

Al-Muntada

Of the Iraqi Association

www.iraqiassociation.org

Issue No. 107 October 2012

English Supplement

العدد 107 تشرين الاول (أكتوبر) 2012

25 Reasons

This year marks Iraqi Association's 25th Anniversary. **Why Bother?**

It is the only non sectarian Iraqi organisation, since its inception in Hammersmith, the charity has improved the lives of thousands of people.

The organisation puts service users at the heart of everything, and do rely on a few anecdotes and key people. The genuine involvement of our service users in developing the strategic direction fundamental to make sure their needs are being met.

We have built a database of clients und other users, the largest in the U.K under the Data Protection Act 1998, we maintain it regularly.

Iraqi Association provides free, accessible advice to its users, and with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and excluded. Thanks to London Councils.

Hundreds of volunteers have been through our organisation from all walks of life, on average we engage with five volunteers every week.

We have provided opportunities to hundreds of elderly users to participate and contribute as volunteers, active citizens, and support each other. Thanks to the City Bridge Trust.

Every week, we serve more than fifteen elderly users to live healthier longer lives and to enjoy a sense of well-being.

The services assisted hundreds of elderly people in need, by reason of ill health, disability, social exclusion or other disadvantages. Thanks to Comic Relief.

Hundreds of young people and their families benefited from our settlement work, and we have made significant positive changes in their lives. Thanks to the BBC Children In Need.

We have organised hundreds of successful children's projects and activities during school summer holidays.
We serviced, through developed projects,

hundreds of young refugees, with advice and advocacy work following the military conflict in Iraq. Thanks to Diana Memorial Fund and City Parochial Foundation.

Helped hundreds of orphan children through IraqChild project, providing food, school accessories, winter coats, and volunteer medial treatment. Thanks to supporters and volunteers.

We successfully organised two charity appeals on BBC Radio 4, raising the Iraqi Association profile and money. We are extremely grateful to volunteers and supporters. Thanks to BBC Veteran BBCpresenter and broadcaster Peter Snow and Rev. Andrew White

Our charity's name has been mentioned more than hundred times in local, national and overseas press and media, coupled with interviews and press visits.

We continue to provide community based information, using clientled newsletter production, leaflets and online in two languages. In 2006, our newsletter received the London Mayor's award. Thanks to our volunteers.

Hundreds of seminars were organised to raise awareness and inform public and our charity users on health, education, history and settlement process.

Provided relief and support to those who have lost family members and friends before and after the military conflict in Iraq.

Produced reports and analysis on new emerging trends within the community in Britain, before and after the collapse of the previous Iraqi regime.

Assisted hundreds of Sangatte refugees camp, those who were given permission by the Home Office, with the settlement needs..

Collated an archive of thousands of community activities photographs, which traces back to late eighties.

Serviced the health aspect of the charity users through the development of two health projects in the past with the help of local PCT and other health agencies, on public health education and health trainers.

Organised art exhibitions for Iraqi artists, to promote the talent and creative skills of our community artists.

With charity users, we led workshops on the democratic transitions, reconciliation, civil society and human rights in Iraq in collaboration with members of of the House of Commons, and Kingston University.

Iraqi Association has promoted and encouraged Iraqi exiles to participate in the out of country voting Iraqi election.

We proactively encouraged British Iraqis to vote in local and general election in this country, and to participate in the local democracy.

Iraqi Association celebrates its 25th anniversary. Such a landmark event will provide an important opportunity for both look back and celebrate all of our achievements to date and to look ahead to our aspirations and ambitions for the future

