



Mona Foundation Canada

2019 Impact Report



Educate. Empower. Transform.

Greetings from the Board of Mona Foundation Canada

Dear Friends of Mona Canada,

The close of 2019 marks our first complete year as a registered Canadian charity. Formed by a group of Canadians who know and appreciate the valuable mission of Mona Foundation USA in promoting education and gender equality globally, we have seen the power of education to both empower and transform lives. We want to reach out to Canadians to join us in this effort.

With your generosity and help, we are on our way. Last year, we were able to support the work of our partners in three important projects: **Anis Zunuzi School** in Haiti, **Badi School** in Panama and **Barli Institute** in India.

This report shares stories from each partner organization about progress and the impact Mona is making with your support. Pooja's story is instructive and heartwarming:

Pooja Mandloi is a senior trainer at Barli Institute in India. Her mother, Suman Bai never went to school and her father, Nathu, was a compounder who passed away four years ago. He left a meager pension for his family of seven. She has two brothers and three sisters. Each of them attended school only for a few years but could never complete their education and were forced to drop out of school. This made it difficult for Pooja to continue her education.

Fortunately, with a scholarship from Mona Foundation USA, Pooja was able to attend the Barli Development Institute for Rural Women. She passed her high school and higher secondary exams while staying and studying at the Institute and became the first girl in her family to get admission into a graduation college in July 2017. She successfully passed her first year and second year. A Mona Foundation Canada scholarship was used to partially fund the fees for her final (third) year. Pooja is well on her way to her dream of becoming a successful teacher and to help other girls in their educational journey.

This would not have happened without your generous help. Thank you for all you are doing in service to students like Pooja.

Warmly,

Board of Directors, Mona Foundation Canada

"Educate women and their community will prosper. Deny them education and the world suffers."

Afshin Khazei

"I support Mona Foundation Canada because of its focus on universal education and gender parity."

John Guilfoyle

Who is Mona?

Mona is our Malala. Mona Mahmudnizhad was 17 years old in 1983 when she was arrested and later executed in Iran for her Baha'i beliefs and for teaching children's classes. Mona loved children and volunteered in an orphanage since she was 12 years old. She was also an outspoken defender of human rights and wrote a high school essay entitled "Freedom." Because of her beliefs, her service to children, and her outspoken nature, Mona was arrested, with charges ranging from misleading children and youth to being a Zionist. She was executed after nine months of imprisonment. Her youth, courage and commitment to education, service, and social justice inspired us to name the foundation after her.



Barli Institute

India



The goal of Barli Development Institute for Rural Women is to build sustainable community development through the empowerment of young rural and tribal women. Founded in 1985, the Institute has trained over 14,800 women in programs that focus on empowering women by training them in literacy, vocational skills, health and hygiene, environmental conservation and organic farming. The training programs promote gender equality and focus on education and health. This has created significant positive change

among the trainees and their communities. Many of the participants arrive at Barli too shy to introduce themselves but within six months become skilled advocates for themselves. Upon return to their hometowns the graduates embark on community service, conducting literacy classes for other women, and children's classes. With your help in 2019, Barli Institute received a grant of \$9315. The funds were allocated for meals, scholarships, supplies and the construction of a pedestal platform for conducting training in solar drying and paper briquette making.



Board members Caroline and Maya Khazei visit Barli

"Our visit to Barli Institute was incredible. Initially we spent time with the school's directors, Yogesh and Tahera, learning about the programs ambitious outcomes, which also include the use of solar cooking methods. Meeting the new cohort of students was a highlight for us. Both groups were initially shy but after heartfelt introductions and performances based on World Environment Day, we quickly became friends and enjoyed engaging with each other, answering many questions regarding the life and status of women and girls in Canada, farming/environmental practices and government. The potential of these young women is immense and has the power

to evoke sustained change in the family life and current status of women throughout their communities. Despite their late start in formal education and training, many of the participants achieve results in national literacy exams that exceed those who have been enrolled in school since childhood."

Anis Zunuzi School

Haiti



For 35 years, Anis Zunuzí Baha'í School has served the poorest of Haiti's children and grown into a K-12 institution that serves over 400 students. In a country plagued by civil unrest, the school serves as a refuge for the students where they receive a first-class education and are guaranteed lunch (often their only meal of the day) and clean water. Courses provided include language and computing classes, debate, art, music, sciences, and moral leadership. Anis Zunuzi has been close to the heart of many Canadian donors, some who have visited the school over the years.

