



LEARN FOR  
**LIFE**



**“The future holds endless possibilities, and I can’t wait to be part of it”**

Shahin Bangladesh

Paths have crossed with many people in difficult situations. For some, life has simply dealt a bad hand. Others are unable to realize their potential for financial reasons. This is not a traditional NGO program.

**Learn for Life is :**

“We are backing you. Do your best. We believe in you”.

**“I am rigid in my determination to succeed. I will beat the odds”**

Abu Bangladesh



Colin Macfarlane <sup>AM</sup>  
Australia Day 2021  
Dhaka

# Sometimes I am the one who needs to Learn for Life!

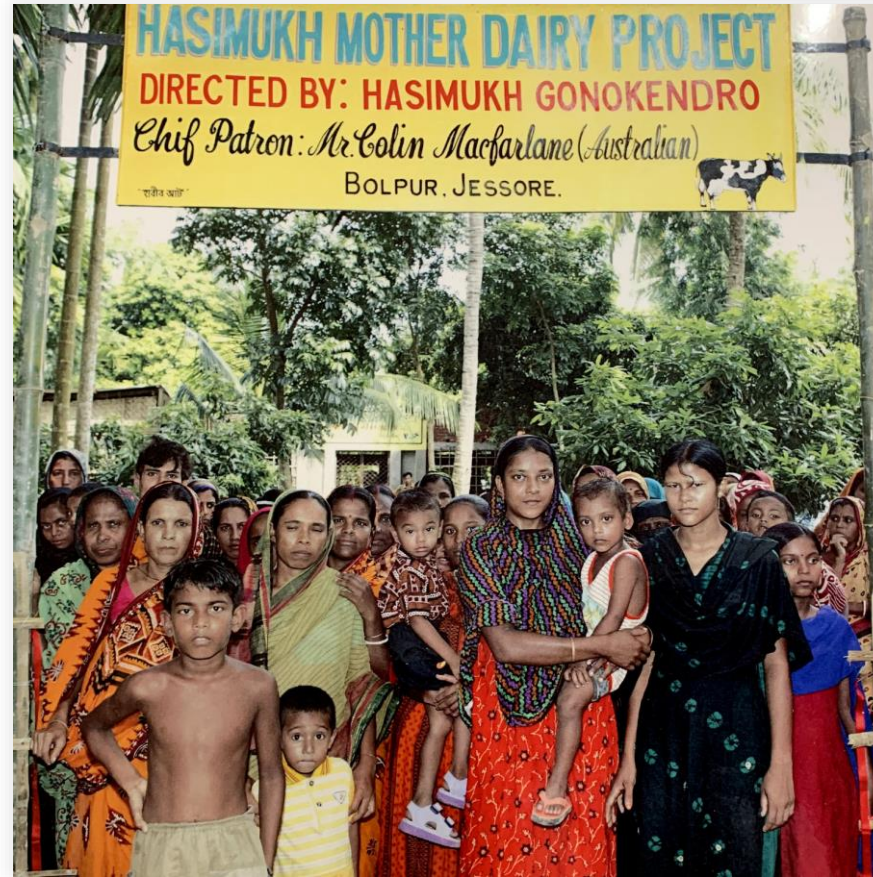
It sounded fine: breeding cows were purchased and the calves sold on installment plans to ultra poor families.

These calves are fattened and sold, or used for breeding. I bought 14 cows and was thanked at a delightful ceremony.

On my next visit the first thing was a visit to the cows. No cows. They had all been sold and the NGO principal had "gone to Malaysia" : the money was lost.

Still have the "feel good" photographs !!

My experiences in Bangladesh are overwhelmingly positive : this was an exception.



# Clarita, Yeiker & Family



## Santa Cruz Bolivia 2022

Mi nombre es Yeiker, tengo 19 años. Somos refugiados. Con Clarita y nuestros hijos María 3 y Alexander 9 meses, .....My name is Yeiker I am 19 . We are refugees. With Clarita and our children Maria 3, and Alexander 9 months, we took 5 weeks to travel nearly 3000 k's from Venezuela to Bolivia by walking and truck. We carried the children above our heads when we crossed rivers.

Venezuela is our home but we could not survive. A few days after we arrived in Bolivia we met Colin in Santa Cruz. We had no money, family or friends here.

