

# *The Ladies Charitable Society* *(LCS)*

**Affiliated to Kahrizak Charity Foundation (KCF),  
A Center for Living, Education, and Rehabilitation of  
Disabled, Elderly and M.S. Patients**



**In special consultative status with The United Nations ECOSOC**

## ***The Ladies Charitable Society(LCS)***

**Founder:** Mrs. Ashraf Ghandehari (Bahadorzadeh)

**Date of Foundation:** 1973, one year after the foundation of KCF by the late Dr. Mohammad-Reza Hakimzadeh

With God's blessings the group started their selfless, humanistic services with two members. Today, 3000 dedicated LCS volunteers inside Iran and overseas fully support "Kahrizak Charity Foundation" and "Home for the Mother and Child"(HMC) with their generous contributions.

- I. **What has the NGO done to educate older persons and/or the general public about the Madrid Plan?**

**The Ladies Charitable Society (LCS) carries out a number of activities that educate older persons and the general public about MIPAA.**

**LCS supports needy older persons from the community of Tehran and the surrounding area. It helps them regain their health, dignity and efficacy for as long as they live. These charitable activities began in 1973 as the organization started to build a series of housing facilities, medical care stations, and educational programs at Kahrizak, Iran, designed to serve the elderly and disabled. Since then, the facility has grown, thanks to the more than 3,000 LCS volunteers who give on-site care, who teach classes, and who visit and who raise funding to improve this facility. In the past 30 years, they have created a home-like living environment that offers care and affection to residents at the Kahrizak Charity Foundation.**

**Their mission is to provide full protection and care to the residents of the Center as well as to a sister project, known as the Home for Mother and Child that focuses on orphaned children.**

### **Section II**

- II. **Which of the 3 priority directions of Madrid Plan (older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; ensuring**

enabling and supportive environments) is the principal focus of the NGO?

The principal focus for Ladies Charitable Society is working to restore and protect the health and well-being of older residents at the Center. They advance this work by assuring a caring environment, excellent medical facilities, abundant educational resources in classes offered on site and freedom from the worries of payment for these services. The Many volunteers take an active part in caring for the elderly and intervening in their care—with friendship, help, and empathy. This attitude makes their work deeply personal and supportive.

- III. What specific accomplishments has the NGO achieved in that area? How has it worked with government, other NGO's and/or others to achieve its objectives?

Over the years, about 850 LCS member volunteers come to the facility located in the southeast Tehran neighborhood of Kahrizak to serve older persons. Since the volunteers assume responsibility for about 50% of the caregiving, costs are reduced.

The volunteers bath and clean the elders, feed them and comfort and talk with them in a helpful, kind way. They learn about the particular needs of each person and try to respond, including grant-giving to personnel.

As immediate health concerns subside, residents can take part in a wide array of educational, cultural and art activities. Here is a partial list: Teaching and practicing literacy in Arabic, religious programs including recitation of the Koran. Other courses include English, drama and agricultural courses. Also, older persons participate in occupational therapy and rehabilitation workshops that teach the skills for tailoring, knitting, carpet weaving, pottery production, leatherworks, horticulture and agricultural production.

The elder residents also participate in activities that involve the entire community, such as preparing for religious ceremonies, residents' weddings and preparing dowries for brides.

Over the years, the NGO has raised funds to build new facilities as well as renovate others. During the past five year period they have

**constructed the “Center for Research and Studies in Aging and Disability and Multiple Sclerosis,” a Convention Hall and a Museum, named the “Yadman Yaran” museum.**

**To support this total care of elders, the LCS must raise substantial funds, based on educating the public about its important mission. In particular, the volunteers based in Tehran communicate with interested persons to help develop the Kahrizak facility, to purchase equipment and other supplies needed to run this large facility. They hold a number of bazaars, including selling products made at the facility in the arts and crafts programs.**

**LCS has reached out overseas to introduce its care model to Iranians and others abroad. LCS branches are now active in London, Los Angeles, San Jose, Seattle and Toronto. By educating others about their mission, LCS attracts aid to continue and expands this work.**

