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# *The* ANGLICAN

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# Anglicans helping to rebuild

Anglicans who were shocked at the scenes of devastated communities resulting from the bombing of Afghanistan can help one of those communities rebuild.

An ecumenical group in Toronto has embarked on an ambitious fundraising project to rebuild a mosque that was destroyed in the war and it is looking to Anglican parishes for help.

The group, which calls itself the Canadian International Peace Project, hopes to raise \$1 million in the next year. The money will be used to restore a mosque and to construct a Canadian Peace Centre that will provide health care, education and social

services to the local population.

Lori Ann Comeau, outreach director of All Saints', Kingsway, says the project personifies Canadians' ability to live in harmony despite cultural or faith differences.

"It will promote Canadians' values of tolerance, respect and peace," she says.

It will also have positive social and economic benefits, she adds, pointing out that local people will be employed in the construction and also to run the peace centre.

Archbishop Terence Finlay praises the project.

"I'm pleased to see that All Saints', Kingsway is participating

in this interfaith project to help the Afghan people," he says. "It is through such gestures of harmony and understanding that peace in the world will become possible."

The project was started at the end of 2001 by Mark Persaud, outreach director of Lansing United Church. Moved by the images of desolation in Afghanistan, he decided to bring together a group of Toronto faith organizations that would undertake to rebuild a mosque.

He asked congregations from the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United and Roman Catholic denominations and the Muslim and Jewish faiths to

participate.

Fundraising began early this year. Individual donations have been coming in and the group is identifying public and private partnerships and preparing a funding proposal for presentation to the Canadian International Development Agency.

To date, both St. John's, York Mills and All Saints' have put on fundraising concerts to support the project and Ms. Comeau hopes that many more Anglican parishes will become involved.

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