



Winter 2022

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Transforming Trauma into Triumph

By The Rev. Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch, Chair of AFSCC and member of SCC Boards of Directors

I was looking forward to my visit to the Spafford Children's Center late this summer, but I did not know I was coming to watch a miracle play out. And yet, that's what it was. The Center's skilled child trauma therapist, Yazan, began to speak to the boys with all of his body, his face and eyebrows just as expressive as the words he offered. The boys were comfortable with him, and this was a treat, as they had not been comfortable around many people for months. Earlier in the year they stood next to their father as Israeli soldiers gunned him down outside the Old City walls. In the following months, the boys experienced the most harrowing emotional heartache. They were unmoored.

But with Yazan's help, they found their footing once again. He took their rage—a physical experience for the boys that had at times suffocated them—and transformed it into controlled breathing. Fists prone to punch now molded clay figures. Smiles replaced tears. And Yazan shepherded them through it all.

Without a break, Yazan pivoted from the boys to a young girl who was visiting the Center for the first time. Referred by her teachers, it was not immediately clear to Yazan what the issue was. Over an hour, he spoke with her, and she with him, trust building amid stories of favorite music, meals, and hobbies. When she left, I asked Yazan what the presenting trauma was for her. "I don't know yet," he said. "I won't always get there in the first meeting. But I will eventually. And the healing will come."

Your giving transforms the trauma these children experience into triumph. It is saving their lives. With societal violence on the rise in Jerusalem, there will be more children like them who find sanctuary within the Center's walls and hope on the faces of the staff who work tirelessly to ensure the despair these kids know won't last for long. Your giving makes all that possible. Thank you for your generosity.



Ready, Set, Create on the Computer

The computer room at the SCC is a place of discovery as children ages 5 to 10 learn how to create a Word document, how to use formulas in an Excel chart, and how to put their words and images into a PowerPoint presentation. The kids giggle and shriek when they make the computer do what they want.

The families are charged only \$4.25 per course so SCC needs donations to subsidize the program. These children come from families struggling to pay basic bills and SCC responds with low-cost programs.

The children's sessions are on Sunday mornings and the mothers gather for a similar computer course in the afternoon. SCC is busy 6 days a week! Mothers learn skills that are necessary for jobs and to help their children with homework. The mothers learn quickly—they have to—just to keep up with their kids!



Improving Parenting Practices

SCC offers a continuous program of workshops for mothers to help them learn positive parenting techniques. Recently a session entitled “Tools for Positive Thinking” provided three hours of information, group discussion, and activities.

The mothers left with ideas to try at home like keeping a gratitude journal, practicing positive self-talk, and identifying areas of negativity. They felt good about their capacity to support their children and families. Being a mother is never easy, but living under occupation in an environment of stress adds to the complexity. SCC helps mothers focus on their health and well-being.

Please send a tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided or go to the secure **GlobalGiving** page at <https://goto.gg/31839> or donate through **PayPal** at www.spaffordcenter.org.

Thank you for your support,

The Rev. Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch, *Chair*

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD, *Secretary/Treasurer*

