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A special Thank You to Debbie Raynor and Kate DeClerk whose leadership helped us through this important time of growth and transition. Good Luck to you both on your new endeavors!
Greg Mortenson received the Freedom Forum’s prestigious 2003 Al Neuharth “Free Spirit” award at the National Press club in Washington, DC. The Honorable Representative Mary Bono (Rep.-Cali.), a longtime CAI supporter and advocate on Capitol Hill was there to introduce Greg at the ceremony.

The “Free Spirit” award is given annually to a “risk taker, visionary, innovative leader... who accomplishes great things beyond his or her normal circumstances.” Previous “Free Spirit” recipients include First Lady Barbara Bush, test pilot Chuck Yaeger and Burmese activist Aung San Suu Kyi.

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Through CAI’s support, Jahan was one of the first girls in the remote Korphe village school who learned to read and write. She now plans to put her education to work as a rural maternal-health practitioner.

Kate DeClerk, CAI’s former Program Director, visited Jahan in July 2004. “As the most educated woman in her village, she is a leader and a mentor amongst the girls. The children are inspired by her example,” Kate said.

“I’m grateful that people halfway around the world care about my education, and have helped me realize my dreams,” Jahan said.

Jahan’s story was featured in an April 2003 Parade magazine article, which triggered an outpouring of over 14,000 responses and financial support.

Jahan is continuing her studies in Skardu. Through a distance-learning program called Allam Iqbal Open University, she has completed health-care prerequisite studies. Jahan also works for a government health department, going door to door to administer simple medicines and instruct women in family-planning procedures, hygiene and sanitation.

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The Refugee Girls’ School

Broolmo village is located in Pakistan’s Gultari region along the Line of Control (LOC)—the disputed border between Pakistan and India (see map on p. 4). In 1999, constant Indian Army shelling killed several Broolmo residents, flattened their homes and destroyed many livestock.

The villagers abandoned their homes and fled to a refugee camp near the LOC. Later, they relocated to Skardu and were housed in another temporary camp. Finally, 2,400 Broolmo refugees rebuilt their community, now known as “Broolmo Colony,” established jointly by fourteen Gultari-area villages.

As internal Pakistani refugees, the survivors were not able to receive services from any international refugee organizations. In 2000, with the help of Northern Pakistan’s head Shi-ite Islamic leader, Saeed Abbas Risvi, CAI established a drinking water system, which significantly improved the overall health of Broolmo residents.

The previous year, the financial support of a generous Colorado donor enabled CAI to set up a refugee girls’ school. The five-room school employs two teachers and currently serves over 140 girls.

“All our daughters should be educated,” said one widowed mother of six. She added that the opportunity to go to school people together. It helped children see farther than their own backyards. Of course I took the opportunity (through P4P) to teach math, geography, writing and reading, but best of all my students came to realize their own ability to make a difference on the other side of the world.”

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continued p. 3
Our Mission
Central Asia Institute’s mission is to promote and support community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in mountain regions of Central Asia.

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In memory of Dr. Jean Hoerni, 1924-1997.

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