



Fall 2021

Fast Forward to Learning



Fahad knew he was slipping behind his classmates. The 9-year-old has learning challenges and having 45 students in his regular class at school meant he was constantly distracted, struggled to keep up, and was convinced that he couldn't learn. The pandemic closed the school, and his parents could only afford WIFI for six months. During the rest of the pandemic, he had no instruction at all until he came to SCC where everything was different. Fahad worked with a teacher who was encouraging yet demanding. She told him he could master English verbs—and he could, with a bit of help and focus. During the year when the pandemic forced SCC to close and reopen three times, he lost more ground educationally. Now, he is gaining confidence and making progress every week, and his parents have enrolled him in the fall English course. Fahad is smart, capable, and hard-working—all he needed was help from the Spafford Children's Center where masks are returning to protect students and teachers.

SCC Helps as Long as it is Needed



Laila is the youngest of four. Her father works in a pastry shop for low wages. The family's economic situation was precarious before the pandemic; now it is dire. Laila was brought to SCC because she did not articulate well, hesitated to speak, and had difficulty expressing her thoughts and feelings. After an assessment by the SCC speech therapist, she began receiving speech therapy. The improvement was marked after just 11 weeks. To help the family support the gains at home Laila's mother received counseling. She is committed to helping her daughter and never missed a session. This fall Laila is in speech therapy and Arabic to expand her vocabulary, help her compose sentences, and put her thoughts into words. SCC has a sliding fee scale to help families afford the services their children need, for as long as necessary.





Summer Camp—3 Weeks of Fun-Filled Days

Summer camp was a success. There was a trip to a water park to cool off on a hot summer afternoon; games every day in the SCC courtyard with prizes for the successful teams; art projects; dramatic interpretations; dance instruction; and, a favorite among the campers, cooking lessons to make sweet, chocolate treats. SCC hosted 50 kids for three weeks and every day was full. The kids went home happy and tired—the teachers and youth counselors were exhausted, but so pleased with how much the children learned about teamwork, how their smiles lit up the rooms, and how delighted their parents were that their children had a wonderful experience at SCC.

Computer Instruction is Critical

The pandemic has shown the need for computer skills for people of all ages. The Spafford Children's Center, thanks to a grant from the Anglican Overseas Aid and funds from the UK Friends as well as the American Friends of the Spafford Children's Center, is in the process of creating a staffed computer lab to help children, youth, and parents learn the basic skills needed for online education. Too many young Palestinian students fell too far behind over the months of school closures and online instruction—SCC will soon be ready to help students catch up and move forward.

Please send a tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided (**note our new mailing address**) or go to: **Global Giving** at <https://goto.gg/31839> or **PayPal** at www.spaffordcenter.org

With best wishes,

The Rev. Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch
Chair

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD
Secretary/Treasurer

