



For immediate release

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**Coptic Orphans Awards UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Youstra
with 2007 Leading by Example Award at D.C. Gala**

WASHINGTON, DC, May 2, 2007 — “Of the over fifty awards that I have received, this one is the most touching,” said Egyptian celebrity Youstra as she accepted the Coptic Orphans 2007 Leading by Example Award. Youstra, a UNDP goodwill ambassador, was the guest of honor and keynote speaker at Coptic Orphans’ fourth annual gala and awards ceremony held on Saturday April 28, 2007 in Potomac, MD.

Youstra urged the audience to give of their time, effort and money so that vulnerable children in Egypt could overcome their obstacles and live out their dreams. She recounted her visit to Coptic Orphans’ Not Alone Program and the Valuable Girl Project in Egypt and described her pride and awe with the children she met and the work being done by Coptic Orphans.

“It is because of the work that is being done by Coptic Orphans, bringing Muslim and Christian children together, that Egypt will be great again,” said Youstra as she made an emotional plea to the audience on behalf of the children.

Also honored at the gala were the Serve to Learn volunteer alumni. Serve to Learn is a program that allows youth from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States to travel to Egypt and encourage children through teaching English. The volunteers were honored for the sacrifices they made to be with the children.

Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international non profit organization founded in 1989 with the goal of transforming a generation that will have the courage to change the next one. Coptic Orphans exists to improve the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children in Egypt by providing basic necessities, education and mentoring so that they may realize their potential to become productive members of society. Our main offices are in Washington DC, USA and in Cairo, Egypt, and we have branches in Canada and Australia.

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Coptic Orphans

...helping children survive and succeed

Captions for Accompanying Pictures

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Nermien Riad, founder and executive director of Coptic Orphans, and Yousra

(from left to right) Consul Ashraf Salama, Yousra, Shaimaa Salama, Nermien Riad

Coptic Orphans staff (bottom from left to right) Nermien Riad, Yousra, Doris Abdel Messieh, Randa Makary (top from left to right) Ben Marcos, Nathan Hollenbeck, Tamara Martin, Lisa Basta, Mina Shinouda and Manal Bedwany

Father Bishoy Andrawes, senior priest of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church of Washington D.C.

Nermien Riad awards Yousra with the 2007 Leading by Example Award

Yousra addresses the audience and urges them to give to the programs that empower the children

Serve to Learn volunteer alumni (2003 – 2006)

Yousra Awards Ben Marcos Australia Volunteer 2005