

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

Plusgirokonto: 59 84 28 – 1

Bankgirokonto: 208 – 6254

Swish 1234476354

Activities report for 2021

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 2021: Like the previous year the CYC had to redirect their activities and cancel extracurricular activities during the school year to enable focus on education for the schoolchildren and play and knowledge development for the pre-schoolchildren. The important summer activities at the center were held despite the pandemic.

Organizations that support CYC's work:

- Canada: Special project during the winter of 21-22
- France: "Chatila les enfants de l'espoire-France"
- Italy: "Council of churches in Valdés" donates funds to "Italian peace association" that supports CYC
- Private individuals in, among others Scotland, Greece and Austria, send funds
- CYC operates a hostel in Shatila that also generates revenue for the organization. During Corona year 2021 there were very few visitors.
- UNICEF and "Palestinian Welfare association", in cooperation, support CYC with educational material and equipment for their activities, not money. Palestinian Welfare association has also help 5 youth leaders attend courses at the university.

Follow CYC on their website: cycshatila.org

We have often received help from volunteers with information on social media, sadly there has not been enough help offered during this year.

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

The foundation collects money from sponsors and is given gifts and donations from individuals and organizations. The collected funds are sent to agreed-upon efforts in CYC's activities that benefit the children and youths there. For the year 2021 the foundation was the single largest contributor.

The year 2021

In December 2020 Covid-19 still raged ramped, schools were closed, unemployment was sky-high and 55% of the population was living under the poverty line. The CYC was struggling with distance education.

In his first mail to us, 2021, Abu Mujahed put the situation in Lebanon in a larger global perspective. He was pleased that Donald Trump had been voted out but had little hope that his successor Biden would contribute with anything positive for the world.

In Lebanon, like the rest of the world, the pandemic was still leaving its mark on most everything. A lockdown was ordered from January 14th and the CYC could no longer allow children to come to their facilities, not in Shatila or Naher el Bared. Contact with the approximately 100 children in each center were conducted via computer, tablet or mobile phone. The teacher used all their creativity. We saw examples, short videos, of pre-school teacher Mira teaching three-year olds how they should dress in a rainy, wintery Lebanon.

The pandemic was claiming casualties, the hospitals were overfull, and the supply of oxygen was running out. Access to medicines, staying indoors and keeping your distance from others outdoors is practically impossible when you are poor and live in an overcrowded camp.

At the end of March, the pandemic restrictions were lessening and the youths in CYC participated on March 30th in "Earth Day" - activities that highlight the displacement of Palestinians and the crimes that are being committed as a result of the occupation of Palestine. The children drew pictures and presented a sketch on the subject, sang and danced with joy and enthusiasm, hope for a brighter future for the Palestinian people.

But the situation in Lebanon is constantly on the verge of collapse and during a Skype call with Abu Mujahed in June we were told about the decrease in the currency value and the rise in prices. The poor do not have money for the bare necessities whilst the rich continue to live their lives as usual and do not have to go without food, medicine or healthcare. The number of middle-class families is quickly getting smaller. Yet another problem is the constant electricity and internet outages that make, among other things, distance education much harder. Abu Mujahed had, despite all this, some good news to announce. He informed us that the summer activities for the children at CYC were going to be held, very much thanks to the donations sent from the sponsors in Sweden. He also told us that sponsors in Canada and France that support CYC had sent funds directed to the reparation of the centers roof. The gratitude for any and all help is huge especially considering that the UN's organization for the Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, operate with uncertainty on what funds they will have to distribute.

In an email from the end of August, Abu Mujahed was expressing his anger and frustration; "Lebanon is only a small country, but very important for imperialism. Control of the country is also an opportunity to protect the Israeli occupation". Abu Mujahed wrote that 25-35% of the population are starving and a large portion of the people cannot meet their basic needs whilst a small elite with large assets are running the country through corrupt politicians. In Lebanon there is a black market with, among other things, transport fuel as currency. Abu Mujahed gave us an example; he was going to fuel his car; "I spoke to a police officer that was standing near a closed gas pump - What are you going to do? I thought you were going to force them to open since there is gas in the pump and the owner is refusing to sell it to me! The police responded - With all due

respect old man, we have no jurisdiction for that, there is no state, no government, the country is a jungle”.

“Everything is very difficult, but I have said that many times” says a visibly thinner Abu Mujahed during a Skype call in November. CYC wants to accommodate for the great number of children that wish to participate in the centers school activities and support their parents that are begging that their children can participate in the center’s education program and for the younger children to be at the kindergarten, but they do not have enough placements. They did what they could anyway.

Due to Corona the Lebanese public schools were closed at this time whilst the private schools remained open. Here, as in the rest of the world, the poor were those who suffered the most from the schools being closed. UNRWA schools remained open, and the education of Palestinian refugee children continued in Lebanon, although not for those from Syria.

The CYC started two projects during this year:

- One with support from the Canadian government with the purpose to “Prevent violence through the development of children’s life skills” Among other things, 50 different workshops are in the program and environmental “pilots” are being trained.
- The other is the Swedish ESUL-project where Syrian refugee children are allowed to participate. Here the children, 6-8 years old, are given the support they need to continue in the regular school curriculum. Children 9-12 years old have teacher-led education. The opportunity to go to school, receive remedial classes and help with homework is essential and can prevent children, in the absence of other meaningful activities, from being drawn into criminality.

