chorus of Washington

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** Jack McGee, Actor

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (*invited*)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012

**TIME:** The Reception will begin at 6:00pm and Dinner will begin at 7:00pm.

**WHERE:** Fairmont Hotel, Washington D.C.

Individual tickets are \$250 and sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500. Please contact [Tycie Horsley](mailto:Tycie.Horsley@fairmont.com) (703-243-9200) for more information about the Gala, sponsorship benefits, and tickets.

Interested in sponsoring the Gala? There are many benefits! [Please click here to read about the many sponsorship opportunities and benefits.](#)



## Mine Clearance Begins in Olovo, BiH!

Last April, MLI partnered with the Mine Detection Dog Center in BiH and held the first Mine Awareness Night to Make a Difference (MANMADE) Dinner in Sarajevo, BiH. Raising more than \$100,000, the event had strong support from the American Chamber of Commerce in Sarajevo and the United States Embassy in Bosnia Herzegovina, as well as dozens of businesses, governments, and other caring individuals. The funds raised that evening are being used to clear mine fields, deliver Mine Risk Education and help landmine survivors in Bosnia. With the support of the U.S. State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, which generously matched funds raised during the MANMADE Dinner, the mine-contaminated land around the town of Olovo, BiH is being cleared.



Sponsored by the schoolchildren of New Hampshire, MDD Granite is saving lives in Bosnia Herzegovina

We are thrilled to share with our supporters that **the mine-clearance project began last week in Olovo**, where two of our MDDs - MDD *Charlie* and MDD *Granite* - are working to "sniff out" landmines and save lives in that area. Tragically, just a few weeks before the work in Olovo began, a six year old boy was killed by a landmine as he was gathering firewood with his father. This highlights the importance of the work being done and MLI would like to once again thank the generous sponsors of the MANMADE Dinner, who made this possible. The US State



Sponsored by Pfizer, MDD Charlie is sniffing out mines in Olovo with MDD Granite

Department's Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement and the Embassy of the State of Kuwait served as PLATINUM Sponsors, and the many BRONZE Sponsors included two US-based businesses, Brother & Sister Food Services, and EJA Trucking. Because of the success of that evening, and with the help of MDDs *Granite* and *Charlie*

(sponsored by the schoolchildren of Kingston, NH and Pfizer), the children and parents in Olovo will no longer have to fear these deadly weapons of war.

## Survivors' Assistance Program in Lebanon a Success!



One of the many landmine survivors in Lebanon who is now able to walk because of this program

This summer, MLI partnered with the American Task Force for Lebanon (ATFL), the Lebanon Mine Action Center, and the Landmine Resource Center at the University of Balamand to launch a comprehensive program to assist landmine survivors. With funding from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement and generous ATFL private donors, this highly successful program is providing critically needed medical care, prostheses, vision care, and vocational training courses to 90 landmine survivors from the Bekaa Valley, Mount Lebanon, and the South of Lebanon.

Thirty of the survivors, ranging in age from 22 to 73 years old, were identified as needing prostheses and other medical care. The vocational training is being provided to 60 of the survivors and their family members, and includes computer training classes to improve their skills, enabling them to become more competitive in the job market. The training includes a 12-session course that focuses on basic computer program functions and internet usage. Survivors range in age from 14 to 52 years old. Upon graduation from the computer training course, the survivors will be presented with certificates of completion.

## Four Mine Detection Dogs Arrive in Iraq!

Two weeks ago, after completing their first phase of training at the Global Training Academy (GTA) in Texas, four new MLI Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) arrived in Iraq to be paired with their Iraqi handlers at the Iraqi Mine Clearance Organization (IMCO).

Accompanied by two experienced trainers from GTA, the dogs have now begun the next phase of their training with their handlers, preparing for their work in Central and Southern Iraq where they will "sniff out" mines and save lives.

The MDDs were generously sponsored by children in the Model U.N. (MUNSA) program in San Antonio, Texas, the Parkinson family, and the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.





MDD *Legacy*, sponsored by the children in the Model U.N. (MUNSA) program in San Antonio, Texas



MDD *Kimberly*, sponsored by the Parkinson Family



MDD *Parky*, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State



MDD *Friendie*, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

## Hope for the Future: Akhter Mohammed



Akhter Mohammad after the landmine explosion

Afghanistan has been devastated by fighting and wars for many decades, which has left much of the country littered with landmines, unexploded ordnance, and other weapons that lie in wait for the unsuspecting foot of an innocent man, woman, or child. Over the past several years, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) has provided 28 Mine Detection Dogs to "sniff out" the landmines in Afghanistan, while also helping hundreds of landmine survivors by providing medical assistance and vocational training.

One of the young landmine survivors that MLI has been working with for the past several months is Akhter Mohammad, who was tragically injured when he was just 11 years old. In 2007, Akhter was playing with his classmates outside of their school in the Rohi Doaab District of the Samangan Province when they discovered an anti-tank landmine and a smaller anti-personnel mine. Not realizing the danger, Akhter and his friends began playing with the mines, with tragic results. The explosion that took place killed two of Akhter's friends and left him with a seriously injured leg and missing his left hand.

After the explosion, Akhter lay bleeding for nearly an hour before his uncle found him and carried him home. With no hospitals or clinics in the area, Akhter spent the next few weeks in agony as he recovered in his family home. The pain in his leg continued to worsen and the family worried that the infection would spread throughout his body, so the uncle made the difficult decision to amputate Akhter's left leg in order to save his life.

Despite the devastating circumstances, Akhter was determined to return to school

and get an education. His family could not afford a prosthetic leg to help him walk, so the next five years were a struggle, but Akhter persevered and is now in the 9th grade. MLI's Children Against Mines Program (CHAMPS) has been raising money to help Akhter since March 2012, when we first learned of his tragic story. Over the past few months, Akhter has been using one of MLI's computer centers in Afghanistan, improving his computer skills and learning English. Thanks to the support of caring people like you, we recently were able to provide young Akhter with a prosthetic leg, enabling him to walk for the first time in five years! Thank you for your generous support of the Marshall Legacy Institute as we work to promote hope, growth, and stability in war-torn countries like Afghanistan.



Akhter Mohammad after receiving a new prosthetic leg



Many thanks for your ongoing support as we work towards creating a safer and better world for all people and animals. Wishing you a great month ahead!

Warm regards,

The MLI Team

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