

Fundraising foundation for Shatila's Children- and Youth center (CYC)

Plusgirokonto: 59 84 28 - 1

Bankgirokonto: 208 - 6254

Swish 1234476354

Activities report for 2020

What is CYC?

Cyc has existed since 1997. The organization was registered 2008 as an NGO with the Lebanese government and changed its name to "The Children & Youth Association". The organization has its main operation in Shatila with a subsection in the refugee camp Nahr el Bared since the camp war there 2007. CYC offers a meeting place for the children and youths in the refugee camp. In their free time they receive help with schoolwork and take part in other meaningful and enriching activities.

Abu Mujahed is the director of the organization.

CYC's fundamental pillar: Locally led work organized by a committee of elected youths plan the work together with Abu Mujahed. The activities are planned at open meetings for the participants. Children's and youth's participation in the planning and equal terms for girls and boys. Child - to-child method (children helping children) is the basis of how the activities are organized. The UN's convention on the rights of the child is the guideline when the organizations content is decided.

Corona year 2020: CYC was many times forced to cancel activities, reduce the number of activities and concentrate on giving emergency relief to the most impoverished and most vulnerable families and support the schoolchildren and pre-schoolchildren's knowledge development. The important summer activities could not be conducted.

Organizations that support CYC's work:

- France: "Chatila les enfants de l'espoire-France"
- England, Austria, Italy individuals
- Italy: "Council of churches in Valdés"
- CYC operates a hostel in Shatila that also generates revenue for the organization. During Corona year 2020 there were very few visitors.
- During Corona year 2020 individuals in Lebanon and among others Greece donated funds to CYC and an expanded cooperation with other NGOs in Lebanon has developed. UNICEF has contributed to the work during Corona.

Follow CYC on their website: cycshatila.org

What is the fundraising foundation?

This fundraising foundation was established year 2000 to:

1. Support the activities conducted by The Children & Youth Association. The foundation collects money from sponsors and is given gifts and donations from individuals and organizations. The funds raised are sent to agreed upon activities that benefit the children and youths there.
2. Spread information about the situation for children and youths in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The fundraising foundation is non-governmental and independent. Read more on our website: faddershatila.se

We remember and honor

Christina Lydén born November 25th, 1948, died after a prolonged illness on March 8th, 2020. Christina was a loyal Palestine friend and long-time sponsor.

The year 2020

The year that passed in Lebanon, as in the rest of the world, has strongly been affected by Covid-19 virus. In Lebanon there has been huge problems in politics, in the economy and in society before the pandemic. This only increased the problems, especially for the most impoverished part of the country and even more for those living in refugee camps. In March, the CYC and other NGOs made initiatives to meet the oncoming risk of covid transmission in the already overpopulated and overcrowded Shatila. They have poor passed experiences with the Lebanese governments unwillingness and inability to support with information, medical supplies and medical help. At this point there was no wide spread of Covid in the camps, yet voices were heard in the country trying to blame Syrian and Palestinian refugees and calling out for the camps to be labeled hotbeds of infection. NGOs met in CYC's facilities and drew up strategies for fighting the spread of Covid in the camps. UNRWA and the Lebanese government were encouraged to cooperate. A large number of volunteers were trained to inform the populace on how to best protect themselves from contracting the disease. The organization "Doctors without borders" conducted the courses.

In April quarantine was imposed in Lebanon. The market that is near the entrance to Shatila was closed. With the consent of the parents the CYC, for the first time, shifted to distance remedial classes for the older children. The younger children, in pre-school (KG), were not allowed to come to the CYC facilities which was hard on them. A consequence of the lockdown was lack of job opportunities which worsened already noticeable poverty. The CYC distributed food packages to the most needing. These problems deepened when banks would not pay out withdrawals in dollars. Relatives and family members that live and work abroad could not help economically because the Lebanese banks would only pay out a small part of the bank sum and only in Lebanese lira. The CYC was also affected by this problem when the foundations collected donations were at risk of not being paid out. We redistributed the funds in smaller sums and multiple times as Corona support. Then the CYC's bank paid out 80% of the sum in dollars. The rest is still in the CYC's account for now. The money was used to support the poorest families and covered wages for the remaining employees at CYC, mainly teachers.

At the beginning of summer, the number of infected in the country rose, (20 deceased and approximately 700-800 infected) but still not in the camps. Hygiene kits, funded by different donations and UNICEF, were handed out as a means to prevent the spread of infection. It became harder to keep children and youths indoors. Lessons via Zoom and Skype worked for some but far from all. Many lacked the means to buy a computer, tablet or mobile phone and internet connection. Abu Mujahed worked to keep the hopes up for the youths. They sowed and planted plants together in the small green area in front of the center.

The hard-pressed Lebanese people's emotions boiled over as a result of all the hardships and new riots emerged that were struck down by police and military. Despite all this Abu Mujahed and his assistants started summer school at the CYC between June 8th and July 9th with English, Arabic, math and other activities on the schedule. Corona restrictions were put into place, restricting attendance and forcing masks, during lessons. The children and youths were elated to finally have meaningful activities again. Summer school concluded with a dance recital and an art exhibit where the youths got to show off what they had accomplished.