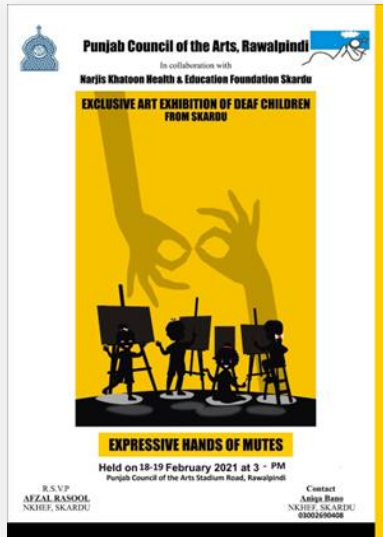
We set up a mobile food stall. Colin even sold food on the street with us!

We have a room now and very happy that Maria has enrolled in kindergarten. There are many hassles with no ID. But everything will be OK.



# Narjis Khartoon Hearing Impairment School

Skardu Pakistan



My husband and I are blessed with two daughters with a hearing impairment.

We live in a remote area in Northern Pakistan which struggles to help people with disabilities.

We decided to set up our own school. It was the right decision. We have 72 students. 50 live in town, the others stay at our hostel.

In December we achieved a milestone. For the first time students with hearing impairment appeared in board examinations. Our biggest challenge has been to change the general belief that educating differently-abled children was a waste of time and resources! We pay special attention to fine arts training, since the children are highly visual.

In 2023 we welcome the support of Learn for Life.

**Aniqqa Bano**

# Shahin

## Dhaka and Dublin

I met Colin in 2011. Growing up in Basti, one of Dhaka's largest slums, presented many challenges.

I persevered and completed my secondary and higher secondary education in 2014 . I earned a Diploma in Computer Science in 2018 and a B.Eng. in Computer Science from Jiangsu University of Science & Technology in China, in 2022.

The exciting news of being accepted for a Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence at Dublin Business School in Ireland, starting in September 2023, has left me feeling absolutely elated and radiant. The future holds endless possibilities, and I cannot wait to be a part of it!



At 1am on 10th October 2011 the police came and destroyed our home. With 500 others we were homeless.



# Hung

## Hanoi

Tôi là Hùng. Tôi có một vấn đề với chân của tôi.

Năm 2005 tôi đăng ký học nghề sửa chữa điện thoại tại Trường Trung cấp nghề Thành Long. Tôi đã vật lộn. Nó không dành cho tôi..... I am Hung. I have a problem with my legs.

In 2005 I enrolled at Thanh Long Vocational School to repair phones. I struggled. It was not for me.

I was able to ride a motor bike.

Why not deliver parcels in the narrow streets of Hanoi ?

The vocational school adapted a motor bike in the workshop. I started delivering parcels. I earned a little money.

One day I gave a ride to a girl with the same problem in her legs. We married!

We have 2 daughters. I now have a bigger delivery vehicle.

That is my story. Thank you.



# Noor Nahar Tonima



## Dhaka

Despite being born blind, I never suffered from depression. I can do all my daily activities, including cooking, shopping, and washing clothes, by myself and travel anywhere by public transport.

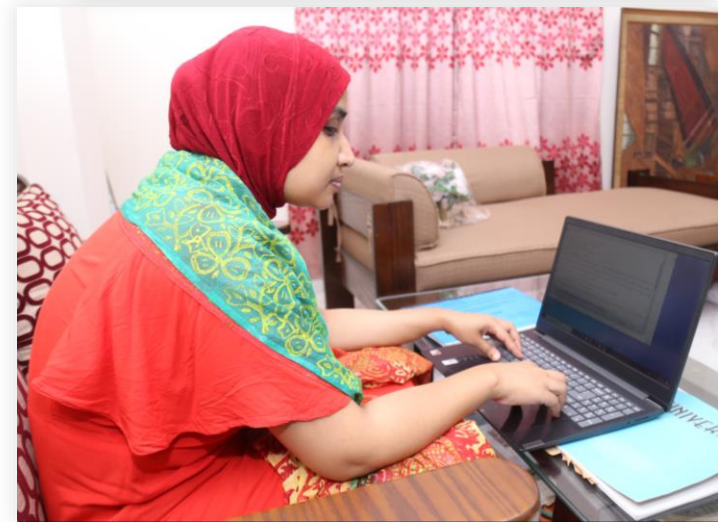
I use a screen reader software to write and read on a laptop. Two types of software are used: one, JAWS, which can only read and write in English, and another, NVDA, which can use other languages, including Bengali. When I put my hand on one of the buttons, it makes a sound and automatically writes on the screen.

