

FEATURE SCHOOL

In 1993, Greg Mortenson, founder and executive director of Central Asia Institute, was weak and ill after attempting to climb K2, the world's 2nd highest mountain. On the trek home, he befriended a couple of men from Korphe village.

After recuperating in Korphe for many days, he noticed there was no school. Before returning home, he made a promise to help the community construct a school.

After 3 years of difficult fundraising, construction of the school was completed in 1996, making Korphe Community School the first school in the Braldu valley.

Today, students learn subjects based on the Government curriculum, including Urdu, Science, English, Islamic Studies, Social Studies and Mathematics.

School size: 1970 square feet

Number of classrooms: 4 plus 1 library (the first in the Braldu Valley) and 1 teachers' room

Number of toilets: 1

Number of students: 59
(19 females, 40 males)

Number of teachers: 3 (males)

Teacher salary: \$1 per day

School year: March-December



Chaffee County
Montessori School

Pennies for Peace

www.chaffeemontessori.com

Pennies for Peace

Chaffee County Montessori
School's "Pennies for Peace"
Campaign Promotes Peace
with Pennies for Pencils



SUPPORT INFORMATION,
EDUCATION & LITERACY

WHAT IS THE POWER OF A PENNY?

Chaffee County Montessori School is sponsoring a "Pennies for Peace" penny drive throughout Salida during the month of February. (www.penniesforpeace.org) The penny, 1% of a dollar, is symbolic of the 1% of the Gross Domestic Product goal set by the United Nations for foreign aid to impoverished countries.

A penny in the United States is virtually worthless, but in Pakistan and Afghanistan a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy. Chaffee County Montessori School will send all funds raised to the Central Asia Institute, based in Bozeman, MT. The goal is for CCMS, with the support of the Salida community, to support the building of a school in Pakistan or Afghanistan. With the villages donating land and labor, a school can be built by CAI for about \$20,000, a quarter of the price charged by the Worldbank and half of what it costs the Pakistan government.

CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE

The Central Asia Institute (www.ikat.org) was founded by Greg Mortenson of Bozeman. The Institute's mission is community education, particularly for girls. A 5th grade education for a girl improves not only the basic indices of health for her and her family, but will also spread the value of education within the girl's community. Literacy provided by secular schools is neutralizing the power of the extremists.

Mr. Mortenson began the Institute after climbing a mountain in Pakistan. He became very ill, sought help in a village, and was nursed back to health by the inhabitants. While recovering he observed the village's numerous children scratching their lessons in the dirt because they could not afford the \$1-a-day salary to hire a teacher. To repay their kindness he raised funds to build the village a school. Greg has since been responsible for the building of over 45 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan and has received national awards for his efforts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Since we are coming into the Valentine's Day season, a season to share love, it seems the perfect time to kick off the Pennies for Peace campaign. As the CCMS students focus on their personal Reading Challenge this month, they are aware that not all children of the world are able to learn to read. As we reach across the world to share our love and concern for those children who suffer through the results of war, please join CCMS in building bridges to peace by putting pennies in the jars you'll see around Salida. The campaign will continue through March 15th. The final total will be announced in the Mountain Mail in late March. Thank you for participating in the Pennies for Peace campaign. And thank you for helping to fight terrorism with books.



REASONS TO PARTICIPATE

Pennies for Peace, a program of Central Asia Institute (CAI), teaches the rewards of sharing:

- The pennies help build schools and foster literacy in Asia
- One penny at a time can make a positive impact on a global scale
- In the U.S, a penny is virtually worthless, but in other countries a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy
- It helps educate people about the world beyond the local community
- It encourages active participation in the creation of global peace

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