**IV. Are there other significant accomplishments of the NGO?**

**LCS has played a leading role in defining high standards for care of older persons in a major facility in Tehran. LCS has also successfully put aging on the agenda of the Iranian government. In 1999, LCS organized the “First International Ageing conference of Iran in 1999.” A number of action steps and resolutions grew out of this significant conference that have now come into public policy in Iran: First, the Iranian Parliament formed an Ageing Committee to monitor and propose aging policy. Second, the Iranian School of Medical Science opened a Department of Geriatrics as a new field of study.**

**V. Every Government has been asked by the UN, but is not required, to conduct a "bottom-up" review and appraisal during 2007 of progress in their country in implementing the Madrid Plan. To your knowledge, has your government begun or committed to undertake that review? If yes, has your NGO been invited to participate? If so, how?**

**No answer**

**Mission:** Providing full protection and care to the residents of KCF Center and the orphans under the sponsorship of “Home for the Mother and Child”

The society takes pride in creating a comfortable, home-like environment replete with care and affection for KCF residents and HMC children that alleviates their pain of detachment from loved ones and home.

Related background information:

**Activities of the LCS:**

- a) At KCF Center
- b) At LCS Headquarters in Tehran
- c) At overseas branches
- d) In international domains
- e) At “Home for the Mother and Child” Charity Institution

**a) Activities of the LCS at KCF Center**

**Administrative Responsibilities:**

- Since the year 1979 Mrs. Ashraf Ghandehari (Bahadorzadeh) has voluntarily chaired the Board of Directors of KCF.

**Caregiving Services:**

- Every week a number of 850 volunteer women (LCS members) commute to KCF center located in the town of Kahrizak in South East Tehran to offer their sincere services to the residents. These women volunteers provide more than 50% of the caregiving services needed at the Center. Their generosity reduces the overall costs of the center. These services include: Hygienic caregiving services, e.g., bathing, cleaning, feeding, and comforting persons. The volunteers also cooperate with the Welfare Committee of Kahrizak and administer loans for the institution’s personnel.

**Educational, Cultural and Art Activities**

- These activities include: In the classroom, volunteers teach and practice literacy, Koran recitation, English, drama, and agriculture courses as well as occupational therapy/rehabilitation workshops (tailoring, knitting, carpet weaving, pottery, leatherworks, horticulture and agriculture).

- Residents also take part in various ceremonies, including weddings and preparing dowries of the brides.

### **Construction and Development Activities**

As the little caravan of the Ladies Charitable Society treaded forward on their path of humanistic work, they created outstanding examples of development and new construction in the barren desert of Kahrizak.

LCS has played a remarkable role in creating new buildings and structures to serve the needs of older persons and the disabled. In fact, the KCF is responsible for most of the new construction work done at Kahrizak Center today.

### **Latest Development Projects:**

#### **1- At KahrizakCenter**

- Commenced construction at Kahrizak on the Research Building that will contain:  
A Center of Research and Studies in Aging and Disability as well as Multiple Schlerosis disease
- A Conventional Hall
- The “Yadman Yaran” Museum

#### **2. At Tehran Headquarters**

- Introduced the Ladies Charitable Society and Kahrizak CF to the public. Began public campaign about work to encourage and attract donations and contributions.
- Collected donations (cash and kind) for KCF.
- Communicated with overseas branches.
- Organized tours and visits to KCF center.
- Fundraised to implement KCF’s development projects and provide required equipment in different departments.
- Held weekly bazaars two days a week where donated new and used articles were displayed for sale. Volunteers transferred the proceeds to KCF. (Seasonal bazaars, one of the first LCS fundraising programs, has continued for 32 years. The LCS donates the entire bazaar proceeds to KCF.
- Participated in all specialized, export, and international exhibitions.

### **3. Overseas LCA Activities**

LCS initiated its overseas activities in 1990 with the purpose of introducing KCF to Iranians residing abroad as well as non-Iranians. LCS Branches have been established in London, Los Angeles, San Jose, Seattle and Toronto. Using periodic meetings and charity bazaars and conducting other fundraising activities, these branches have attracted contributions and funds to the benefit of KCF and HMC.