I can't write much with my own hand, but I can sign my name.

Now in 2023 I am in 3rd year of studying English at a Bangladesh University. It is located in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. A scribe sits next to me while I take the exam and helps me write down the answers.

My village home is in Barisal district. Due to my strong desire to study, I left home and came to Dhaka without saying anything to anyone.

In the future, I intend to provide motivational training to visually impaired people on mobility and managing daily activities.







This is to certify that  
**Xuanbien Nguyen**  
having fulfilled all obligations and prescribed conditions  
was admitted to the degree of  
**Master of Commerce**  
by Deakin University on 6 April 2005

*Luciana Lacey*  
CHANCELLOR

*Judy Wake*  
VICE-CHANCELLOR

*Linnaea*  
VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC AND INFORMATION SERVICES)



# Bien Nguyen

## Hanoi

I met Colin by chance in Hanoi in 2000, I was an undergraduate student at Hanoi University, and introduced him to the President of the University Prof Vang. From that meeting came a scholarship program to Deakin University in Melbourne. I was fortunate enough to be one of those selected, and returned to Vietnam with an MA in Business in 2006.

I also introduced him to schools in my home district of Thanh Ba which subsequently led to very successful computer skills programs.

Since then I have been helping small farmers and ethnic minority groups develop products for export. I am now with a Japanese spice export/import company. I enjoy my work.

I am very happy to have been the catalyst for the Glencoe Foundation's Learn for Life programs in Vietnam.

## AWARENESS OF AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND CONSUMPTION PRACTICES

DISCUSSION FORUM AROUND MEAT  
CONSUMPTION IN VIETNAM AMONG  
VIETNAMESE MEAT TRADERS

December 2021



# Hanoi University

We have a saying in Vietnamese:

“Một miếng khi đói bằng một gói khi no – A morsel when hungry is like a hamper when full”.

Colin came to help me at the right moment when I needed it most.

Mr. Colin Macfarlane, Chairman of the Glencoe Foundation has provided scholarships to 14 of our staff to study at Deakin University, making a significant contribution to the successful transformation of Hanoi University of Foreign Studies to Hanoi University.

I am so grateful for Colin’s invaluable support and also thanks to Nguyen Xuan Bien for introducing Colin to me.

Xuan Vang Nguyen  
President, Hanoi University  
2000 – 2008.



# Scholarships to Deakin University



**1. Lilly Nguyen**

BA Hanoi University. Business Administration :  
BA Deakin University. Accounting and Finance

**2. Lan Do**

BA Hanoi University. English: MCom Deakin  
University : PhD Management RMIT University  
Melbourne.

**3. Huong Giang Le**

BA Hanoi University English: MCom Deakin  
University : MBA University of Hawaii.

**4. Cuc Nguyen**

BA Hanoi University. English : MCom Deakin  
University : PhD Deakin University.

**5. Hang Vu**

BA Hanoi University English: BA (IT/Multi  
Media) Deakin University : MA Information  
Systems. Deakin University.

**6. Phuong Pham**

BA English Hanoi University: MCom  
Marketing Deakin University : PhD candidate  
Canberra University.

**7. Bien Nguyen**

BA Hanoi University. English.  
MCom Deakin University

**8. Tim Pham**

BA Hanoi University. English  
MA Swinburne University. Multi Media

**9. Linh Nguyen**

BA (English language), Hanoi University  
B.Com, Deakin University  
PhD (Information Systems), University of  
South Australia

**10. Quyen Pham**

BA Hanoi University, Master of Arts (Finance  
& Marketing) Deakin Uni

**11. Ngoc Thi Minh Hoang**

Master of Information Technology, Deakin  
University

**12. Tra Le**

BA Hanoi University . English  
MA Deakin University Business

**13. Quan Vu**

B.IT Deakin  
PhD Deakin University

**14. Anh Tran Tuan**

BA Hanoi University English  
MA Deakin University Business



Lan Do 

## Hai Phong and Melbourne

Hello! I am Lan Do, currently a Lecturer at University of Waterloo, Canada.

