

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

Organization number: 857209-1034

Plusgirokonto: 59 84 28 – 1

Bankgirokonto: 208 – 6254

Swish 1234 476 354

Annual report for 2023

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 organization's content is decided.

Organizations and people that support the CYC's work

- Italy: Italian Peace Association, \$35 130
- Lebanon: Welfare Association, \$18 169
- France: L'enfant de l'espoir, \$12 218
- Austria: Dr. Robert Milla, \$4 000
- Malaysia: Nurhayati Juha, \$2 054
- Palestine: Dr. Mazin Qumsia, \$1 500
- Greece: Christian Yanno, \$1 110
- UK: Elzbieta Aziz, \$1 000
- UK: Dr. Swe Aun, \$500
- Scotland: Mr. Steve Cox \$500
- Earnings from CYC Shatila and Nahr El Bared \$12 375
- CYC Guest House \$1 940
- Gifts from friends \$1 640
- Fundraising Sukaina and Samah \$800
- Fundraising Rohi Joumaa \$600
- UK: Publisher Kobayyaashi Studios regularly donate art supplies

Our fundraising foundation sent \$32 650, (348 650 sek with bank and exchange fees in Sweden and bank fee and deductions in Lebanon First Bank).

What is the fundraising foundation?

This fundraising foundation was established in the 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.

The year 2023

CYC had a great start for 2023. Corona was finally over, the center could again become the meeting place it was meant to be, that cares about knowledge, the environment and climate, solidarity, equality and security. A place that gives hope for a better future.

When the Palestinian refugee camp Jenin, in the West Bank, was attacked in the spring, the children held a spontaneous demonstration. The center arranged a storytelling performance about Palestinian life and history with folkdance, Dabke, and music. The group was invited to perform at different events, festivals and gatherings, for example, the Palestinian Earth day March 30th, the Naqba day May 15th and the summer activities closure.

The center continued its work helping the school children reach their goals, getting the results and grades they need.

Lebanese society faces bankruptcy, poverty increased, public schools were often closed. UNWRA schools had overfull classrooms and the teachers' faced problems with meeting the needs of each student. The CYC continued its work with helping with homework and with the "Protection program for Syrian children". This is for the Syrian children that are not offered enrollment in public school because of political reasons since the war in Syria. CYC teaches base level English, Arabic and math. Not as a school but in the spirit of public education. This is a continuation of the project that went on from 2022 and into the beginning of 2023, to mitigate the rise of analphabetism. The project funds ran out, but the work continued, partially with funds from our foundation.

Kindergarten Alma is led by Malake, she and Nancy are the head teachers. With fine pedagogic methods, they guide the children (3 – 6 yrs) in seeing and experiencing letters and numbers, preparing them for school. They practice working in groups, playing and having fun together. The parents are very pleased, knowing the children are content there. Please visit our website faddershatila.se, under links, news articles and reports. There you can find Luca Di Blanca's article from the CYC and many photos. The article is also ai translated to Swedish (from Italian). In 2023 (as in 2022) children from Hammarkulle primary school in Gothenburg held a fundraiser to benefit the CYC. With the help of school personnel, they organized "Café Shatila" during the popular Hammarkulle festival in at the end of May. The children work hard selling coffee, sodas, baked goods, sandwiches, pizza slices and more. The profit was donated in solidarity with CYC. With the funds from the café, together with funds raised during fall activities in 2022 at Mixgården (a youth center in Hammarkullen), where several children from Hammarkulle school helped, we were able to send \$1450 to the CYC. The board visited the children at the start of the fall semester to personally thank them. We hoped to have an online meeting between the school and Youth center but were not able to due to technical difficulties. A video greeting with questions about life in the camp and how the collected funds will be used was sent instead. At the end of the year, we received a video back from the children at the Youth center, they described how the funds were welcomed during the summer activities and excursions. Photos and videos can be found on the website.

During three weeks in July, CYC organized summer activities for over 100 children. They held sessions in the library, received some extra tutoring, and played in the yard. They created art and enjoyed much-needed snacks. They went on excursions to the Skatepark and other places in Beirut. The final day was a celebration with games, dancing, and an exhibition of the children's drawings and other creations. Families were invited as guests.

A surplus from the sale of "Diary from Tal El-Zaatar" raised 33,275 SEK during 2022 and 2023. Celanders Publishing sent the money to our fundraiser. The artist and friend of Palestine, Majlis Davidsson from Alingsås, had included the foundation in their will, so we gratefully received a surprising donation of 33,563 SEK. A sponsor donated books about the Middle East, politics, and history. We sold several at the Peace Race (Fredsloppet) but still have some books left. We will send out a list so interested parties can purchase them.

