



# HOMESTEAD

A F G H A N I S T A N

Annual Report 2021

*ANNUAL REPORT 2021*

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Supporting Self-Reliant Afghan Women, Families, and Communities

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## *Letter From the Executive Director*

2021 was a year of beginnings and unexpected challenges for Homestead Afghanistan, and for me.

Working remotely from Kabul through the pandemic, I was focused on the social enterprise meant to generate all needed revenue for Homestead Afghanistan's nonprofit work. In July, I returned to the Boston area to visit family and be vaccinated. I was invited out to the Berkshires by a group of businesswomen interested in helping me achieve my goals for Afghanistan, and Homestead Afghanistan's Board was founded. The enthusiasm of the group provided some much needed encouragement, and I was able to expand the Advisory Board, adding Afghan experts, international development experts, gender experts, gemology experts, and others passionate about helping Afghanistan's most vulnerable groups of women, families, and communities.

Days after returning to Kabul, the ANDSF scored some major victories against insurgents in the West – listening as Afghans joyously took to the streets, praising the fight. One week after returning to Kabul, Afghanistan's districts and provinces began falling into the hands of the Taliban, one by one, accelerating. Two weeks after returning to Kabul, I watched from my office windows as the Taliban took control of the capital, bringing fear, uncertainty, chaos at the airport, and the end of GIROA.

Determined to stay in-country at first, I was forced to rapidly change plans after my assistant received death threats at his family farm, and his brother was murdered days later. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, we spent three sweltering hours in traffic in an unairconditioned Honda coupe, to reach Eagle Base, a waypoint away from the chaotic scenes at the perimeter of HKIA from which we would be helicoptered into the airport, and evacuated to Qatar, sitting together on the floor of a C-17 with 300 other people.

Now, as things in Afghanistan begin to settle down, with the Taliban forming a caretaker government, international sanctions on nonprofit and commercial operations granted a general license of exception from OFAC, embassies preparing to reopen and reengage, and with nonprofit and humanitarian organizations active on the ground with relative safety, it is time for me to return to Kabul and pick up on Homestead Afghanistan's mission of self-reliance. My dream of trade schools for women, and demonstration farms supporting Homesteading Afghan families with the plants and animals they need to rebuild their lives and farms, disrupted by conflict and drought, is both possible and desperately needed. New partners and new approaches will make it possible – we will persevere, for Afghanistan.

*Jill Suzanne Kornetsky*

*Founder, Chairwoman and Executive Director of Homestead Afghanistan*

*1 March 2022*

# MISSION, VISION, VALUES

## *Mission, Vision, Values*

### MISSION

*Homestead Afghanistan Creates a Preferential Option for Rural Afghanistan, designed to break ongoing cycles of poverty and dependency, by addressing multiple root causes and meeting needs holistically, on Afghan homesteads, with Afghan families and communities.*

### VISION

*Homestead Afghanistan Foresees an Afghanistan where all individuals have rights and opportunities, where all families have access to nutritious food and adequate shelter, where all women and men can learn and earn a living in dignity and safety, where communities engage in collaboration to create abundance.*

### VALUES

*Homestead Afghanistan Values*

*Integrity and Accountability: Doing What's Right Even When Nobody is Looking*

*Courage and Commitment: The Path We Choose is Long and Hard; We Walk it in Solidarity*

*Cooperation and Collaboration: The Right Partners Share The Journey and the Load*

*Aspiration and Determination: Dreaming of Better Days; Dedicated to Building Them*

*Innovation and Excellence: Real Change Demands Tailored Approaches and High Standards*

# WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2021

## What We Achieved in 2021

### Boards Formation

Summer 2021 saw the formation of an advisory board offering guidance to both Homestead Afghanistan and to Persian Viking Mineral Corporation (the B Corporation meant to fund Homestead). Our Advisors include individuals from NATO, the international gem industry, PR and Marketing experts, and those with deep backgrounds in international development, and Afghanistan, specifically. In addition, we have brought on Adam Saffer as a member of the Board of Directors, to provide a higher level of guidance and leadership to the Executive Director and the organization..

### Building Connections

Over the last year, donor support has allowed us the time to build connections with partners, sponsors, grant makers, and funders. We have contacted many thousands of potential supporters on LinkedIn, and newly connected with about 2,000. While in Washington, D.C., our founder was able to meet with representatives of the State Department, USAID, the World Bank, and the Afghan Embassy, as well as DC based foundations and philanthropists.

We have developed a network with the large financial firms' charitable arms i.e. Fidelity Charitable, JPMorgan Charitable, who have offered to present our programs and platforms to their Donor Advised Funds for potential support. They have referred Homestead Afghanistan to additional funding sources, such as Tides, ImpactAssets, Charities Aid Foundation America (CAF), CapShift, and others, who we are working with to seek support.