With your help in 2019, Anis Zunuzi received **\$12,570** towards scholarships. A mix of full and partial scholarships provided the means for **66 students**, 41 female and 25 male to continue their studies at Anis Zunuzi.

One scholarship recipient, Baptiste Benji, has been attending Anis Zunuzi since preschool. He is now in secondary level four (Grade 10) on a Mona scholarship.

"I like the school. I am very comfortable with the management and my fellow classmates. I like the way it works and treats the students, guiding them towards a quality education. I am proud of what I do in all my classes in this great school."

Committed to Education

Throughout Haiti, protests have disrupted daily life and are making it more difficult to access food, shelter and other essentials. Now more than ever, Haitians rely on the transformative power of quality education to break the cycle of poverty.

In light of their country's challenging circumstances, the board of Anis Zunuzi have concluded that additional support is required to resolve current issues and develop a higher level of functioning. To this end, an international board has been established to oversee the progress of Anis Zunuzi School. The creation of this board is an interim measure that will ultimately lead to the development of capacity within Haiti to oversee the operation of the school.

During this important effort, Anis Zunuzi school will pause all financial support from external sources including Mona Foundation Canada and Mona Foundation (USA). We applaud the school's commitment to provide quality education to the children of Haiti and to their ongoing institutional and organizational development.



Badi School

Panama



Badi School started as a kindergarten in a carport over 25 years ago. It has grown into

an impressive K-12 institution that serves more than 400 students from one of the poorest areas of Panama City. Despite the surrounding conditions, the school ranks as one of the best in Panama. Beginning in 7th grade, their arts program gradually teaches more complex techniques, surpassing the University of Panama. The computer lab is powered entirely by solar panels.

Board member Geraldine Guilfoyle visited Badi School on a trip organized by Mona

“Material progress can so easily be reversed in unstable environments but the benefits of intellectual and spiritual education endure and continue to contribute to the progress of the individual and the community.”

Geraldine Guilfoyle

Foundation USA and marked 20 years of support for Badi School.

“Visiting Badi School was inspiring. The students we met were full of joy and purpose. The pursuit of excellence was evident in their approach to their work. Attention to both the arts and the sciences was evident as we visited the robotics lab, enjoyed a musical performance from grade four students and an impressive art display from the senior grades.”

Thanks for your Support

With your help in 2019, **Badi School received \$7,984 towards scholarships.**

This allowed ten students to continue their studies, including a refugee from Nicaragua who received support to complete her Grade 10. Scholarships were for 50% of the enrollment fees with Badi contributing 35% of costs and the students 15%.

How People Are Helping

Giving can take many forms; volunteering one's time and skills, creating and hosting a fundraising event, educating others on the needs of projects we support. We all want to make a difference. We all can, no matter how old or how young. Our youngest philanthropist, Jacoba is learning from an early age that she can make a difference. She has participated in yard sales by donating toys and games and helping with transactions. For her 5th birthday she invited her friends to contribute to Mona Foundation Canada in lieu of birthday gifts.

Giving Circles

While many people choose to donate individually, forming a Giving Circle helps widen the circle of friends and introduce more people to the grassroots education that Mona supports. Giving Circle participants learn about a project they want to support and follow its progress and the impact their efforts are contributing to. Working together, they generate creative ideas to attract their friends and neighbors. Friends working together is so rewarding. Maybe you would like to start your own Giving Circle. We have a slide presentation and pamphlets and would be happy to assist you in any way we can.

North Vancouver Giving Circle hosts a 'Garden Party' in June with music, children's activities and a chance to learn more about Mona Foundation Canada. In 2019 Mahnaz Javid, president and founder of Mona Foundation USA, came to the event to speak about Mona and its global impact.

"I am attracted to Mona Foundation Canada because of its mission of empowerment and community transformation through education"

Maya Khazei

"What attracts me to Mona is their approach that communities know how they can help and support each other and improve their own lives. In my experience, this is the most effective approach to help families and communities."

