

The Foundation – Shatila’s Children and Youth Center

Annual Report for the year 2018

(our Swedish Postal Giro Acct. number is 59 84 28-1)

What is the CYC?

The CYC has existed since 1997. It was registered with the Lebanese authorities as a non-governmental organization in 2008, whereupon it was renamed “The Children & Youth Association”. The organization conducts its activities in Shatila, with an affiliated branch in the refugee camp Nahr el Bahred since the camp was there in 2007. CYC affords a meeting place for the refugee camp’s children and youth. During their leisure time children and youth are given help with their schoolwork and engaging in other meaningful activities that contribute to developing their capabilities.

Abu Mujahed is the head of the organization. Work locally is led by a number of selected young people who form a committee that plans activities together with Abu Muhajed. The activities are planned in meetings open to all participants. The direct involvement of children and youth in the planning process is a fundamental principle, applied equally for both girls and boys. The “Child-to-Child” method (Children help Children) is basic to the way activities are organized and carried out. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the guideline when the content of various activities are decided upon.

Some of the organizations that support the work of the CYC are the following:

- in Lebanon, Unicef and Unesco
- in France, Chatila les enfants de l’espoire-France
- in England and Italy, organizations and individual persons

The CYC runs a Youth Hostel (Guest House) in Shatila, which also brings in funds for activities.

The CYC seethes with activities and energy – read about it on the website:

<https://cycshatila.org/> (insert the link in your browser).

What is the Foundation?

The supporting Foundation was established in the year 2000. Its purpose is to

- 1) support activities of the Children & Youth Association. The Foundation collects money from godparents and receives gifts and donations from individuals and organizations. The funds that are collected are sent as contributions to agree-upon activities to benefit all children and youth at the CYC.
- 2) disseminate information regarding the situation of children and youth in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The Foundation is non-partisan and independent (for more information see our website – faddershatila.se).

We remember and pay our respects to:

Christian Widegren, born 1955.

Our friend Christian Widegren passed away the 12th of October after five years of battle against cancer. Christian was a fine and generous godparent and a dear comrade of the children and youth in Shatila through his extensive support to the CYC. He also visited the Center, arranged a study-tour for teacher-colleagues and travelled there together with family members. Thank you for your support, both political and economic. Thank you for your constantly supportive effort in every way. The children do not forget you. Abu Mujahed is dismayed and sad. We miss you Christian, but in our continued commitment you are always there with us.

THE YEAR 2018

Events during the year may be described by reference to the notes taken at the godparents' meeting September 16th, with Abu Mujahed. Moderator for the meeting was Lasse Fryk. Abu Mujahed began by showing pictures from the activities at the CYC in Shatila. (Do have a look at our facebook page, Shatile, where many images can be found).

A little about the international situation

Abu Muhajed took up the situation in the USA, a country that now with Trump at the helm is "swaying" and makes different decisions week after week. These concerned the wall against Mexico, China, Venezuela, Cuba, and collaboration with Israel. Further there is the devastating decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Additionally the USA supports the decision that Israel be a Jewish state plus the construction of new settlements on the West Bank.

Palestine, UNWRA and the USA

UNWRA was established in 1949 to support Palestinian refugees from Israel in anticipation of their return in accordance with Resolution 194 decided upon in the UN General Assembly already in 1948. As time went on the UNWRA was mantled with the task to provide for schools and health care, as well as registration. Presently there exist some 12 million Palestinians, 5-6 million of whom are Palestinian refugees. These are registered with UNWRA and thus possess legal documents attesting to their legitimate status. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are stateless.

UNWRA is funded by contributions from individual countries

The USA has decided to no longer contribute to UNWRA. Previously the US stood for about 1/3 of the organization's total budget. Trump's position is that younger Palestinians, born after 1948, cannot be counted as refugees. They ought to be citizens in the host countries in which they live. In the Lebanese constitution it is stipulated that refugees may not have a permanent domicile in that country, nor do they have the right to work – they are explicitly excluded from some 70 or so occupations. UNWRA has 2-3000 employees, often recruited from amongst refugees in Lebanon, and they manage 76 schools in that country. How will the refugee families fare? Breadwinners lose their jobs and already vulnerable children are hard hit. This is most evident amongst children in the refugee camps.

Update on the situation at the CYC

The CYC's kindergarten was opened October 20, 2018, it was inaugurated by the Palestinian ambassador. At this facility things are new and attractive, nicely furnished, painted and decorated. Two teachers, a janitor and Malika are employed. (Malika is one of the young leaders who visited us in Gothenburg and participated in the godparents meeting two years ago). The kindergarten started with two classes. Supporting the school children in their

homework assignments at the Center is still very important. The leaders succeed in helping many pupils, making it possible for them to continue on into the next class at school. Children could also participate in enjoyable summer activities on the Center's premises, and the usual annual summer camp was held, although this time with somewhat fewer children than before. The Center's economy is strained and that of families likewise.

The situation in Shatila is tough

All the more important is the presence of the CYC there and active children. Abu Mujahed pointed out the significance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the importance of following its guidelines for the best of children's future. If they cannot play, have games, draw, dance, learn things, obtaining support they need in the Center, what will happen then? The street is all too dangerous an environment for the children. Important daily issues that Mujahed took up included the high costs for all health care people need, as well as the fact that waste disposal in the camp does not function.