My life trajectory has changed significantly after the Glencoe Foundation's Learn for Life scholarship, which allowed me to obtain my Diploma of Commerce, then my Master in Commerce.

This two year scholarship in Melbourne has not only enabled me to enter the new field of Business/Commerce education, to progress into the Doctor of Philosophy (Management) but also develop myself into a confident person, a professional and a female leader at several Vietnamese educational institutions.

**Middle** :Teaching in Coen.

**Top right** : Meeting Noel Pearson Cape York

**Left** : on line teaching from Australia to Bangladesh.



## Quan Vu PhD

I am a senior lecturer at Deakin University in the Faculty of Business and Law.

I teach information technology and artificial intelligence, and have a special interest in tourism marketing and management.



## Thai Cuc PhD

I am a lecturer at Melbourne University in management. My special interest is research in Female Entrepreneurship.



## Phuong Pham

I am in the final year of my PhD at Canberra University.

My research is on how the culture and language of Vietnam will give a different perspective on how people see the world in a conflicting time .


I look forward to resuming my teaching career.

The scholarship program has led to lifelong friendships and to Hanoi being my favorite city.



international house  
melbourne australia

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME  
your home away from home



Outstanding, friendly, secure, student accommodation

MIBT







In 2005 Colin was the second Australian to receive The Medal for the Cause of Education from the government of Vietnam.



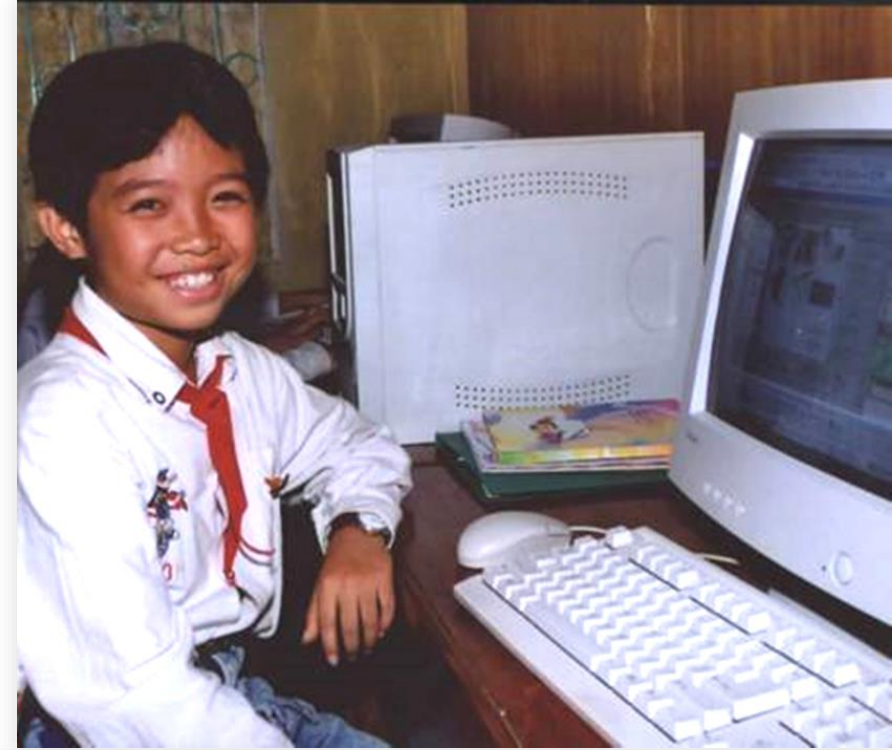
# Huy Dang

## Thanh Ba and Sydney

I grew up in Thanh Ba, a small rural community 80 k's north of Hanoi. My parents worked in a local factory on a low wage. Opportunities in education were limited. In grade 6 Colin visited our school and donated 12 computers.

My marks were good: I was encouraged to learn English, and attended courses in Hanoi at the British Council. I was 18 when I received a scholarship from the Glencoe Foundation's Learn for Life to study for my BA in finance at Deakin University. I seized the opportunity. I continued with my Masters in Professional Accounting at Monash University and graduated with high distinction.

For 6 years I worked for the Commonwealth Bank before joining a boutique wealth advisory firm in Sydney. My life is now very positive and I am extremely grateful for the support received.





# Thanh Ba Computer Program

## Thanh Ba

This program started very modestly in 2003 with 6 computers. It quickly grew to 70 computers in 4 schools.