### Early Financial Support

With the assistance of board member Kimberly Allardyce, after the Taliban takeover, and before securing an exit for the ED and at-risk staff, we launched a GoFundMe. The goal was to ensure staff would keep being paid through an inevitable and impending food crisis, and that the office could continue to operate, safely store equipment while the ED is away,, and be a secure location for staff and our three office cats.

Antonis Schwarz, a European philanthropist, provided a generous \$10,000 donation in September, which allowed us to pay out the office rent, electricity, and internet into 2022, send enough money back to in-country staff every month for food and necessities, and provide a month of temporary housing for the ED in Washington DC as she was displaced from her home in Kabul, and was actively networking for funding in the USG and Embassies..

In total, just under \$13,000 was raised in 2021, with ~80% spent on expenses in Afghanistan, and ~20% used for emergency housing for the Executive Director. We have since shifted to a Grapevine.org crowd-fundraising push, using regular donations of members of "giving circles" to provide longer term support.

# WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2021

## *Operating Highlights*

*The events of August 2021 substantially interrupted operations, and forced changes in operational approach and strategy. Operational accommodations were made for international sanctions regimes against the de facto government, personnel safety and security concerns. Potential ways Homestead Afghanistan's platform will find the support needed for startup and launch of pilot activities have changed, with the risk concerns of grantmakers, the USG being snakebit by the year's happenings, and foreign embassies being unable to support programming before the in-progress reopening of their Kabul embassies. Homestead Afghanistan is now actively seeking sponsors, partners, and in-kind donors of goods, rather than (or in addition to) seeking support from the grantwriting and governmental communities.*

## *Looking Ahead*

*Homestead Afghanistan will continue on, into 2022 and beyond. Our mission to help Afghanistan's poorest and most vulnerable has not changed. We treat the change in de facto government as a lemons-into-lemonade situation, planning for new challenges and obstacle, while celebrating the end of GIROA-specific corruption and the obstacles it created for sincere nonprofit work in Afghanistan..*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Financial Statements

### Statement of Financial Position

Homestead Afghanistan has multiple pro-bono sponsors and partners willing to make in-kind donations of goods and services. Having operated as a bootstrap organization for several years, we have relied on donations, and contributions from the Executive Director and her family, to help cover our basic expenses.

We maintain our Kabul HQ and continue to send funds to staff in order to ensure they can afford food during the ongoing cash and food crises. We hope to find a fiscal sponsor and additional donations in 2022, to enable us to move from planning into full launch of our Self-Reliance Platform.

### Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profits and Losses)

#### HOMESTEAD AFGHANISTAN 2021 FINANCIALS

DESCRIPTION	DONATION	EXPENSES	EARNINGS
Antonis Schwarz	\$10,000		
GoFundMe	\$1,750		
Grapevine	\$890		
2021Kabul HQ Rent		\$7200	
2021 Afghan Staff Payments		\$2700	
2021 Internet Payments		\$1200	
2021 Electricity Payments		\$600	
2021 Generator Payments		\$1800	
Washington D.C. Hostel Expenses		\$2400	

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# WHAT WE ARE DOING IN 2022

## What We Are Doing in 2022

### New Partnerships

One of Homestead Afghanistan's new strategies for achieving its goals in 2022 are direct sponsorships and partnerships with companies who can provide the in-kind goods and services our programming requires. Pivoting our efforts from grant-makers and governments, to private companies and other NGOs, beginning in early 2022, has so far proven fruitful. We will continue adding to this list with more vendors, service providers, and partner organizations with expertise in specific sectors and functions. These partners will help us reduce our fundraising asks for each project. We hope that reducing the need for unrestricted funds will assist us in finding those unrestricted funds needed for overhead, local staff salaries, and similar expenses.

- JetEx (Dubai, UAE) – Donation of Air Cargo Services into Afghanistan, Travel Coordination
- Greenfield Hydroponics (Canada, India) – Partnership for a Sustainable Fodder System for Dairy
- Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (Netherlands) – Partnership for Veterinary Services and Management
- Boston Energy (USA) – Donation of Refurbishment, Installation and O&M Services for Wind Turbines
- Lettuce Grow (USA) – Donation of Commercial Scale Vertical Growing Aeroponic Units
- Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company (USA) – Donation of Seed Stock and Greenhouses/Hoopouses
- Global Nations International (USA) – Partnership for a July Conference on Women, Water and Work
- Women's Global Empowerment Fund (USA) – Partnership for All-Female Trade School Model
- Robelle Industries (USA) – Donation of Storage Space, Freight Coordination Services, Unrestricted Funds
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### Operating Highlights

Routes back into Afghanistan are operational and functioning daily. We hope to reopen the office by summer.