Peace Race (Fredsloppet) 2023

As usual, we applied for a visa for Abu Moujahed, and it was granted. We also applied for a young girl at the center, Lara, but she was denied. Unfortunately, Abu Moujahed's passport was stolen a few days before departure, so he could not come here. The Peace Race, Sponsor Meeting, and visit to the children at Hammarkulleskolan were carried out without his presence. We planned for online contact during the sponsor meeting, but the technical setup failed.

The Pedagogical Design Agency (Den Pedagogiska Designbyrån), led by Frida Lindberg, traveled to Beirut at the end of September. They conducted a week-long training in Animated Film Creation. Nancy and six young people had two wonderful days with DPD.

After October 7, nothing was the same in Shatila anymore.

During a phone call, Abu Moujahed described how everyone anxiously sought news, many have relatives in Gaza, people demonstrated and mourned. Old traumas resurfaced, and anxiety grew. The death toll rose, Israel bombed from the air and sea and tried to penetrate Gaza with tanks. Nothing improved until the end of the year, instead everything became increasingly terrible. The West Bank also experienced severe violence, including killings, settlers, and the Israeli army attacked Palestinian homes in collaboration. A genocide was ongoing and continues. Over 11,000 children have been killed as of this writing. The children at CYC ask questions. We have learned that the Convention on the Rights of the Child applies to all children, but apparently not Palestinian children...? What will happen to us? How will we ever be able to trust you (Global North)?

At the end of November, the CYC management team gathered to evaluate and discuss the work done during the past year and plan for the future. About thirty people attended, and the meeting elected a new board consisting of seven people.

The work must continue despite the new situation, KG Alma's little children need their regular routines, and school children need their center to feel good. One can only rejoice and admire the strength found in CYC. The light in the darkness.

The foundations website: *faddershatila.se*

There you can find activities reports, in English, and other texts, letters and important documents about the us and the CYC.

The foundations Facebook page can be found if you search Shatila.

The CYC's website: *cycshatila.org*

Information and pictures about the activities at CYC. CYC is also on Facebook and KG Alma is on Fb, Instagram and Tik Tok.

Information material

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

The foundation's board meetings 2023

1/3 Annual meeting

1/3, 15/8, 22/8, 30/8, 12/9, 27/11 Board meetings

Economy 2023

From the foundations account to CYC:

Year 2023	348 228,97 sek
Year 2022	283 846.16 sek
Year 2021	277 986.57 sek additionally ESUL donation 43 955,50 sek (\$5000) = 321 942,07 sek

The foundations received donations and gifts:

Year 2023	380 514,84 sek
Year 2022	331 905.00 sek
Year 2021	335 990.00 sek

Comment: Fundraising has increased, more sponsor gifts, Café Shatila, ESUL, Inheritance from Alingsås, "Diary from Tal El-Zaatar" Thank you everyone!!

Expenses/Fees: 2023

Website, annual fee (One.com) 0.00 sek (see comment)

Authorized accountant: 6 953.00 sek

Fee Plusgirot: 3 238,55 sek

Fee Swish: 770.00 sek

Expenses/Fees total: 10 961,55 sek

Comments: The cost for the County administrative board's record keeping and overseeing and the annual fee for the website 2023 was paid for with funds collected by the sales of Enjoy booklets.

Sponsors:

2023 117

2022 117

2021 117

Comments: Behind every donation is either an individual sponsor or a family which makes the total amount of sponsors approximately 150. Additionally, we have several temporary donors.

The Swedish Tax agency has decided to authorize THE FUNDRAISING FOUNDATION FOR SHATILAS CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTER as donation recipient for tax deductions of donations. This applies 6 months from June 1st 2021, additionally 3 whole calendar years forward, including 2022, 2023 and 2024. This 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 are so happy and proud that you trust the foundation and spread awareness about the wonderful work at CYC. We receive gifts from people we didn't know before, because you told them about the children in Shatila and that the donations reach them.

For the children at CYC, who know that the support from their sponsors in Sweden truly is a visible help in their daily lives. Thank you!

Over 95% of the gifts and donations benefit the children and youth!

A huge thank you from us and the children at CYC!

Fundraising foundation for Shatila's Children- and Youth center

Gothenburg March 1st 2024

Kickan Einarsson

Eva Hammad

Peter Rosenberg

Nestor Verdinelli

Charlotte Wiktorsson