Opening Minds, Empowering Women
Afghan Institute of Learning

Learning Center
Susan is a 19-year old woman whose father was killed in the fighting. Her family used to live in the mountains but now live in a village. Girls were not allowed to have education beyond 6th grade but Susan broke this tradition and became educated and went on to open the door of education for many young girls.

When Susan went to the AIL Learning Center she was impressed. She persuaded all the girls of her family to come to the center. Susan talked with other families and pointed out the benefits and proper morality of the center and especially the practical usefulness of sewing for women and girls. She also talked about the humanitarian activities of Professor Sakena Yacoobi and showed her picture to the families. She encouraged them to send their daughters to the center.

Now, Susan comes to the center every day with about fifteen girls aged 8 to 22 years. They walk about 3 km to participate in Arabic and sewing classes. Susan is proud of her success and of her efforts to bring more girls to education and learning. She is hopeful that their families’ minds and attitudes are brighter now and eager to spread knowledge and advocate for the value of education.

Leadership Workshop
Fatima works in a private school as a teacher. She was so shy on the first day of the workshop, she could not even say her name loudly. She has found courage during the workshop through support from the facilitators and she started to actively take part.

On the closing day, she stood in front of others and said, “I used to always do what my colleagues asked me to do. This took all my time and I failed to perform my own job. After participating in this workshop I learned to say no to others sometimes. I understand that people with low self-confidence cannot say no! I will work to increase my self-confidence to be able to make decisions and recognize my priorities in my job and career.”