

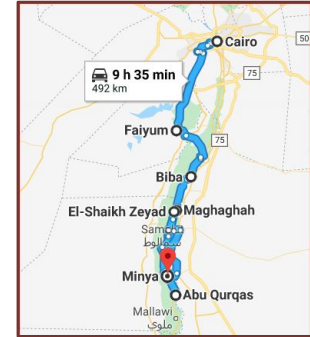
## Egypt Widow Selection Trip

### *Hope for Women - Inspire, Transform and Sustain*

In March 2018, the steering committee, a team of people from Egypt and the States, journeyed to upper Egypt to meet widows and their children for consideration in participating into the FFF program.

The committee started from Cairo and visited 6 cities: Faiyum, Biba El-Shaih Zeyad, Maghaghah, Abu Qurqas, Kum El Khadra (not on map).

Of the 11 widows assessed, 8 widows met the criterion. FFF added 29 “new” widows and children. The average age of the widows is 39 with an average monthly pension of \$53. Of the 21 children, 12 qualify for reimbursement for school and tutoring.



*Reda with Merna & Mareena*

Included are details on each widow. There is Reda whose children have Vitamin C deficiency and bowed legs. Meet Nahed who has a severe rat problem in the house and is caring for a mentally challenged son. Read about Hanan who lives in fear of being dismissed from her mother in law’s house and is under constant abuse. She lives in a single room with her two children. She has to share her mother in law’s bathroom (a hole for a toilet and a bucket for a shower). Hanan’s son needs medical care and she, herself, needs a new pair of eye glasses.



*Hanan with Sandy & Farah*



*Nahed with Mina*

Interesting culture fact. In the Egyptian culture, in areas of poverty, married women move to their in-law’s house. When the wife becomes a widow, she is suddenly at the mercy of the in-laws whether she can stay or leave the house. Sometimes the grandchildren are a positive reason for “allowing” the widow to remain part of the household. In the case of Hanan, she is in fear of being asked to vacate from the unfriendly, offensive mother in law. She has no family who can support her and the two children. Interestingly, although, Reda and Sarah live at the parent’s house, they too can be asked to leave. Widows are vulnerable and lack security especially when they have nothing to begin with. We did not meet Heba because she was in court battling an in-law dispute over property. Meanwhile she is renting an apartment.



*Heba Ramezy*

The journey of these 8 new widows begins with FFF addressing their socio-economic needs through the four key poverty dimensions at the **individual and community level**:

- Health (Nutrition & Medical Care)
- Education (Preschool through College)
- Quality of Life (Lodging, Utilities & Assets)
- Sustainability (Microbusiness)



The planned community activities, if feasible, are:

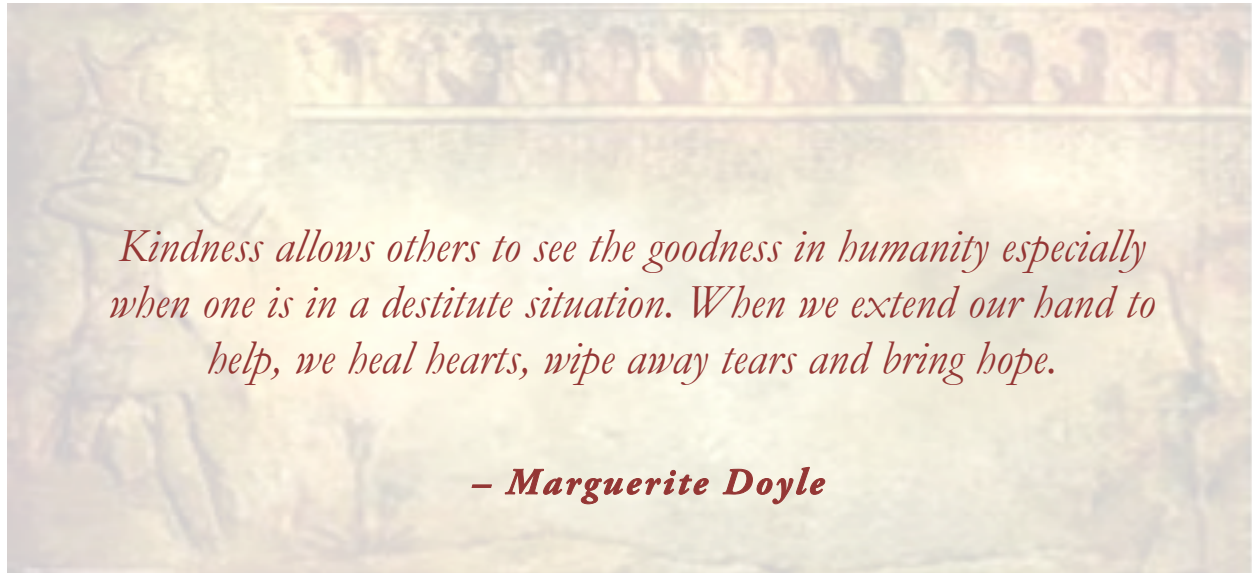
In October, organize a two-day Community Health Medical Assessment Event  
Build, staff and equip a Women's Development Center

The attached file lists the exact provisions each widow will receive for the next 12-14 months. The budget to sustain the new widows for 14 months is ~\$24K.

Each of these widows are clearly struggling with medical, nutrition and financial needs. Unfortunately, women, especially widows are the most vulnerable victims of ingrained poverty because of prevailing patriarchal culture depriving them from equal opportunities, security and safety. *Finding Freedom through Friendship (FFF)* recognizes empowerment is necessary to reduce destitution and decrease the gap of gender and social inequality.

Thank you for your donations. Without your funds, helping these widows is not possible.

Warmest blessings, Marguerite



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