Mina Dickinson

Squamish Giving Circle

Yard sales are easy and everyone loves to come visit and see what bargains they can find. When they hear that the proceeds are going towards the education of children they often give more than the asking price! Mina Dickinson enlisted her friend Nancy to help her make home cooked meals, which proved to be very popular with friends and co-workers. Squamish Giving Circle has also hosted musical coffee houses where friends gather to listen to live music and learn about the work of Mona. Musicians contribute their talents free of charge.

Vancouver Women's Group

This group has been supporting Mona and its work at Anis Zunuzi School in Haiti since 2011. They meet on the first Thursday of each month, to study together, share a meal and contribute to Mona Foundation. These meetings are organized by Fereshteh Lotfijoo. Since its inception, it has contributed 54 scholarships for students attending Anis Zunuzi. We are delighted that this long standing dedicated group will be helping with scholarships for students attending Barli Institute in 2020.

Youth helping Youth!

We are so inspired by the youth who are engaging in the work of Mona to help their sisters along their journey of education and empowerment.

The World Citizens Youth Group (ages 11-14) raised \$500 for Barli Institute, a six-month residential program for rural women in India with classes in literacy, health, solar technology and organic agriculture. They are learning to be agents of change at an early age. Another young Mona supporter, Sophie Greenwood, raised \$100 for Barli at her school.

Charitable Giving at Work

Does your workplace have a charitable giving for employees?

IBM Canada added Mona Foundation to its list of registered charities. They facilitate payroll deductions at the request of employees and forward the full donation to the registered charity of choice. IBM absorbs any administrative costs thus increasing the efficiency of giving. It was a very welcome surprise to receive help in this way. Our thanks to the supporter(s) who brought us to their attention.

IEMEA (International Emergency Medicine Education Association) is a Vancouver-based

group of emergency room physicians who offer training seminars and emergency medicine courses for health care professionals. These courses generate funds, which are used to support education in under-resourced countries. IEMEA contributes 100% of its net proceeds to Mona Foundation Canada projects often matching donations received at special events.

"I support Mona Foundation Canada because the education of girls and women serves as an effective means of ending poverty."

Caroline Khazei

Annual Report Financial Statement

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Mona Foundation USA and Mona Foundation Canada share some resources and services. Mona Foundation USA provides organizational support for website design and development, web hosting, along with administrative support. Mona Foundation Canada provides printing services for both organizations. These services have been paid for by a combination of in kind and earmarked donations.

INCOME	
Cash Income Unrestricted	
Individuals	21,006
Events	23,980
Cash Income, Restricted, operational cost*	
BC Registration	40
Office Expense	60
Printed material*	2,649
Total Cash Income	\$47,735
Contribution in Kind, cash	
Site visits and annual gala support	3,670
Mona Foundation USA operational support	7,404
Total Contribution in Kind	\$11,074
Total Income	\$58,809

EXPENSES	
Grant Expenses	
Barli	9,513
Anis Zunuzi Baha'i School	12,805
Badi School, Panama	8,075
Total Grant Expenses	\$30,392
Administrative Expenses	
Bank transaction fees	214
Office expense	60
Printed materials to Mona USA	-2,649
Registration	40
Website and Operational support from Mona USA	7,404
Total Administrative Expenses	\$5,109
Total Expenses	\$35,501

* To ensure 100% follow through on commitments to our projects, Mona Foundation Canada disburses funds raised in one calendar year the following year. Income in 2018: \$30,479.37. Grants disbursed in 2019: \$30,367.40.

** We are a 100% volunteer organization, maintaining a low working overhead through the support of Mona Foundation Global.

Mona Foundation Canada is an independent organization, registered under the British Columbia's Societies Act and enjoying registered charities status with the Canadian Charities Directorate. Importantly, it is a sister organization to Mona Foundation USA. Our relationship is one of consultation, collaboration and mutual reciprocity of two independent yet sister organizations who draw their inspiration from the same source, share common goals, values and guiding principles, and who leverage each other's experience, resources and learning in the field to optimize impact and effectiveness.

The board of Mona Foundation Canada wish to acknowledge and thank the ongoing mentoring and support we receive from Mona Foundation USA and its committed staff.

The educational initiatives that we support and are featured in this report serve marginalized communities globally. They focus on academic excellence, skills building, fine arts and character education to develop capable, ethical, and altruistic leaders who contribute to the betterment of their families, communities, nations and ultimately, the world.

For more information:

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