

Dear MMCC Friends, Partners and Sponsors,

Another amazing year in the circus has passed.

In our Kabul centre, **Fariah is now juggling 4 clubs** and has finally lost her first tooth, which allows her to start school after the winter. During the performance season in the spring and autumn, Fariah and her 100 fellow junior artists have this year performed for more than **30,000 audiences in Kabul schools**.

Outside Kabul, more than **150,000 children** in the North, East, West and Center of Afghanistan have enjoyed MMCC's mobile adult team's performances and workshops in 2008. This year the mobile activities in the provinces included educational messages about **Landmine Awareness, Disability and Healthy Life**.

In May 2008, MMCC opened a new 'Khana-e-Sarkas' (**Circus Home**) in **Bamyan**. The first of hopefully many more joyful circus places for Afghan children to come. To see and read more about the Bamyan activities please visit our webpage: www.AfghanMMCC.org or watch a joyful video from the opening at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoazD39L9CY>

The Bamyan Circus Home is part of MMCC's plans for establishing permanent activities in more provinces of Afghanistan. In spring 2009 we plan to open a **MMCC-base in Herat** in the western part of the country – followed by **Jalalabad** in the autumn and another colorful circus space in **Mazar-e-Sharif** in spring 2010. The initial activities focus on training of a team of local children in each of the regions to perform and thereby assist to promote MMCC's ideas and activities to schools and local community members.

Alongside the expansion of MMCC to more regions, and following a successful 'Somersault to a Bright Future' project for and with acrobatic boys in 2007-08, we are now also starting a higher level '**School of Circus**' – aiming to form an **Afghan National Circus Team** to be officially recognized as such within the next three years. The new School of Circus will be led by Shaher Popal, who was also in charge of the successful acrobatic project. To ensure it becomes a true *National Circus*, part of his job will of course also be to visit the new MMCC children in the provinces - and invite the most talented to join the National Team.

Right now it is winter and schools are closed in main parts of the country due to the cold. In MMCC winter is the time where all energy focuses on our huge **educational winter program**. In three months, from December to March, **350 children in 55 different classes**, assist us to develop new educational methods and improve the ideas and concepts that already exists.

This year the winter program is more amazing than ever. With support from the Embassy of Poland we have just finished construction of a new **Educational Experimentarium** as an annex to the main house in MMCC's center. The new annex, that includes **six new class rooms**, enables us to upgrade already existing and include additional school related subjects such as Science, Physics and World Geography to our educational activities. Besides **adding a new dimension** to both the winter program and our teacher training workshops, the new Education Annex will also be the base for a new **Model School Project** aimed to integrate MMCC's innovative educational methods to the regular school system, starting in the spring.

Financially 2008 has been a year of ups and downs – with a **happy ending**. In the autumn the **unique network of MMCC's friends** helped us through a crucial financial crises following refusal of a larger expected grant. **Thank you all** - and a very special THANK YOU Franz-Michael and Zack. We simply couldn't have continued main parts of our activities during these months if it wasn't for your support to find and get the needed urgent funding.

For 2009 and the next couple of years, MMCC is currently in the process of entering into a number of larger **financial agreements** that all together **sustain** our general financial situation. Though the money from big donors and partners are essential for keeping things running on everyday bases, it is however the **private contributions**, that empower us to do all the strange, fun, colorful and often very improvised things, that makes MMCC so unique and very special for children all over Afghanistan. We highly appreciate any contribution that assists us to make it all happen. For more information **please do not hesitate to contact us**.

David Mason and Berit Muhlhausen - E-mail: circus@afghanmmcc.org
Phone: +93(0)700-280140/+93(0)700-229975



Fariah has been part of MMCC since she was four years old, and starts school after this winter.



MMCC's new Circus Home in Bamyan is so far based in a modified container.



No matter how high knowledge – we will reach it.



In 2008 MMCC's mobile activities reached more than 150,000 children.



How many triangles can a person make? Staff training and –workshops have a high priority in MMCC



Thanks to Marc and Lilli's wedding guests we now have a Children Library in our center. THANK YOU ALL who assisted us to make 2008 the most remarkable year in MMCC's history