The schools are in a rural area 80 k's north of Hanoi. Some 1500 children learnt keyboard skills, most for the first time. A specialist teacher Tran Viet Phuong was hired to support teachers and work with the most talented students.

One of the pupils, Huy, (see page 14) went on to successfully study in Australia on a Learn for Life scholarship.



# Thang Long Vocational School



## Hanoi

A private vocational college focusing on training women from ethnic minority areas in garment making and starting their own business.

Strong classes in mechanical repairs and electronics.

Learn for Life paid for over 100 enrollments and helped buy equipment.



I learnt an important lesson  
from Maria: it doesn't take  
much to change a life

**Maria** 

**Aileu East Timor**

Maria had congenital heart disease.  
She lived in a village near Aileu in newly  
independent East Timor.

I helped her come to Melbourne and funded a life  
saving operation at the Royal Children's hospital.

Frail, unhappy little girl, with big doleful eyes.  
Within 48 hours of the operation she was  
transformed with energy and inquisitiveness.

I went back to visit her, with the intention of  
supporting her education, but we lost touch.

A short time ago I was very happy to receive a  
picture of Maria with her daughter.



# Computer Culture



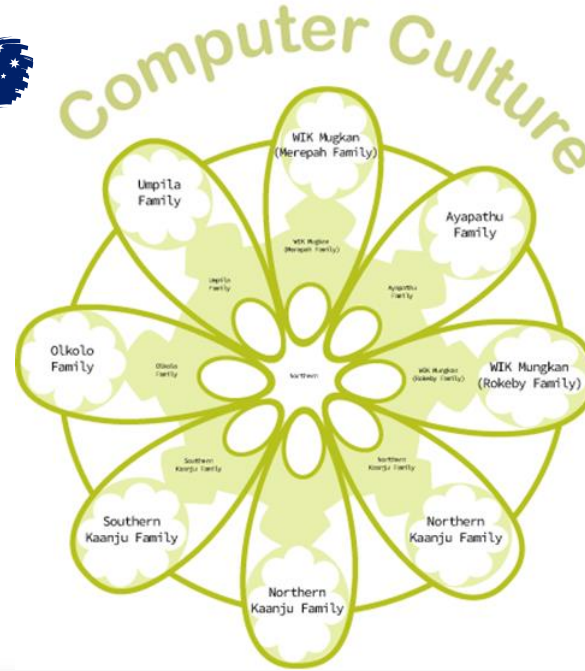
## Coen Cape York

In 2004 to 2006 we supported The Computer Culture program with a \$30 000 grant to buy computers and video equipment.

The computer culture project helped make children's education the town's number one priority.

It supplemented the oral transmission of culture, by highlighting the connection between education and cultural survival. The project successfully trained students to record and save their elders' stories and culture.

Computer Culture was led by Noel Pearson. From Learn for Life, Lan Do, visited Coen several times to work with the students and to talk about the culture and lifestyle in Vietnam.



# Seriako D Stephen



## Thursday Island and Cairns

I met Colin over 20 years ago. We keep in touch. Best of times when I came down to Melbourne and went up to the snow. His Vietnamese friends were great. Linh and Helen came up to Tully and taught me to use the pathfinder to help communication. The pathfinder spoke for me.

The car has given me mobility. I am active : been to New York for UN disability conference.... and me and my wheelchair have bungy jumped from a great height !

I am very close to my family on Thursday Island and my culture and heritage is very important to me.

Soon I am moving to Brisbane, so a new challenge.





# Bethel orphanage

## Kafue Zambia

In 2003 I sat next to an elderly catholic priest on a flight from Johannesburg to Lusaka, Zambia. I explained I was meeting a pastor to help fund the construction of an orphanage.

The priest said : “Son never forget you are a cow to be milked.” I smiled and said I was too smart for that : I was wrong.

Despite the pastor and his open ended construction budget I kept supporting three of the children over the next 14 years.

- Karen is now a Supreme Court lawyer in Lusaka
- Martin is an Australian citizen with an IT degree from Swinburne University in Melbourne.
- Louise has completed her BA in Lusaka . She has established an NGO working with children with special challenges. Learn for Life actively supports her work.

