

Keeping a Dream Alive

Connection to children like Mursal embodies UMCOR's mission. But it takes a depot—and the love of volunteers in mission there and across the United Methodist connection—to keep Mursal's dream alive by providing the supplies she needs for broadening her education.

Get Involved!

- **Give money.** Generous gifts to UMCOR Advance #901440, Material Resource Ministry, or #901515, UMCOR Sager Brown, assure that United Methodists will be ready to meet the material needs of beneficiaries around the globe.
- **Volunteer.** For information on volunteering at UMCOR Sager Brown, call 800-814-8765. For information on annual disaster training academies, call 800-918-3100. To volunteer at a specific disaster site, or for international opportunities, call the UMCOR Volunteer Hotline, 800-918-3100.
- **Give supplies.** Actual goods are always welcome. But there are special requirements. For news on most-needed items, specifications, and shipping instructions visit online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/print/kits/>.

How to Give

- By Offering** For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.
- By Check** Make your check to **UMCOR** and send to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115.
- By Credit Card** Call toll-free (800) 554-8583

UMCOR. **Multiplying** **Hope.**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects.

UMCOR
475 Riverside Drive
Room 330
New York, NY 10115
www.umcor.org

Date: July 2004

It Takes a Depot: UMCOR Sager Brown



“I hope you will always make a connection with us,” wrote Mursal, a young Afghan student. She had received a school kit assembled by United Methodist volunteers in Virginia. Other volunteers had processed her kit at UMCOR Sager Brown, located on a

bayou in Baldwin, Louisiana.

The Depot, operated by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, helps connect the church to people in need by shipping donated supplies around the world. In Mursal's case, the long arm of Christian compassion reached nearly 8,000 miles across land and sea—from UMCOR's depot on Bayou Teche to Nazoo Anna Education Center for Afghan Refugee Children in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Many Afghan children like Mursal, who dreams of becoming a doctor, go to school in dire conditions. Few students have books; they copy their lessons from chalkboards. School kits provide them with essential supplies—paper, pencils, erasers, scissors, rulers, and crayons.

UMCOR has delivered shipments of school kits to Afghan children in several places. In addition to the refugee camp in



UMCOR kits arrive at a boy's school in Rabat, Afghanistan.
Credit: Warren Harrity, UMCOR, 2003

Pakistan, UMCOR's international field staff based in Kabul have distributed school kits to children attending school in Rabat, Rokha, and Charikar, Afghanistan.

The Journey Begins

The journey of a container of goods can start with volunteers at the Depot, which shares the grassy campus with a conference center, or it may begin as an initiative of dedicated church members like the people of Virginia Annual Conference who sent Mursal's school kit. In 2003, the Depot received about 40,000 school kits from United Methodists.

During 2003, about 2,700 volunteers worked at UMCOR Sager Brown. Volunteers not only receive training in world mission, but also participate as links to UMCOR's other humanitarian projects in nearly 100 countries. A new volunteer might find the scope of the work surprising. Close to 163,000 kits, valued at \$2.1 million, were shipped from the facility last year.

The Depot welcomes kits and donations of unassembled items.

Top 10 Bulk Supply Needs

UMCOR Sager Brown, July 2004

The top ten list of bulk material needs (listed in order of priority) is as follows:

1. Terry cloth hand towels (15" x 25" or 16" x 27")
2. Metal nail files or fingernail clippers (no emery boards, no toenail clippers)
3. Toothpaste (4.5 oz or larger)
4. Baby sweaters (open in the front)
5. Pencil sharpeners (plain, small, individual sharpeners with no emblems)
6. Cloth baby diapers (cloth only--no disposable diapers)
7. Sewing scissors (adult size for cutting fabric)
8. Baby blankets (receiving blankets)
9. Children's blunt scissors
10. Baby gowns or sleepers

In all cases, the Depot asks participating volunteers to offset the cost of shipping and to follow strict specifications for assembly of the kits. For every kit, or for every 10 bulk items donated, \$1.00 is needed to pay for shipping to the designated location.

Please make the checks for shipping out to "UMCOR Sager Brown" with the word "shipping" on the memo line. Mail the checks separately from the kits or materials to:

UMCOR Sager Brown
P.O. Box 850
101 Sager Brown Road
Baldwin, LA 70514.

Find more information about UMCOR Sager Brown, including instructions for making and sending school, health, and other kits, at <http://www.sagerbrown.org>.