Saint Charbel Center
Religious of the Holy Hearts (Religieuses des Saints Cœurs)
Baabdath-Lebanon
Phone: +961 70831659

On, March 19, 2022

SAINT CHARBEL CENTER

PRESENTATION OF THE CENTER:

The Saint Charbel center in Baabdat is a work of the Sisters of the Holy Hearts (des Sœurs des Saints Cœurs). Launched in the 1970s, it developed and allowed the construction of a center for the reception of disadvantaged children. This center opened its doors to children in the summer of 1997, often orphans, from four to sixteen years old, from poor families, who lack the means to ensure education and a dignified life for their child. These families and children are referred by social workers or Lebanese social action or by hearsay. The center is located in Baabdat in Lebanon, 22 kilometers northwest of Beirut, in the Caza du Metn district at an altitude of 800 meters (Mount Lebanon).

The vision of the center is offering boys and girls a place for their education and protective living conditions that allow them to grow and flourish in order to become men and women capable of making informed and conscious decisions in society, with respect and tolerance for themselves and others.

The people involved at the center work with the children at the educational, psychosocial and emotional level, and they ensure the protection needed for the children.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Individual follow-up of the children by a qualified clinical psychologist and specialized caregivers makes it possible to reduce the impact of situations and the difficulties they are facing in their everyday life, with their families, which might hurt their personal development. This follow-up makes it possible to observe a new development in the child and a certain openness. In some, and makes them in control over their aggressiveness in their behavior.

Leisure activities are also organized (holiday camp, sport, entertainment, trips, etc.) in order to offer them all the conditions necessary for their development and fulfilment.

The center also organizes individual meetings and activities with the parents and the children, in order to help them take better care of their families and improve the emotional and social balance and support at home.

EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO FOOD

The center welcomes orphans and children with social cases, and covers the tuition fees for private schools and colleges, helping them open up to an academic degree or career prospects. The center's professionals and volunteers are providing education and support for the children in their homework and afterschool chores.

In most cases, the children receive a food basket to share them with their families on weekends. If the family is not able to provide.

CURRENT SITUATION

Forty-five children live at the center, which provides them with schooling, transportation to school, clothes, schoolbooks, supplies and food parcels if necessary, health insurance is also covered

All this without mentioning the salaries and insurance for employees, maintenance, telephone, internet, water filtering and water, gas, fuel and electricity…The center is registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs, which gives us 2,281,250 LL per year per child, and we receive the money two years late, a child currently costs us around $1500, which is worth today 33,000,000LL.

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This year, given the dramatic economic situation in the country, there are families who lack the means to take their children back on weekends or even provide them with the necessities, which is why we always have children who stay at the center.

Despite the economic situation, we maintain a quality of education and life for children.

In this traumatic situation, in which we are plunged, without having a lure of light on the horizon, we hope that the Lord is there at the heart of our lives...

We want to remain witnesses of hope, which translates into a positive response to all the families of the center, who ask for food, shelter and the schooling of their children...

We want to remain witnesses of Hope, which translates into love, dreams and the belief that every one of us through our actions can be a source of hope that warm hearts.

Thank you for your love and listening.

Sister Rachide Maalouli
Director