# Martin Mutimba

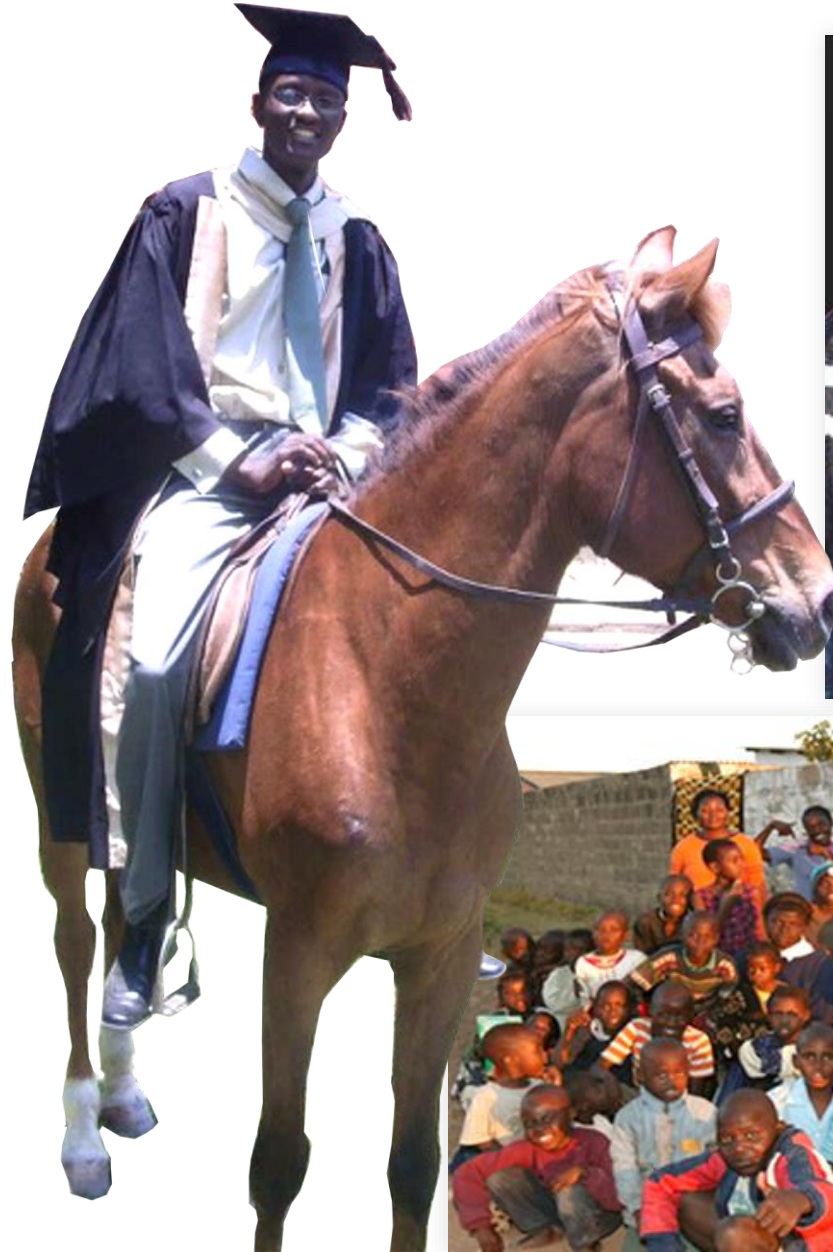


## Kafue and Melbourne

I was born in a polygamous family with 5 mothers and over 20 siblings. I was born and raised in the village. After experiencing a “hard time “ at the hands of my step-siblings and parents, I went to stay at Bethel Orphanage where I lived until I finished year 12 in 2005. Here I met Colin and he offered to fund my education. I started with a simple IT diploma course in 2007 , then a BA with the University of Greenwich by correspondence.

Far beyond my expectations I was offered opportunity to study for my Masters Degree at Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. I graduated in 2014 and obtained Australian citizenship in 2020. I have since found a good job in software engineering.

I plan to support Louisa back in Zambia: its much easier when you know and trust someone in country. I met my beautiful wife Ann at Swinburne. We were married in April 2023.





# Louisa Manasseh Paint a Life

## Lusaka

My parents died when I was 9 , and my grandmother didn't care for me. I was put into an orphanage. Later I went to boarding school where I completed High School. Here I was sponsored by Colin and went on to complete a Diploma in Gender Studies, my Bachelor's degree in Development studies ,and start my masters in Project Management.

