



TREASURERS NOTES

FOR THE FEAST OF BAHÁ/SPLENDOR

MARCH 21, 2019

For Consultation

“Contributing to the Bahá’í fund constitutes an act of discipline which is an intrinsic element of the devotional life of the individual. No believer should be unaware of the privilege of contributing to the advancement of the Cause of God, irrespective of his material circumstances. The practice of giving to the Fund strengthens the connection between the believer and the Cause and enhances his sense of identification with it. Divine confirmations redound upon those who offer a portion of their material resources in a spirit of sacrifice, motivated by their love of the Faith and their desire to assist in its progress.” Universal House of Justice, September 17, 1992

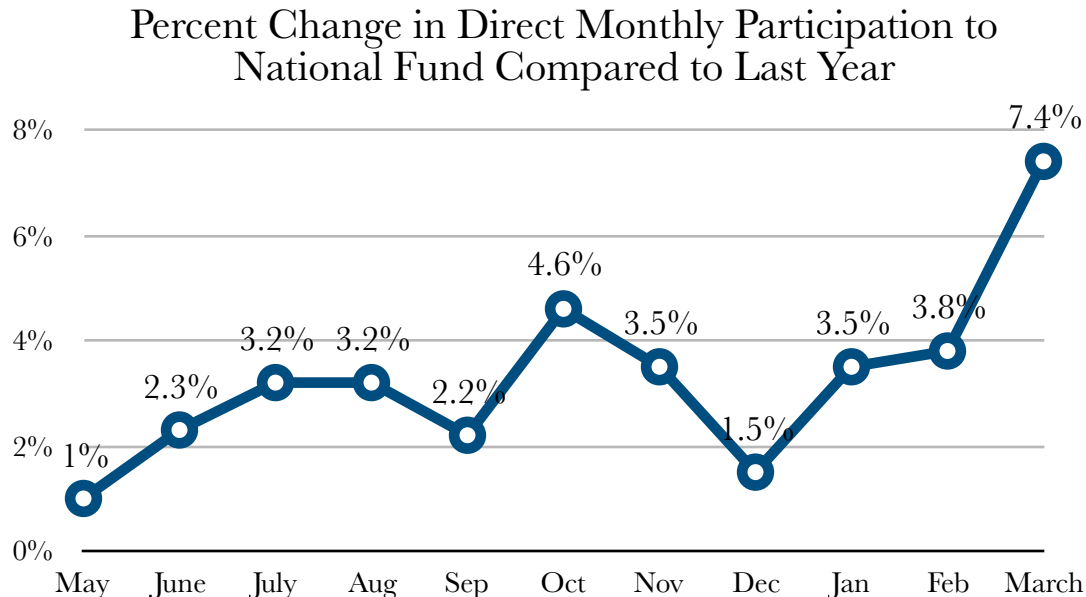
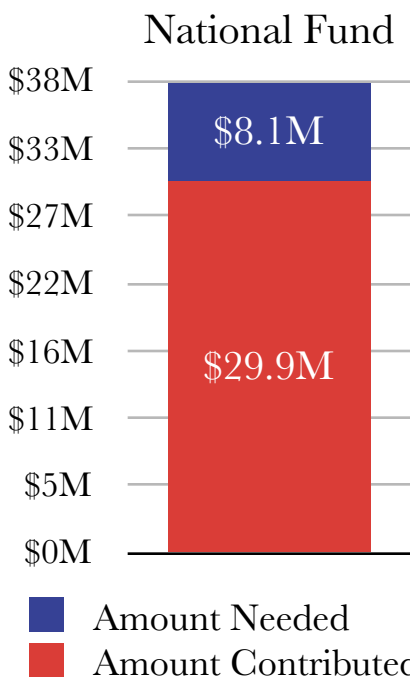
How is contributing to the Fund part of our devotional lives?

Fund Story

“In response to the considerable shortfall in the National Bahá’í Fund, the friends in [our community] decided to hold a fundraiser. The idea was generated by one of the friends at the 19-day Feast and followed by ideas from those in attendance.

On the day of the fundraiser...community members along with friends from the adjacent communities all joined each other at the Bahá’í Center. Through their generosity, an abundance of home-made food, jewelry, hand-made art work, clothing, toys, and other goods were provided for sale in addition to services such as henna paintings. Junior youth and youth from the community participated and contributed enthusiastically by providing card games and video games to raise funds.

In a spirit of devotion, love, unity, detachment, and universal participation; the event surpassed the goal of \$900 by raising \$1,836 to be contributed towards the National Fund Goal!”



■ Amount Needed
 ■ Amount Contributed

PRECIOUS GIFT

Story Adapted from
“Vignettes from the Life of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá”
by Annemarie Honnald 1991

‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s refused many gifts. But on a rare occasion, He would accept a simple gift or a special offering of love to Bahá’u’lláh.

One day, a believer arrived in Haifa from Iran. He had travelled a long difficult journey to bring a precious gift for the Master; a beautiful rug, woven of purest silk, patterned as a rose garden and bordered with heavy twisted cord of real gold. With great effort, this gift was brought to Haifa by way of Afghanistan and India, due to transportation and travel problems.

When the generous pilgrim arrived after tiring weeks of travel, he took the rug to the Pilgrim House close to the Shrine of the Báb and spread it out on the floor. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá arrived and immediately asked the caretaker of the Shrine whose carpet that was. After the caretaker explained, the Master said that so valuable a work of art should not be on the floor where it might become soiled. He gave instructions for it to be rolled up and put away. The pilgrim then told ‘Abdu’l-Bahá that the carpet was a gift for Him, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was moved, but He had a special place for the gift. He replied that so beautiful a gift should be placed in the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh, and that He would place it there Himself!

Within a few days the pilgrim, along with other believers, joined ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on a special trip to the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh, in Bahji. They boarded a train in Haifa for ‘Akka. From ‘Akka a carriage took the older friends to Bahji. The Master rode His now-famous white donkey, the younger ones walked.

The pilgrim, now walking among his friends, accompanying ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to the Holiest Shrine, could not contain his joy. They asked the Master for permission to sing as the group walked. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá gave His permission. So great was their joy and singing that many years later, however, the pilgrim couldn’t remember what the songs were! All he could remember was how happy he felt - singing with his friends in the presence of the Master!

When they reached Bahji, the pilgrim watched with even greater joy; Abdu’l-Baha placing the precious rug in the Holy Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh!

Reflection

What is the best gift you ever received?

What made it the “best gift”?