



Summer 2023



Making Math Meaningful

Math does not come easily to many children, but the teachers at the Spafford Children's Center are ready with hands-on strategies to make learning fun and fast. These children are using a tool made by their teacher to help understand basic arithmetic. The happy faces on their foreheads shows that they have done well. Now on to more advanced math: How many steps up to the Spafford? If the people in the homes of Achmed, Fatima, and Grace are added, how many adults and how many children would there be? That math problem may take a minute!

Learning math is fundamental to educational advancement. Palestinian children are taught in over-crowded classrooms and learning challenges can make understanding math

concepts difficult. SCC assesses the strengths and needs of each child; then the teachers develop lessons that build on the child's level of proficiency. Learning in groups of two or three, the children flourish with individualized attention, and gain one or two grades of math competency in an 11-week semester at SCC.

Art Lessons Create Big Smiles

The apple sits on the table—red, shiny, round—but it looks a bit different to each budding artist. The SCC visiting art teacher encourages the students to observe carefully, and then to capture what they see on paper. They study how to use the pencil to create shadows; they practice the art of blending, stippling, and layering; and they learn to make an image jump off the piece of paper. The younger artists practice drawing birds with big wings and tiny beaks. At the Spafford Children's Center, the common vision is smiles all around and pride in their accomplishments.



Memories of the Spafford Children's Center in 1987

By **George Martin**, an author of books about Scripture and a long-time donor to AFSCC

During the summer of 1987, I lived on the top floor of Spafford Children's Center which was rented out to help support its charitable work. I stayed with others while taking a course at Hebrew University. We ate communally, and my contribution was to shop for bottled and canned goods in East Jerusalem and carry them up the 135 steps from the Damascus Gate to our living quarters.

I had previous contact with the Spafford Children's Center, but got to know its staff much better in 1987. Anna Grace Lind, the daughter of Bertha Spafford Vester who founded the Center, ran it with great determination. Dr. Jantien Dajani, a Dutch pediatrician, was the medical director, overseeing the care of infants and children. Mary Franji, an Armenian, was the chief nurse; she had been hired by Bertha Spafford in 1948 to care for Palestinian orphans after the Dier Yassin massacre. Her daughter Shoushan, a social worker, would begin the counseling services that continue at the Spafford today.



Dr. Dajani with a patient and mother

I have many memories from my stay. The daily rhythm of calls to prayer from dueling minarets. Hearing sundown announced during Ramadan by a cannon fired from the cemetery across the street. But most of all I remember the dedication of everyone at the Spafford Children's Center, serving those who came through the door with their needs.

The Spafford Children's Center has evolved from an orphanage to a hospital to an out-patient clinic to the multiple educational and therapeutic services it provides today. My wife and I continue to support it because it addresses the pressing needs of the time.

(Pictures below: L-mothers and children in the clinic; R-Mary Franji with a baby and mother)

Please send a tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided with the newsletter 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. Matthew Dayton-Welch, *Chair*



Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD, *Secretary/Treasurer*

