

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

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To the American Bahá'í Community

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly often receives touching letters extolling the programs, facilities, atmosphere, and arts offered at the national Bahá'í schools. In one such recent letter, a friend wrote about her family's experience at our Bahá'í schools, saying, "We have had an opportunity to attend each of the schools and feel much enriched by our experiences there. We returned home refreshed, revitalized, and ready to teach the Cause of God. Many thanks for subsidizing these centers, which ...allow families to attend again and again."

Our hearts rejoice at this evidence of the fulfillment of the purpose of these centers of Bahá'í learning as expressed by Shoghi Effendi, who cherished the hope that at the end of each school session "every one of the attendants will have derived such mental and spiritual benefits, and acquired such a fresh enthusiasm to serve as will enable him, upon his return to his local community, to labor with a determination and vigor that will excite the envy and admiration of his fellow-believers, and stimulate them to greater heights of consecration to the service of our beloved Cause."

Within the context of the Five Year Plan, the Bahá'í schools remain an important part of community life, as affirmed by the Universal House of Justice in its recent letters. Staff and volunteers at our schools have been laboring diligently to prepare facilities and a rich array of programs that will serve the needs of the friends and the Faith in these exciting times. The National Assembly encourages every believer to make the effort to attend a Bahá'í school session at least once each year – it will be a rewarding experience you and your family will treasure for years to come.

The National Spiritual Assembly believes so strongly in the value of these schools, that each year it sets aside funds to subsidize their continued availability to the community. However, with such limited financial resources, volunteers are critical to the daily operations of each school, and, unfortunately, our national schools are currently facing a significant short-fall of volunteers for the spring, summer and fall of 2009.

Families and communities are asked to consult with their youth on this crucial need and encourage them to take advantage of this priceless opportunity to serve the Faith at a national school. Independent adult volunteers are also welcome to apply. For applications and additional information, please contact byscschools@usbnc.org or call 847-733-3514.

Be assured that you are held close to our hearts and are ever in our prayers.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary-General