It is worth mentioning that all our overseas branches are officially registered and all donations are tax deductible.

#### **d) International Activities of LCS**

**In 1998 LCS was granted a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations, and the Economic and Social Council.** unication with UN agencies and diplomatic delegations stationed in Iran with the purpose of introducing and bringing the center to their attention.

- Participation in international ageing related conventions and events.
- Sponsoring and organizing The First International Ageing Conference of Iran in 1999. Diligent pursuance of the adopted resolution has been effective in accomplishing the following:
  - 1- Formation of an ageing committee at the Parliament
  - 2- Opening of Department of Geriatrics in the School of Medical Science as a new field of study.

#### **Cultural Achievements**

The following are some of the cultural achievements of the LCS:

- In 1998 LCS was granted an award by President Khatami for “Best Charity NGO Organized and Managed by Women”.
- Publication of the Proceedings of the First International Ageing Conference of Iran in 3 volumes in 2000.
- Publication of “Pilgrims On The Path of Love” in 2002 – the history of the LCS written by Mrs. Ashraf Ghandehari (Bahadorzadeh).
- In 2004 Mrs. Ghandehari (Bahadorzadeh) was granted a Parvin Ettessami literary Award for her sincere description of the history of LCS in her memoirs, “Pilgrims On The Path of Love”.
- Publication of “ A Complete Guide to nonprofit Management” in 2005 for the first time in Iran, translated by Mrs. Nahid Shorooghi (LCS member).
- In 2005 the “Humanitarian Award” of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO) was accorded to LCS for

their selfless services and commitment to the KCF center residents and the orphans of Roodbar and Bam earthquakes. Also for the remarkable growth of this organization from just two members to hundreds within 32 years.

- The Award of " Woman of Excellence" was granted to Mrs. Ashraf Ghandehari (Bahadorzadeh) by Dr.Ahmadi- Nejad, The President of The Islamic Republic of Iran, at a special Ceremony held on the occasion of the Iranian Women's Day of the Year 2006.

**e) Activities of LCS at Home for the Mother and Child Charity Institution (HMC)**

**CEO'S: - Mrs. Mehrangiz Ghandehari (Ahmadzadeh)  
- Mr. Kamal Ahmadzadeh**

**Roodbar**

Following the devastating earthquake of Roodbar in 1990, by taking action for protection of 600 orphan victims of that deadly disaster, through the innovative scheme of sponsor parents, LCS stepped into a new field of activity.

The Charity Institution of "Home For The Mother and Child" (HMC) was founded as a branch of LCS to implement this project and to provide shelter to other disaster orphans. Parentless children are supported and sponsored by HMC until they become self- sufficient adults.

In compliance with the objectives of HMC, the following projects have been accomplished:

- Establishment of the headquarters of "Home For The Mother and Child" in the village of Rostam-Abad, Roodbar.
- Provision of monthly allowances and daily necessities of sponsored families.
- Covering school and clothing costs of sponsored children.
- Construction or restoration of the houses of sponsored children.
- Development of Seyed-Al-Shohada Cultural Complex including technical/vocational schools for boys and girls, library, amphitheatre, girls and boys dormitories, sports grounds and gymnasium hall, dining hall, and prayer hall.
- Restoration of 80 Hectares of land for cultivation of walnut and olive saplings with droplet irrigation system, to serve as a funding resource to cover the costs of HMC and to provide employment opportunities for sponsored children in the future.
- Establishment of an Insectarium for production of Trekograma bees.



## **Bam**

The latest commitment of “Home for the Mother and Child” is the “Children of Bam”. In January 2004 when a ferocious earthquake hit the city of Bam, HMC was one of the first relief groups to arrive at the epicenter of that horrific tragedy. Here they launched the same project as in Roodbar, and so far have taken 400 orphan victims under protection. They hope that with the will of God they will be able to render worthwhile services in this front as well.

## **How to Contact Us**

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