



A Summer Full of Activities!

Thanks to the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and assistants, Tahaddi's summer camp was a great success!



After a wonderful 2015-2016 academic year, Tahaddi's educators enjoyed only a brief break before our fun-filled *nashatat saifyeh*, or summer camp began!

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For one month each summer, Tahaddi Education Center (TEC) runs a summer camp for the children living in the area of Hay El Gharbeh. Lebanese summers are long and hot and our camp directs the children into healthy and educational summer activities. Each week our educators, volunteers, and a group of program assistants – many of whom were our former students – led more than 200 children through a variety of crafts and games. Some children learned how to cook everything from pizza to cake, others learned about conducting electricity through a game from one of our science educators! All the children enjoyed the outdoor games (especially the water balloon fights) as well as the weekly outings. Most of these children do not have the opportunity to leave the area in which they live, so being bused with all their friends to new and exciting locations was something they looked forward to all week. Head over to our Facebook page to see more photos from the month!

Did you know Tahaddi has a Facebook page?

To get the most recent updates and photos from Tahaddi make sure to like our Facebook page! Check us out at facebook.com/tahaddilebanon

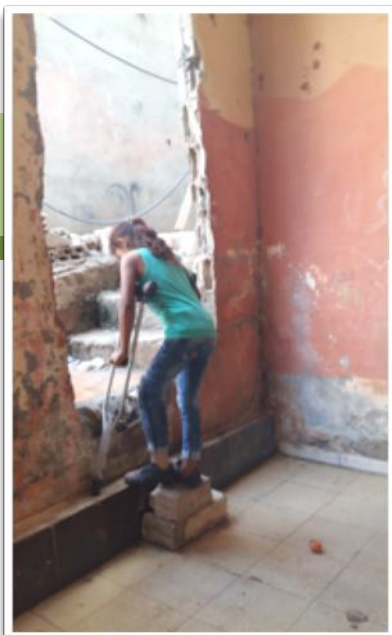




“The first time we saw her, she was being pushed to our center in a wheelbarrow”

Lara and her younger brother Ahmed came to our attention last year, two siblings stuck all day inside a tiny, dark apartment with suspected Cerebral Palsy. Lara, unable to walk, and Ahmed, unable to even sit up or move his arms, couldn't make it down the unstable cement stairs to leave their house unless a family member carried them down and pushed them around in a leftover dolly normally used to move stacks of wood. Our social worker Rana took on their case, referring them to medical specialists, physical therapists at the Hatem Foundation, and an organization called Arc En Ciel that supplies wheelchairs. In addition to referrals and transportation subsidizations, we gave the family food vouchers and social aid such as mattresses and new clothes.

After months of doctor's appointments and physical therapy we are seeing signs of hope for these two children. Now five years old, Ahmed can sit up in a chair by himself, the first step to getting him into a wheelchair. His older sister Lara has her own lightweight wheelchair – giving her greater mobility. Both children are scheduled to work with speech therapists to improve their communication as they suffer from diffused weaknesses, which affect not only their movement but also their speech. The family, Syrian refugees struggling deeply in Lebanon, has faced many challenges. But mobility has been one of the most psychologically challenging. Lara and Ahmed's mother told us that when she takes her children to the different specialists, she doesn't feel like she's going to see a doctor. She feels like she is enjoying a day out with her children!



Update on Sara: Fitted for a Prosthesis!

For those of you who have been following the story of Sara, a Syrian refugee born with spinal bifida, we have happy news: she finally received her prosthetic leg! Sara had part of her left leg amputated last year due to complications from the spinal bifida and has been waiting for her leg to fully heal so she could be fitted for her prosthesis. A huge thank you to everyone who donated towards the cost of her prosthesis. This has been a difficult process for such a young girl, but Sara has impressed us all with her resilience and determination to live her life. She came faithfully to Tahaddi's literacy classes, using crutches to navigate the cracked pavement and broken stairs. We can't wait to see her walk to class on her own two feet!



A refugee, paralyzed from the waist down after a bombing in his village, 21-year-old Hassan's future seemed dim. But thanks to the involvement of Tahaddi and our partner organization Rescue Me, Hassan has seen his life turn around!

Hassan lost the ability to walk during a bombardment of his home village in Syria. He was sitting on his roof when a rocket blasted into the neighboring building, knocking him off the roof and onto the ground and breaking his spine in the process. He used a wheelchair to move around until his family fled to Lebanon in early 2016 and they were forced to leave his wheelchair behind.



He spent his days laying flat in their tiny apartment and soon became covered in painful bedsores. His

mother heard about Tahaddi from the neighbors and came to us, asking for help for her son. We started with a home visit by our social worker, nurse, and physician. They cleaned his bedsores, prescribed him medication, and referred him to a doctor, as the bedsores were so severe they may require surgical treatment. Our medical team also worked on the causes of his bedsores. We purchased him a waterbed and arranged for him to start weekly physical therapy at Hatem Foundation, which provides physical therapy completely for free. Another local organization, Rescue Me, has played a very important role in Hassan's life. Rescue Me, which focuses on crime prevention, integrated Hassan and his sister into a 3-month program along with 20 other young people from Hay El Gharbeh. They also bought him a new wheelchair, improving his mobility.

We have seen a huge change in him since becoming involved in this project. When we first saw him, trapped in a small apartment with intermittent electricity, no running



water, and covered in sores, he was depressed and withdrawn. A young man, displaced from his home and unable to walk, he was without hope. We have seen him transform over these few months; he now laughs and smiles! He spends time with fellow young people each week, instead of being stuck inside alone, and has hope to be able to work and support his family. Our medical team is also looking into a new type of orthotic machine that could even allow Hassan to walk. There is hope for this young man's future.