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The Marshall Legacy Institute Newsletter

September 2013

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**You Are Invited to MLI's 16th Annual
*Clearing the Path Gala!***

**October 9, 2013
Four Seasons Hotel
Washington, DC**



The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) will celebrate its 16th Anniversary and again host the *Clearing the Path* Gala to honor leaders whose extraordinary efforts have improved lives in war-torn countries and to recognize those who have made our humanitarian work possible. 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. The Gala will feature a hero dog team that will demonstrate how man's best friend "sniffs out" landmines to make the world a safer and better place for all. The evening will also highlight MLI's life-saving successes in its Mine Detection Dog Partnership Program, Children against Mines Program (CHAMPS), and Survivors' Assistance Program.

HONOREES:

Humanitarian Service Award - Mrs. Cindy McCain
MDD Team of the Year - Mansur and MDD Dexter - Azerbaijan
Survivors' Award - Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
CHAMPS Award - Ashley Parkinson and Tatiana Hoecker
Special Tribute - TBA

PRESENTERS: Senator & Mrs. Mike Enzi (R-WY); Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya
General Gordon R. Sullivan; Mr. Robert Zagunis

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Jack McGee, Actor

ENTERTAINMENT: Asanga Domask and Dancers of Sri Lanka; Hobo Jim

WHEN: Wednesday, October 9, 2013

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

WHERE: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20008

[Click Here to View the 2013 Gala Sponsors](#)

**Purchase
Tickets and Sponsorships**

Please contact Tycie Horsley with any questions about the Gala at 703-243-9200 or tycie@marshall-legacy.org. Thank you for your support!

PROGRAM UPDATES

Children Against Mines Program: A Student's Perspective

By Tatiana Hoecker, CHAMPS Student Leader

The first time I heard about the Marshall Legacy Institute, I was immediately hooked. I had never really thought about landmines before and never considered the huge effects they have on countries; I also love dogs. I was fortunate to be given an opportunity during my last two years in high school at the International School of the Americas in San Antonio, Texas to lead a campaign to raise money for MDD Legacy who is now working in southern Iraq. I am now a sophomore at Eckerd College and have continued to advocate for MLI. I was fortunate to travel on the last MLI donor trip to Sri Lanka this July. We spent a week touring the country's various sights, as well as visited Boo-Oya Army Camp where the mine detection dogs are being trained and housed. The trip was an amazing experience for me especially being able to see the dogs working in minefields in northern Sri Lanka.



MDD Legacy and Tatiana meeting for the first time

Never in my life would I have thought I would be standing 100 feet from an active landmine field. It is unbelievable to me that people live so close to dangerous areas and live in constant fear of stepping on one. This reminded me of how I felt compelled to raise money for this great cause in the first place. Raising \$20,000 is no small task and I worked very hard to reach the goal, however throughout the entire process I never gave up hope. I became passionate about the cause and always knew I could raise the full amount in a year.

During our time in Sri Lanka we visited several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, dipped our toes in the Indian Ocean, walked barefoot through many Buddhist and Hindu temples, climbed a thousand steps to the top of Sigiriya, and bottle-fed baby elephants. One of my highlights was being able to meet Sama, a mine affected elephant who is living at the elephant orphanage in Pinnewala. She stepped on a landmine when she was three years old which injured her front right leg; even though the orphanage staff tried to give her a prosthetic, she never accepted it. While the average age of elephants is 70; Sama, who is now 25, does not look like she will live much longer. When we visited her, she seemed to perk up a little and allowed me to give her a kiss on the trunk. Looking into the suffering in Sama's eyes, I was reminded again why I continue to work with MLI and advocate for global landmine removal.



MDD Lil' Swoop "sniffing out" landmines in Sri Lanka



MLI's Donor Delegation in Sri Lanka, July 2013

Partnership For Iraq Program Update: **Making a Difference**

The Marshall Legacy Institute's (MLI) Survivors' Assistance programs around the world continue to improve the lives of thousands of landmine survivors. Our largest program assisting survivors is the Partnership for Iraq (PFI) program, which is a public-private partnership program that is helping the tens of thousands of landmine survivors who are living in and around Basra, Iraq. With matching funds from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), MLI has partnered with IMCO and the POLUS Center to create a unique and centralized system to: 1) provide vocational training

and medical assistance for survivors in a new facility, 2) provide specialized training and equipment for Iraqi doctors so that they will be able to better assist mine survivors, and 3) create a national registration list for mine survivors, so that their needs can be better assessed and met.



MLI's Kimberly McCasland meeting with the PFI program's Vocational Training Students in Basra

Last May, MLI's Vice President of Children's Programs and Survivors' Assistance, Kimberly McCasland, visited the PFI's headquarters in Basra, Iraq to monitor the program's progress. Though the region continues to be quite dangerous and there were several bombings in Basra during Kimberly's visit that limited her mobility, she was able to visit the Basra Rehabilitation Center (BRC) and met with 20 male landmine survivors who were attending the Air Conditioning Vocational Rehabilitation Course, as well as a beautiful young woman named Iman Hassan.

While visiting, Kimberly learned of the terrible accident that occurred when Ms. Hassan stepped on a landmine as a toddler. The explosion caused her to lose one of her legs up to the hip, and though she received emergency treatment for her injuries, she had never received a prosthetic limb, and so had been forced to use crutches to move around since a very young age. When Kimberly asked the doctors at the BRC if we could help get Ms. Hassan a prosthetic leg, they explained that it was impossible and that they were not capable of making a prosthetic limb for someone with such extreme limb loss.

As part of the PFI program, MLI has been partnering with doctors from the POLUS Center, who are training Iraqi doctors in new techniques to treat mine survivors. One of the POLUS doctors, Dr. Dave Evans, was with Kimberly when she was speaking with the BRC doctors and he excitedly assured everyone that he could, in fact, find a way to provide a prosthetic limb for Ms. Iman. He examined Ms. Iman and, despite doubts from the doctors and technicians at the BRC, he was positive that he could help.

Over the course of the next month, Ms. Iman was accompanied by Ms. Gaida, the PFI Manager and IMCO's CHAMPS manager, for each of her appointments with Dr. Evans and the BRC doctors and technicians. During that time, Dr. Evans not only built her a prosthetic device that enabled her to walk on her own for the first time since she was a toddler, but he was also able to teach the doctors and technicians at the BRC how they could incorporate this new hip and leg prosthesis technology so that they could help additional survivors!

Because of this program, this young woman is able to walk without crutches for the first time in her memory. She has also enrolled in the PFI's Vocational Rehabilitation Center's programs and is taking a computer class. Now that she has so much more mobility, she hopes to receive advanced computer training over the next year so that she can begin teaching computer courses to others! Her new leg has given her a new sense of hope for the future and she is so grateful to everyone who has made this possible.



Ms. Iman being fitted with her new prosthetic leg and hip



Ms. Iman smiling as she stands for the first time on her own!



MDD Betsy and her handler sharing some love in Bosnia-Herzegovina

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Many thanks for your ongoing support as we work towards creating a safer and better world for all people and animals. We hope to see you on October 9th at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC as we celebrate our 16th *Clearing the Path* Gala!

Warm regards,

The MLJ Team

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FOR MORE UPDATES ON MLI'S WORK, PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, PINTEREST AND INSTAGRAM!



[Check out this new video on YouTube about MLI's programs around the world!](#)



MLI was given the Guidestar Seal for our Commitment to Transparency



MLI was given the top rating by independent Charity rating system, Charity Navigator

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