Abu Mujahed expresses, during our Skype call in November, a hopefulness about visiting Sweden in 2022 with a group of children and youths to start a youth exchange with Swedish youths. This is something the Foundation has done during our first 10 years, and it has been much appreciated.

In December Abu Mujahed and the CYC sent a message to the sponsors; “Wishing for a better 2022, a year without Corona and anything worse. No enemies, but peace, freedom and justice. Freedom from everything that denies children and adults good health, knowledge, food and security. That refugees can return home. That injustices, occupation and greedy colonial intervention are fought, this must be our goal for the new year.

Visits from the CYC were canceled during Corona year 2021

Yet another year without a sponsor meeting, with Abu Mujahed present, and no board meeting. Instead, we had several long telephone- and videocalls and continued email exchange with Abu Mujahed about the situations. From the information gathered we wrote several sponsor letters throughout the year to inform them about the situation at the CYC. Sponsor letters and email from Abu Mujahed can be found on our website.

The Foundations website: faddershatila.se

You can find activities reports, other texts, letters and important documents about us and the CYC.

The Foundations Facebook page can be found by searching Shatila.

CYC’s website: cycshatila.org

Here you can find information and many photos about the activities at the CYC.

CYC is also on Facebook

Information material

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

The Foundations board meeting 2021

23/2 General meeting, Zoom

23/2 Board meeting, Zoom

28/10 Foundation meeting outside, Botanical Gardens

Between these meeting, discussions and decisions were made via phone calls and email. The board had group calls and longer Skype calls throughout the year with Abu Mujahed.

Economy 2021

Payments to the CYC

Year 2021 273 247.20 sek additionally ESUL-donation 43 955.50 (\$5000) = 317 202.76 sek

Year 2020 266 808.50 sek

Year 2019 200 000.00 sek

Comments: We have sent money in installments throughout the year. The bank asked many in depth questions regarding the relationship between the Foundation and the CYC. Both the board and Abu Mujahed have answered all questions and the funds have always reached the CYC.

ESUL, the Foundation Emmaus in Sundsvall and Luleå, have donated 50 000 sek, through the Foundation, to education for the Syrian refugee children that live in Shatila and do not have access to regular school education.

Raised funds:

Year 2021 336 290.00 sek (corrected from 335 990.00 sek, Gothenburg, June 27th 2022 Eva Hammad)

Year 2020 404 453.00 sek

Year 2019 241 994.60 sek

Comments: Another year of great generosity from sponsors and sponsors friends. Thank you!

Expenses/Fees: 2021

Plusgiro fee: 2023,70 sek

Swish fee: 846,00 sek

Authorized accountant 2020: 4375,00 sek

Authorized accountant 2021: 5704,00 sek

One.com, website, annual fee: 1958,75 sek

Expenses/fees total cost: 14 907,45 sek

Comments: We were not sent an invoice by accountant, by accident, for the year 2020, therefore we paid two invoices this year. Plusgiro and Swish have raised their fees and we have paid the annual fee for the website with funds from our raised funds account. The cost for the County administrative board's record keeping and overseeing is paid for with funds generated from selling Enjoy booklets.

Sponsors:

2021 117

2020 117

2019 96

Comments: Behind every donation is either an individual sponsor or a family which makes the total amount of sponsors approximately 150.

The Swedish Tax agency has decided to authorize THE FUNDRAISING FOUNDATION FOR SHATILAS CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTER has donation recipient for tax deductions of donations. This applies from June 1st 2021 and three years forward, according to law

(2019:453) paragraph 6 – 8, as the foundation’s goal is to support social charity work and aims to help those in need. The needs can be either of an economic or of a social nature.

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

Dear sponsors and friends of the CYC:

We have been given beautiful home knitted mittens to sell, the money raised was donated to the CYC. One sponsor family needed to reduce the number of books in a bookshelf and sold books about the middle east and Palestine to fellow sponsors, that in turn donated a freely chosen amount to the foundation. The encouragement to friends to donate to the CYC has generated extra sums of money throughout the year. We look forward to new names on the account.

You have all understood the hardships and severity of the situation and been very generous. It has helped the CYC to activate the children well, including the parents, and expanded education despite all the difficulties, exactly as the UN’s convention on the rights of the child intended.

95.05 % of raised funds benefit the children and youths directly!

A warm thank you for everything from us and the children at the CYC!

Fundraising foundation for Shatila’s Children- and Youth center

Gothenburg March 3rd 2022

Kickan Einarsson

Eva Hammad

Jane Mattsson

Nestor Verdinelli

Charlotte Wiktorsson

Extra, complimentary annual board meeting 2022 06 27
Board for Fundraising foundation for Shatila's Children- and Youth center

Present: Eva Hammad, Nestor Verdinelli, Kickan Einarsson, Jane Mattsson. Charlotte Wiktorsson participated via telephone.

Agenda

1. Meeting opened
2. Revising our BR+RR and Activities rapport for 2021, after revision from authorized accountant Åsa Janeson
3. Meeting closed

Minutes:

2. We went through our financial statements, complimented with a revised BR+RR and corrected numbers in the Activities rapport in consistency with the financial statements from authorized accountant Åsa Jeanson.

The documents were turned over to the County administrative board after signing by Charlotte Wiktorsson that was not present in person in Gothenburg at the extra, complimentary annual board meeting.

Gothenburg June 27th 2022

Nestor Verdinelli

Kickan Einarsson

Eva Hammad

Jane Mattsson

Visby June 29th 2022

Charlotte Wiktorsson