

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

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Spiritual Assemblies and Registered Groups in the United States

Beloved Coworkers,

In November we wrote to each believer alerting you of the challenge the National Fund faces for this year. We indicated that contributions were falling far short of the goal for this year and asked “you to consider joining others to make this a year when the financial resources needed are readily available for the advancement of the Cause.” Now, three months have passed and we find contributions to the National Fund are still languishing. As of the end of February \$13.5 Million has been received with only two months before Ridvan to meet the \$25 Million goal for this year.

You can well imagine our concern as we face a new season filled with plans and activities for the coming year. An important note is that in spite of the drop in contributions to the National Fund much progress has been made in support of building the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in Chile. Nearly \$10 million has been pledged and or contributed for this important project. Likewise the support for the new visitors Center here in Wilmette is moving ahead. Over all contributions from American believers to the various Funds including the International and Continental Funds are substantial but unfortunately this does not address the very real needs on the national front. All must be generously supported.

As we enter the spiritually rich period of fasting we ask that you assist us in sharing this challenge with the friends in your community. The National Assembly has taken substantial steps to limit the spending of its agencies and they are operating and serving you with vastly reduced human resources. The Regional Bahá'í Councils likewise are struggling to adjust the approach to their work given these limitations.

We now ask each believer to reflect during her/his prayer time this month on what more can be done to eliminate the financial dilemma we face nationally. And we ask you to make arrangements to facilitate their desire to take action to alter the course we are following. We ask, in addition, that each Local Assembly and each registered group review again the funds available to you locally and make them available to close this significant gap. This is a call made with all sincerity knowing you will do your utmost.

We promise to pray here at the holiest House of Worship for your strength and capacity on every level. And we thank you in advance.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Dr. William Roberts
Treasurer