In 2019 I registered an organization called Paint a Life Initiative, the idea being each child is a different kind of color, and when we bring the different colors together, we create something beautiful. We embraces the unique capabilities of children to help them reach their potential.

After such a long association it is wonderful that Learn for Life supports this project.



# Karen Banda

## Lusaka

About 19 years ago, I was among the many children at Bethel Orphanage whose future was uncertain. However, in 2004/5 I received a lifeline through Learn for Life which changed the course of my destiny.

I was able to complete junior high school as the best student and later graduated senior high school with a distinction. I enrolled at the University of Zambia where I studied law and was admitted to the bar. I have been practicing law in Zambia for eight years now.

I am currently working as the head of Legal at the country's environmental regulatory agency. Am now married and a mother to an adorable son!

Learn for Life has not only taught me the value of education, but also the importance of Ubuntu!

Humanity depends on humanity, and we all have a role to play.



# Lamb Hospital

## Parbatipur

Lamb is a Christian based children's hospital and training centre In the north of Bangladesh.

A long association through Operation Cleft and Walk for Life.

Many overseas doctors and health professionals visit.

Always a shortage of accommodation. We built four self contained bedrooms and renovated the pediatric ward : remember being staggered that the complete cost came in under \$A30 000.



# Dr Nikon Das

**MBBS MPH,**

I completed my degree in 2013.

I work now for Medicine Sans Frontier at Rohingya Refugee Camp in Ukhiya, Bangladesh.

I find great satisfaction in working in a humanitarian crisis situation.



# Sujan

**Rajshahi**

কম্পিউটার এবং প্রিন্টার জন্য আপনাকে ধন্যবাদ. আজ আমি আমাদের গ্রামে সেবা প্রদান করে 400 টাকা (\$4) উপার্জন করি।

My left leg is 12" shorter than my right. I use crutches.

Thank you for the computer, printer, and scanner. I have enrolled in the Graphics course for 2023.

Today I earnt 400tk (\$4) providing service in our village.



# Sami Shaheb

**BSc. Hon's. (Pharmacy) MA,**

Now, I am working as a Brand Manager (PMD) in UniMed UniHealth Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

I enjoy my work and I can contribute to the health sector of Bangladesh.





# Abu Hashem

## Sadar Upzilla, Sirajganj

My name is Abu Hasem, and I live in the Bangladeshi village of Vennabari in the Sirajganj district. My father is a farmer. He does not own any land. After a miserable and financially difficult childhood, I began to make progress at school. I did well in SCC and HSC exams.

I then studied at Sirajganj Government University B.B.A. in Accounting.

I am rigid in my determination to succeed. In order to arrange my expenses, I tutor juniors. I passed BBA with first division in 2019.

Then I enrolled in the MBA program. I was successful in MBA final test. My student life has come to an end. I am currently preparing for government jobs while also looking for private sector work.

To beat all odds and achieve the highpoint of prosperity is my life goal. I will also help those with physical challenges like mine.



# Dr Farjana Islam



## Jashore

Hi I'm Farjana Islam : an intern doctor at Ad din Women's College Hospital in Jashore.

My family struggled financially with a low income, and my father was very ill. I often used to go with him to hospital. That's when I first thought : maybe I can become a doctor.

We certainly didn't have the financial resources, but I was doing very well at school, and was in the gifted stream.

Unexpectedly I was given the opportunity to enroll in medical college by Learn for Life. Together with my parents, we were ecstatic. It has not been easy. My father died, and Covid 19 came. I had to repeat a year.

I already love my work and there are going to be many opportunities to give back in the community.



# Amena Baki College



## Chirirbandar

Learn for Life supported Amena Baki Residential School exploring the most effective ways to deliver on line teaching.

A digital lab was established with 45 computers purchased by Learn for Life.

Over 500 lessons were delivered in IT Maths and Physics to years 9 to 12 from our studio at Banani.

Conversational English was also taught on line from Australia, Vietnam, and UK by our scholarship teachers from Vietnam. The discussions between female teachers and students was particularly rewarding.

The program was launched by the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr. Greg Wilcock.



# LEF for Life

## Vatara Dhaka

LEF (Life, Education, and Food) for Life School is a registered NGO providing free primary and secondary schooling to more than 300 slum-dwelling children in Dhaka.

LEF has 3 spacious accommodation houses providing shelter to 100+ children.

