

Pennies For Peace

Have you ever thought about what a penny is really worth? In the United States, people often pass by pennies in the streets without noticing them. But for the children of Pakistan and Afghanistan, every penny counts!



Life in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Many people who live in villages in Pakistan and Afghanistan grow all their own food, make their own clothes, and walk 10 minutes to the nearest water source, and not all villages have doctors. Many of these villages have no school for the children to learn in. They write their lessons in the dirt with sticks, even when the teacher isn't there! When children are lucky enough to go to school, often it is the boys who go. Girls aren't as likely to go to school. While children in the United States often complain about going to school, children in Afghanistan and Pakistan are excited and happy to go.



How it all Began

In 1993, Greg Mortenson stumbled into the Karakoram Mountains, and ended up in the village of Korphe. The village took him in, and gave him bandages for his wounds. As he got better, Greg helped and played with the children. When he was fully recovered he went to the village's wisest person and asked what he could do to repay the village's people. "Listen to the wind", the wise man said. Greg thought, then he said that the children needed a better education and schools. His mind flashed back to when he saw the children writing their lessons in the dirt. "I will build you a school." He told the wise man.



Education Can Change the World

So far, Pennies for Peace has built 130 schools, educating 51,000 children. Students around the world are learning that they can make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time. Mr. Mortenson believes that when people are educated and have more choices, they are less likely to pick up weapons. In addition, many girls are being educated in an area of the world where they didn't have a choice to go to school before.

