



Winter 2021

GivingTuesday is November 30. Every donation to AFSCC up to \$2,500 made through **GlobalGiving** on November 30 **ONLY** will be matched proportionally based on AFSCC's final fundraising total. **One million dollars of match money is available through GlobalGiving.**

Just go to <https://gogo.gq/31839> or scan this code with your phone. We thank you.



The Right Help at the Right Time

Dina is 8-year-old third grader in a school serving the Shua'afat refugee camp. Where she lives is in Jerusalem, but separated by high walls from the rest of the city. There are no sidewalks in Shua'afat, few municipal services, and often a smell of garbage or burning refuse. Everyday Dina and her friends must pass through revolving metal gates to go to school. Dina's family was concerned that her speech was unintelligible and she was not on track with her classmates.

Addressing speech delays early with the right interventions can make a lifetime of difference. Palestinian children may have speech difficulties due psychological trauma, physical issues, and/or lack of exposure to spoken language. At the SCC, the speech therapists do an assessment that includes a conversation with the child, an orofacial examination, an articulation test, language-based activities, an auditory memory test, and an auditory discrimination test. They also speak with the parent(s) to learn about the family situation.

Once Dina and the SCC speech therapist got started the progress was impressive. The therapist used a tongue depressor and a mirror so that Dina could sense, see, and imitate the correct tongue and mouth placement when producing sounds and syllables. Her bright smile came through as she mastered phrases, told stories, and called out the words on flash cards with confidence. Over 7 weeks, Dina received 10 speech therapy sessions; 45 minutes with Dina and another 15 minutes with her mother. Each visit the therapist added more sounds and combinations until Dina was speaking clearly. Now she can produce sounds with 100% accuracy; her parents are thrilled.





Partnerships for Learning

Learning is a partnership between the student and the teacher and between the teacher and the parents. That partnership also extends to the community. The Spafford Children's Center has been serving the children and families of East Jerusalem since 1925. SCC is known in the community, and the staff knows the streets and alleys of the Old City and surrounding areas intimately. They also have seen evidence that the last nearly two years has been difficult, at best, for Palestinian students who lost months of instruction due to limited internet availability and a lack of computers. The teachers and social worker from the SCC have been visiting schools in the Old City and nearby areas to make sure the teachers and administrators know about the remedial educational and

therapeutic services offered at the SCC. This fall a referral system was put in place and already over 50 new students have been referred to SCC for classes in Arabic, English, and math, plus speech and occupational therapy. Their partnership in learning is just beginning.

Ready for the Digital World

There are exciting things going on at the Spafford Children's Center. Last month a computer lab opened with 15 brand new desk top computers and an instructor to teach children, teens, and parents basic computer and keyboarding skills. Parents told SCC teachers that during pandemic school closures, when their children's regular classes went online, they often did not know how to use the software packages, or how to download homework, or upload completed assignments. So, SCC is offering help. With donations from the American and UK Friends of the Spafford Children's Center, plus a grant to update the WIFI system, the SCC is offering classes at times convenient to the students. Thanks to you, the SCC is meeting current needs, just as it has since 1925.

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 holiday wishes,

The Rev. Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch
Chair

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD
Secretary/Treasurer