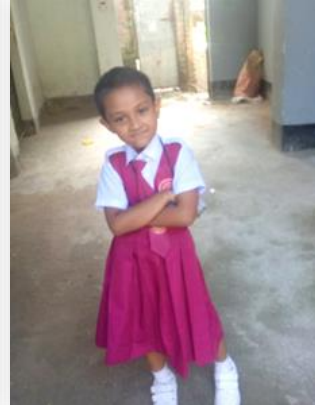
Learn for Life contributes to the food costs and basic upkeep, but our main focus in 2023 is to counsel and financially support the older children in higher education and career choices.



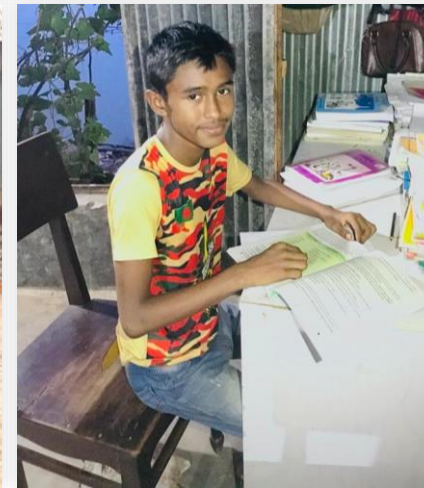




# In Bangladesh 2023 we continue educational support to :



- Nurnahar Tonima
- Ridoy
- Rakib
- Md. Raju (Sajib)
- Md. Sujon
- Jakia Zaman
- Rashida
- Sumaiya Zaman
- Shahadat Hossain
- Israt Jahan Antu



was wound up 30th June 2022.



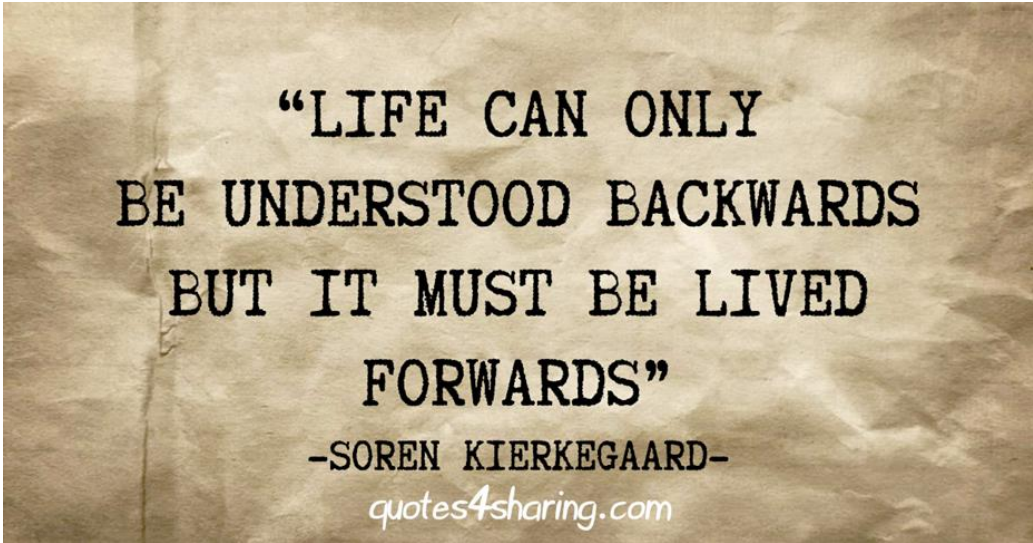
## Learn for Life UK charity continues the programs\*

Kate Lock is the chairperson and Mamun Choudhry one of four trustees.

Kate is a senior manager with the NHS in Devon. Kate has visited Bangladesh and Myanmar numerous times as a volunteer. Her teaching in medical management has been invaluable.

Mamun, physiotherapist, has worked with Walk for Life in Bangladesh for 12 years. He has been a Ponseti trainer in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda and the Philippines.

Mamun has been a trustee of the UK based Global Clubfoot Initiative since 2017.



**To contact**



**Kate Lock**

Email: Kate.lock72@gmail.com

**Mamun Chowdhury**

Email: mamunwfl@gmail.com

**Here are the flip book links to walk for life  
in Bangladesh and Myanmar.**



<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/a588498886.html>



<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/29c708cee2.html>