

## **Community Service at AUI**

In 2005, AUI introduced a 60 hour community service component as a requirement for all new undergraduate degree-seeking students. Although this is a normal part of university life in the United States, it was a first for Morocco. With only 30 partnerships established between national NGOs/service institutions and AUI in 2007, this number has now grown to more than 150.

From Tangier to Tiznit, and Casablanca to Erfoud, AUI students have braced the reality of the marginalized throughout their country working with projects that tackle taboos, empower the abused and reintegrate the neglected. Street kids, orphans, physically and mentally disabled children and adults, illiterate communities, abused individuals, single mothers, the elderly, the environment, people with cancer, aids, diabetes - AUI strives to keep knocking on all doors and face the social issues of Morocco.

Each semester AUI invites professionals prominent in the field of human development and civic engagement in Morocco to come and talk at the university. To name but a few notable previous participants: UN Consultant on conflict resolution and Visiting Professor Dr. Ahmed Ghazaoui; Aicha Ech Channa, the 2009 \$1 Million Opus Prize Winner for her devotion to the rights of single mothers and their children, Mohamed M'jid, former president of the Royal Tennis Federation and now an empowered activist of human dignity and poverty alleviation and Abderrahim Harouchi, founder of Association AFAK, former Minister of both Public Health and of Social Solidarity and Development.

Each student writes a report and conducts an oral presentation at the end of their service in order to encourage reflection on their experiences and pass on their recommendations for both students and partnerships to implement in the future.