

## Dedication of the Center for Creative Abilities



**Before...**

funds resides in Marastoon, on Afghan Red Crescent Society land adjacent to our office building and professional training center. It was built in 1920 and its original use was as a “depot” for goods contributed by rich Afghans for the poor. Afghan

returnees who attended our dedication ceremony remember volunteering in the “depot” in the 1960’s and 70’s. Fatima Gailani, president of ARCS, expresses her deep appreciation to HALO for funding this project because if we did not renovate this building it would have been torn down and a positive aspect of Afghan history and a demonstration of Afghan architecture would have been destroyed with it.



**After...**

PARSA acknowledges the HALO donor who provided the first funding for the construction of our Center of Creative Ability which will provide vocational training services for:

- Working Children
- Disabled people including mentally disabled
- Women “head of household”

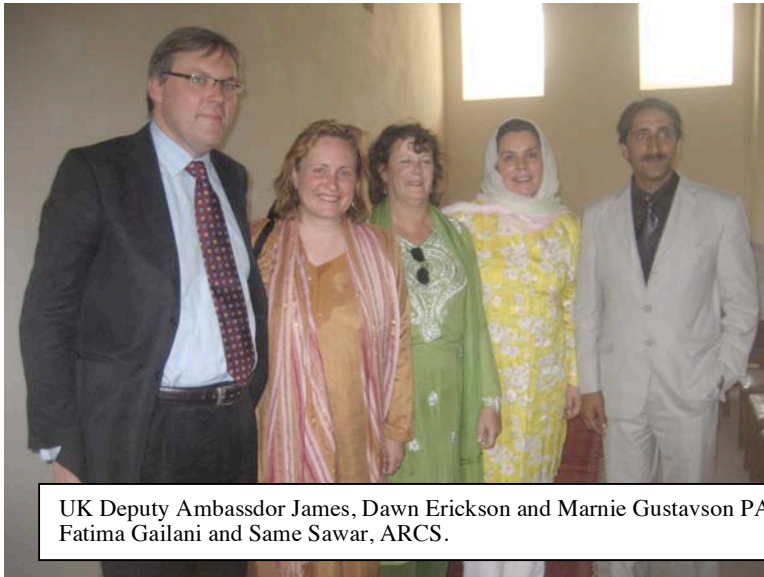
The building that was renovated with these

Last month, we asked Fatima to dedicate our new building and we completed a chapter in her life by doing so. Fatima tells the story of how she came to be the president of ARCS by recounting how she saw a documentary about the women in the

Marastoon insane asylum being assaulted by the mujahaddin during the civil war, 12 years ago. She vowed to come back and to change their lives. Two years after she became president, PARSA moved to Marastoon and she told me how she regretted not being able to deliver on her promise to the women of Marastoon. At PARSA, under the supervision of my psychologist husband, Norm Gustavson we started rehabilitation program for the women in the



Inmates of Marastoon asylum...attend the dedication.



UK Deputy Ambassador James, Dawn Erickson and Marnie Gustavson PARSA, Fatima Gailani and Same Sawar, ARCS.

insane asylum, including medical therapy.

My most satisfying moment of this year was listening to Fatima, an extraordinary Afghan leader, honor our efforts, and HALO's donation as a contribution toward the completion of her own significant efforts on behalf of the Afghan's. Sitting in the back row were twelve clean and well-behaved women from the insane asylum, a tribute to all of our work.

ve a ways to go to furnish and fund our programs for the Center for

Creative Ability but HALO's support has made this reality inevitable. A special thank you to HALO!



Patrick James, Soraya Hakim, National Orphanage Director, and Fatima Gailani, dedicate the Center.