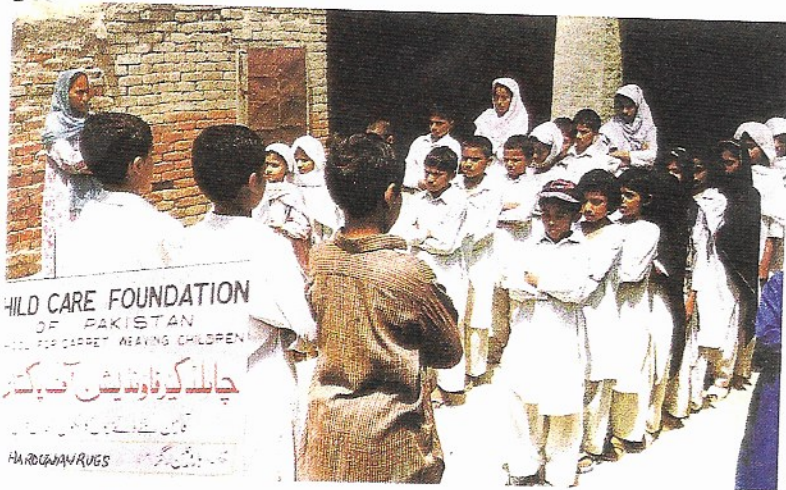


# HAN

**Inside**  
**UNCOVERING SHOWTIME**  
Spotlighting a stellar cast of fabric introductions at the summer market.  
See Special Insert



## FLOOR COVERING



"...the company has plans to add more schools, as well as clinics and day-care centers in the rug-weaving regions of India and Pakistan."

David Harounian, HRI

Boys and girls at the Sheikhpura, sponsored by Harounian and CCF, line up to enter the building.

## Harounian Funds Pakistani School in Rug Weaving District

*Rug importer gives back to oversea weaving community*

**NEW YORK**—It's easy to say that education is the answer to child labor issues in Pakistan, but Harounian Rugs International (HRI) has taken a proactive course and actually established a school, Located in the Dhaban Klan District of Pakistan, Sheikhpura which has a major concentration of rug-weaving families, according to HRI, with virtually no educational facilities.

The school, created in cooperation with the Child Care Foundation (CCF), open last month, serving 130 children-boys and girls-aged six to 10, in five Classrooms with five teachers. HRI supplies free study materials and supplies to the children. The school is also equipped with fans and water coolers, as well as adequate bathrooms facilities.

CCF is a nonprofit organization that monitors and inspects schools to ensure proper conditions, teachers performance and the children's progress. The children are being taught basic skills they will need to attend higher educational programs.

David Harounian, principal of HRI, said, "This First school has been so successful the company has plans to add more schools, as well as clinics and day-care centers in the rug-weaving regions of India and Pakistan."

Harounian said that the company is making a long-term commitment to developing and maintaining educational facilities through the CCF. HRI is also interested in working with similar organizations in other rug-weaving countries to establish schools and other facilities to help improve life in those regions, He said.

"It should not be forgotten that if children have worked and are working along side their respective families, it has been out of necessity, and a way of life, as well as socioeconomics," Said Harounian. He added, "It has been witnessed and recognized that throwing these children out of work overnight only worsens their condition. Thus, working with the CCF, HRI wishes to gradually withdraw the children. Thus, working with CCF, HRI wishes to gradually withdraw the children from labor and place them in school and vocational." Harounian Stressed that the cost of the project compared to the number of children who are helped is not high. He urged other companies and individuals to engage in similar proacts to establish educational centers in rug-weaving districts in Pakistan and India as the best way to eliminate abuses.