On August 4th, 2750 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded in a warehouse in the harbor, a horrible catastrophe. Buildings collapsed, more than 220 people were killed and over 5000 injured. Thousands of families lost their homes. Shalita was spared from physical damage, but the people there and in the rest of Beirut were in shock. The fears from the days of the civil war run deep.

October 12th the board of education announced that the fall semester would start with open schools. UNRWA schools would do the same, but soon the spread of Corona began anew and even spread within the camps. Schools did not open. Lack of food after the explosion, huge increases in prices and a decreasing value of the Lebanese currency made hunger and starvation a real threat. Out of desperation over a country in social disintegration people tried to flee. Some in not seaworthy boats across the Mediterranean Sea towards Cyprus. Suicide became more common.

The fall semester became harder for students and teachers across the country. At CYC the facilities were open for lessons for a while but closed again before the end of the semester. However, Kindergarten was kept open. The CYC and UNRWA schools personnel cooperated. Teachers at the CYC were given access to the curriculum for distance learning. The CYC had at this time had a few cases of Corona amongst the personnel. They recovered and returned to teaching but some left due to marriage, moving abroad or having children. New personnel were recruited but the group of children and youth receiving help needed to be reduced.

By the end of the year there was no sight of change in the number of Corona cases and people attended many funerals, where infection also spread. Abu Mujahed said that families that lost loved ones reported their deaths as heart failure or something similar, not wanting to acknowledge that Covid-19 had gotten into their cramped home. Yet again are the impoverished ashamed of their situation!

Unemployment amongst Lebanese is at 65% and 55% are living under the poverty line (refugees were not registered). Many of the children, in all of Lebanon, have lost much of this year's education, the poor and undocumented lost the most. Corona isolation prevented children from playing and activities at the CYC.

Visits from the CYC were canceled during Corona 2020

This meant that we did not have any sponsor meetings and no collective board meeting. Instead, we had several long phone calls and videoconferences and a large amount of email exchanges with Abu Mujahed about the situations. From this information we wrote sponsor letters every month to inform them about the situation in the CYC. All the sponsor letters and a few of the emails from Abu Mujahed are on our website.

Our website: *faddershatila.se*

Here you can find activity reports, other writings, letters and important documents about us and the CYC.

The CYC's our website: *cycshatila.org*

Here you can find information and many photos about the activities at CYC. You can also subscribe to their newsletter.

Facebook

You can find the foundations Facebook page by writing Shatila

Information material

The foundation has an information folder with text and photos about the sponsorship and about CYC. If you wish to use and spread this information, please contact the board and we will send folders.

The Foundations board meetings 2020

February 2nd Board meeting

March 6th Annual meeting

March 6th Board meeting

All decisions made thereafter were done via internet and board meeting over conference calls. Emails and longer Skype calls on May 6th, August 23rd and in November with Abu Mujahed.

Economy 2020

Paid to CYC

Year 2020: 266 808,50 sek.

Year 2019: 200 000 sek.

Year 2018: 302 000 sek.

Comment: Due to the Lebanese banks limited pay outs of dollars, we have in agreement with the CYC, sent a limited amount in 2020, despite an exceptionally good fundraising result. This was decided in agreement with the CYC's leadership.

Raised funds:

Year 2020: 404 453 sek.

Year 2019: 241 994,60 sek.

Year 2018: 240 928 sek.

Comment: In April, the foundation acquired a "SWISH account" with the number 1234476354. This to simplify donation deposits. CYC was given, in March, a gift from PGS of 30 000 sek that was sent through our foundation. In the fall a contract was made between CYC and the organization ESUL for a donation of 50 000 sek for a project for the children. Due to the Corona situation the project has not launched yet and the funds were deposited in the foundation's bank account. Thank you to all that have contributed to the fundraising!

Expenses/fees

Plusgiro fee: 1601,90 sek.

Swish fee: 659 sek.

Authorized accountant, debt: 4375 sek.

Comment: The year 2020 invoice to the accountant will be paid in 2021. Registered as a debt. Fees to the Provincial administrated board's record keeping and overseeing and annual fee for the website (One.com) is to be paid from sales of Enjoy booklets.

Sponsors:

2020: 118

2019: 96

2018:103

Comment: Behind every fund raised is either a private sponsor or a family. Through Swish we have been able to simplify deposits this year and many people have donated to the fundraiser this way, both sponsors and others that have learnt of the CYC.

Regular deposits are important for the CYC's budget planning.

Approximately 97% of funds raised go to the benefit of the children and youths at the CYC!

Authorized accountant: Åsa Jeanson, Adact Revisorer & Konsulter AB, Odinsgatan 9, 411 03 Gothenburg

Dear sponsors and friends of the CYC: The year 2020 has really shown that both moral and financial support is needed for children and youths more than ever. Sadly 2021 does not look any better for Lebanon's hard tried people, on the contrary it would seem to get worse. The undocumented refugees in the camps have only their friends to turn to. The UN Convention on the rights of the child states that knowledge and education are a human right and the CYC is dedicated to giving children educational support and a little more trust in the world.

Your donations do good! Please continue to encourage others to support the children of the CYC too.

WARM THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONATORS!

Fundraising foundation Shatila's Children and Youth center

Gothenburg 2021 02 24

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