

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

February 9, 2012

To: All Local Spiritual Assemblies and Registered Groups

Dearly loved coworkers,

We have now almost completed the first year of this Five Year Plan, in which the House of Justice has expressed its joy in this way:

*“...what gratifies us beyond this is the certain knowledge that victories will be won in the next five years by youth and adults, men and women, who may at present be wholly unaware of Bahá'u'lláh's coming, much less acquainted with the 'society building power' of His Faith.”*

Stories from all corners of the nation come to us that bring comfort to our hearts, knowing that indeed this process is underway. Waiting souls everywhere are coming into contact with this life-giving message, often for the first time.

As we know from the writings of our beloved Guardian, the Fund is the bedrock of the institutions and activities of the Cause. It sustains all we do. In order to continue the momentum that has begun, the National Fund is in great need of support. The goal for this fiscal year is \$31 million. As of the end of January, over \$16.1 million has been received, which leaves approximately \$14.9 million still to be raised in the remaining 12 weeks of the fiscal year. In order to achieve this, contributions are needed from each believer residing in the United States.

For our upcoming Feast of 'Alá'/Loftiness at the beginning of the Fast, the Feast letter from our National Spiritual Assembly will be focused on the National Fund and all of us coming together in unity to help win the \$31 million goal. As stewards of our beloved Faith and the right hand of the National Spiritual Assembly, we ask your Local Spiritual Assembly to please have a meeting before this next Feast and consult on how you can support the community in its deliberations on the upcoming Feast letter and encourage the friends in their efforts to win the National Fund goal of \$31 million.

In this richly-blessed nation with a high spiritual destiny, a station repeatedly emphasized by the beloved Master, we have many blessings and, correspondingly, many responsibilities, which achieving our National Fund goal will help accomplish. To rise to this level of sacrifice requires significant striving on our part, as well as a shift in culture, which the House of Justice speaks of:

*“Finally, a significant advance in culture, one which we have followed with particular interest, is marked by the rise in capacity to think in terms of process... The expansion and consolidation of the Bahá'í community encompasses a number of interacting processes, each of which contributes its share to the movement of humanity towards Bahá'u'lláh's vision of a new World Order.”*

Many of you have already arisen to assist with achieving this Fund goal by conducting fundraisers in your communities. The National Spiritual Assembly commends you for your efforts. These events have strengthened community vitality in addition to moving us closer to winning the goal. Systematic and coordinated efforts will be needed by all to accomplish the crucial task of meeting the Fund goal. If your consultations result in the desire to conduct a fundraiser we suggest you consult guidance from “Stewardship and Development.” The “Stewardship and Development” manual can be found on [mybahaifund.us](http://mybahaifund.us), under the tab “Treasury Resources.”

The Online Contribution System allows the believers to contribute in a convenient and easy way. Encourage your fellow community members to visit [mybahaifund.us](http://mybahaifund.us) and click on the icon for the Online Contribution System, so that they may offer their share at the altar of sacrifice and contribute to the advancement of His glorious Cause.

*“We must be like the fountain or spring that is continually emptying itself of all that it has and is continually being refilled from an invisible source. To be continually giving out for the good of our fellows undeterred by the fear of poverty and reliant on the unfailing bounty of the Source of all wealth and all good—this is the secret of right living.”* (Shoghi Effendi, Directives from the Guardian, p. 31)

May the Blessed Beauty confirm all our efforts to advance His Cause.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Juana C. Conrad  
Treasurer