

CBS NEWS

Spirit of America: helping children who escaped ISIS.

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Here's one of the heart-breaking realities of the ISIS rampage through Iraq and Syria, more than 100,000 children are among the million forced to escape into Northern Iraq. But Margaret Brennan learned how a little known group of American civilians is helping those kids face winter by giving new meaning to "boots on the ground."



Call it a wartime Cinderella moment. To a child who has lost everything to ISIS, a shiny new pair of rubber boots is an extraordinary gift this winter.

Chris Clary: "The kids' faces would just light up when they saw them"

Chris Clary and Isaac Eagan work for Spirit of America, a unique charity that partners with the US military in war zones to provide aid to the local population. They've delivered 25,000 pairs of boots to Northern Iraq since November, each costing \$2 a pair all funded by Americans.



Isaac Eagan: "The temperature is somewhere between 30-40 degrees and you have a kid who is wearing just sandals maybe socks and sandals and some of them running just barefoot through the mud, running through the cold ground and you can put a pair of boots on their feet, I mean it's pretty gratifying"

Spirit of America's Chris Clary, Isaac Eagan and Ryan Frost in Iraq supporting the US effort and helping children who escaped ISIS.

Continued ...

Jim Hake: "The reason I started Spirit of America were the attacks of 9/11."



Jim Hake, Spirit of America, and Margaret Brennan, CBS News, at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial.

Jim Hake: "Most people want a better life. We Americans are the better life people. If we can help our troops and diplomats in these conflict situations move things in the right direction by simply helping people achieve what they aspire to, it prevents conflict."



Spirit of America has supported US missions in 32 countries.

Spirit of America CEO and founder Jim Hake was an Internet entrepreneur when the planes hit that September 11th. He thought of his two young sons and decided to use his business expertise to help reshape the image of America abroad. His military contacts told him that winning over the locals in warzones could do that and save lives.

Since forming in 2003, the charity has worked in 32 countries providing everything from metal detectors for Afghan police to veteran training in West Africa. Hake says they can act faster than government in part because they take directions directly.

Jim Hake: "100% of that money goes directly to provide those boots and it happens in lightning speed. After we received our first donation for the project we had literally boots on the ground, helping these children, within 14 days."

Margaret Brennan: "Spirit of America has plans to distribute another 60,000 boots in 2015 and now they're operating inside of Syria, aiding the US-backed opposition."

Two dollars a pair, its incredible how so little can do so much.

Watch online at:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/american-charity-sends-boots-to-kids-displaced-by-isis/>