### New Programs

In response to the ongoing evacuation and growing Afghan refugee crisis, Homestead Afghanistan is working with new board member, Andy Pearle, on a sustainable refugee and IDP resettlement model, combining aspects of both Homesteading, and Hutterite approaches to building small sustainable agricultural communities. Currently we are in discussions with a global development firm wishing to be the fundraiser and fiscal sponsor for a trial of the model in a location outside of Afghanistan, using a group of Afghans seeking evacuation and permanent resettlement, before replicating the model for refugees outside of Afghanistan, as well as for Internally Displaced Persons, within Afghanistan. We believe this model could replace refugee camps with a more self-reliant, self-determined option for those displaced from their home regions or countries by conflict.



# WISHLIST: OUR APPEAL FOR 2022

## *Wishlist: Our Appeal for 2022*

*Homestead Afghanistan has big plans for 2022 in Afghanistan. We are piloting our all-female trade school model, and associated work floors, where our trainees can be hired for long-term, durable work in the skilled trades we will teach them. We are also breaking ground on our Seed Farm and Seed Bank, which will supply our Seedling Production operation, designed to extend the growing season and distribute a healthy variety of seedlings and starts to our beneficiaries: homesteading Afghan families. In order to operationalize our concepts, and make best use of the materials supplied by our pro bono partners, we need some additional help.*

### Fiscal Sponsorship and Unrestricted Donations

*Homestead Afghanistan has made great headway on securing partnerships with great North American companies, willing to donate their time, services, skills, and products to our mission: Helping Afghan Women, Families, and Communities become More Self-reliant. There are, however, expenses that cannot be covered by in-kind donations, such as the overhead expenses for our Kabul HQ offices, salaries and benefits for our local Afghan staff members, ME&I for our Executive Director (who will not be drawing a salary until we reach a sustainable financial position, but whose meals, expenses and incidentals must be covered somehow), and similar.*

*Homestead Afghanistan is seeking a Fiscal Sponsor- a DAF, Family Office, Private Foundation, Corporation, or other generous Donor - to cover these expenses.*

### Sponsors, In-Kind Donors, and Partners

*Homestead Afghanistan has a long wishlist of office supplies, pantry and cleaning supplies, trade school necessities and equipment, clothing and footwear for trainees and staff, health and hygiene needs, agricultural equipment and supplies, and more, needed to implement our projects. Every need which can be addressed with a tax-deductible in-kind donation reduces the amount of direct and unrestricted financial support that we must seek. In particular, Homestead Afghanistan would love to build relationships with::*

- *Travel Partners (Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, United Airlines, Hotel Partners)*
- *Office Supply Partners (W.B. Mason, Staples, OfficeMax, Uline)*
- *Energy Partners (Tevolt Powerwall, GoalZero, BMW, Solar Panels, Wind Turbines, Batteries)*
- *Pantry and Supplies Partners (Costco, BJ's, RoundEye Supply, Restaurant Suppliers, Wholesalers)*
- *Medical, Health and Hygiene Partners (CVS, McKesson, Henry Schein, MedLine, Cardinal)*
- *Footwear Partners (New Balance, Nike, Under Armour, Crocs, Sketchers, Wigwam, SmartWool)*
- *Workwear Partners (Carhartt, Dickies, Wrangler, SweatyBetty, Patagonia, 1620, Merell, Dovetail)*
- *Outdoor Gear Partners (Pelican, Cascade, Nalgene, LL Bean, REI, CampMor, Applachian, Yeti, DeLorme)*
- *Agricultural Partners (Greenhouses, Hoop Houses, Soil Amendments, Tools, ATVs, Farm Equipment)*
- *Food Preservation Partners (Ball, Harvest Right, All-American, Excalibur, Lehmans, Anchor Hocking)*
- *Livestock Equipment Partners (Sydell, BrightSpan, Lakeland, John Deere, Great Plains, AGCO, Kubota)*
- *Spinning and Weaving Partners (Harrisville, Schacht Spindle, Louet, Glimakra, Leclerc, Toika, Kromski)*

# COMPANY INFORMATION

## Company Information

*JILL S KORNETSKY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*



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*A 501c3 Public Charity*

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*Grapevine: <https://www.grapevine.org/giving-circle/KXMhoo9/Invest-in-Afghan-Women>*

*GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-jill-in-afghanistan-crisis>*

*Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/homesteadafghanistan>*

*Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/homesteadafghanistan/>*

*Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcpGqF44Uo4O76Gp2X7xMbQ>*

*LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/homesteadafghanistan>*

*Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AfghanHomestead>*



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