Iraqi Children Foundation launches first virtual global event ‘Road To Baghdad’

Tuesday 29 September, 2020

Washington D.C. – September 29, 2020

On October 1st, the Iraqi Children Foundation (ICF) will launch *Road to Baghdad*, this inaugural virtual mission aims to travel 6,202 miles in support of Iraq’s most at-risk orphans and street children during COVID-19.

During the entire month, participants from all over the world can help achieve a collective goal of travelling the distance between Washington D.C. and Baghdad. Everyone can participate in any way they wish to "travel" just by logging their daily activity - from running, walking, cycling, swimming, all the way through to dancing or housework!

“We are on a mission to help Iraqi children and their families during this COVID crisis,” said ICF Chairman Mohammed Khudairi. “In mid-March, schools in Baghdad closed. We had to close our two Hope Buses temporarily which meant kids could no longer come to class or get a nutritious meal. The city went into lockdown several times, and economic hardships led to some kids returning to the street and an increased risk of child abuse in the home.”

Each year, ICF’s “In Their Shoes” race weekend in the USA draws dignitaries, diplomats, veterans and business-people, families and the media. This year, due to COVID, ICF are doing things a little differently. “By moving to a virtual event, we can have supporters join us safely from all over the world – allowing us to raise awareness for ICF like never before”, ICF’s Chairman says.

How to join the virtual mission::

- Register @ My Virtual Mission to create an account then click join the mission for ***Road to Baghdad.***
- Sign up only takes a few minutes. You can manually enter miles via the My Virtual Mission website once the race begins on October 1st, or download the My Virtual Mission app and pair it with your phone, smart watch, Fitbit, or other devices.
- There's a $25 registration fee. Everyone receives a digital certificate at the end of the race and anyone who travels more than 10 miles during the month of October will also receive an ICF custom running buff (gaiter).
- Show your support for Iraqi children by donating or creating your own fundraiser, and read about ICF’s life-changing work here.

For more information on this mission and how to sign up

click **here** to watch a short video introduction.

Follow *Road to Baghdad: Instagram/Twitter: @iraqichildren, Facebook/LinkedIn: Iraqi Children Foundation, Hashtag: #roadtobaghdad*

Any questions or request for interviews please contact liz@iraqichildren.org

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About ICF

ICF, the USA's largest charity devoted exclusively to Iraqi orphans and vulnerable children, is a non-partisan, non-sectarian tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charity, rated Platinum on Guidestar and listed with the U.S. government's Combined Federal Campaign (#95191).

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