The meeting also had time for participants' questions

One question that arose was if there is hope for Palestinians. Abu Muhjahed referred to the role of the USA as a world-police, but he also pointed to the many in the world who protest and fight against. Ship to Gaza as an example fixes the spotlight on the Palestinians' struggle. Palestinians are not alone! Friends of the CYC are strongly involved for the refugee children in Shatila. Many spread knowledge about the CYC in other organizations, at work-places and within circles of friends. During the year, for example, two choirs (the Spartacus choir and the Motvals choir) have held solidarity evenings where all money both from entry fees for the event as well as food sales and donations collected have gone to the CYC.

January 25, open godparent meeting: Anna, Néstor and Eva gave an account of the trip 21/9-1/10, 2017 to the CYC/Lebanon.

Visit from the CYC:

September 13-20, Abu Mujahed visited Gothenburg.

- a) 13/9, Abu Mujahed told about the CYC at a gathering of the Palestine group's local study circle.
- b) 15/9, the Peace Race, Slottskogen. Mujahed ran as usual and helped with all the work that the race brought with it. The Foundation was present too, informing people about the CYC.
- c) 16/9, Godparents meeting at Masthuggets Hus. Lasse Fryk moderated the discussion with Abu Mujahed.
- d) 17/9, The Board of the Foundation has a full day meeting with Abu Muhajed present.
- e) 19/9, Mixgarden: the annual meeting with the leaders and we were given a fine guided tour in Hammarkullen, a suburb of Gothenburg.

Godparents letters: periodically during the year in godparents letters we inform the godparents about developments in Lebanon, and about the CYC. Therewith we also refer to the CYC's homepage cycshatille.org where one can find plenty of pictures, plus information about ongoing activities at the Center.

Facebook: The Foundation Shatila Children and Youth Center is the name of our homepage, but it suffices to write the word "Shatila" and the site will appear on your computer screen or display. There one can find the best updates on events and developments.

Our homepage *faddershatila.se*: Here is a source of important documents about us and about the CYC. The Annual Reports are also archived there, as are certain texts/pictures about our activities.

Information materials: The Board has a handsome information folder containing both text and illustrative images regarding the work with godparents and relating to the CYC. When you want to use and spread this material please contact the Board and we will be pleased to send you the folder.

The Foundation's Board meetings 2018:

18/1, Board meeting, planning for a godparents meeting.

25/1, Godparents meeting regarding Néstor's and Eva's trip together with Anna and Frida Darj to Lebanon and the CYC.

26/2, Annual Meeting.

27/8, Board meeting; planning for Abu Mujahed's visit next month. Lasse Fryk, Katja Alheden and Axel Lyckberg participated.

17/9, Board meeting with Abu Mujahed present.

4/10, Board meeting; debriefing and summing up after Abu Mujahed's visit.

The County Governing Board demanded an extra audit

The Foundation was subject to an extra audit. This meant that all our documentation and economic transactions were inspected. The official public review was duly carried out – the reviewers had no negative comments.

Economy 2018

(Calculations are shown in Swedish Crowns – SEK)

Payments to CYC:

<i>Date</i>	<i>SEK</i>
Year 2018	302 000
Cf 2017	305 000
Cf 2016	290 000

Income:

From godparents and other friends of the CYC

Year 2018	240 928 SEK
Cf 2017	231 485 SEK
Cf 2016	259 564 SEK

Comment: Generous gifts related to birthdays, funerals, extra godparent contributions and collections in connection with solidarity festivities.

Expenses:

Plusgiro fees:	2 623,80 SEK
Authorized auditor:	5 500,00 SEK

Comment: Maintaining a register, fees for bank transfers to Lebanon and annual cost for homepage (One.com) are paid with money received from sales of Enjoy-voucher booklets.

Number of Godparents:

Yr 2018: 103

Cf 2017: 100

Cf 2016: 97

Comment: Behind each post aggregated to make up the total sum in the Income column (above) there exists either an individual or several godparents in one and the same family.

General comment:

97,7 % of the collected funds goes to the benefit of the CYC children and youth!

First national Bank in Lebanon (where CYC has an account) stopped the first payment from the Foundation in 2018 and sent the money back. We were requested to send new information to strengthen verification of our identity as a foundation. We even had to open a bank-giro account in the here bank, Nordea. Previously we only had a postal-giro account but now a bank-giro account is required in order to be able to send money abroad. Now the transfers function without a problem.

Authorized Auditor: Åsa Jeanson/Adact Revisor & Konsulter AB.

Dear godparents and friends of the CYC - Without your money life would be much tougher. The predictable sums they receive through godparenthood helps facilitate joy of life to the highest degree for children who in fact live in urban misery.

The CYC had fantastic and generous godparents and many friends!

A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL THE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGHOUT 2018!

If we become many more then the contributions too will be more do help us recruit more godparents.

The Foundation – Shatila’s Children and Youth Center

Göteborg 2019-03-09

Kickan Einarsson

Eva Hammad

Jane Mattsson

Néstor Verdinelli

Charlotte Wiktorsson