



Summer 2025

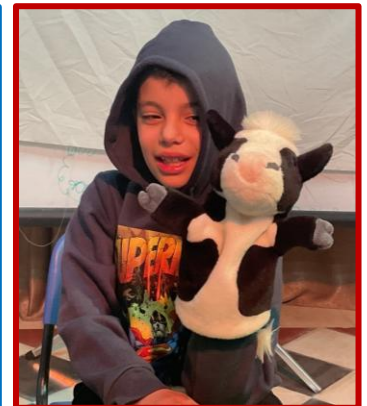
Why Give Now?

By The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, Chair, AFSCC

We are witnessing one of the most turbulent seasons in the modern history of the Middle East. Gaza is devastated. So too are parts of Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran. Israel experienced its most destructive attacks in decades. While at the center of all of it, Jerusalem is relatively quiet, its night sky lit by passing missiles, but none striking the ground. Many respectful organizations in the region will appeal for donations to help rebuild war-torn communities, and we appreciate why donors might think supporting our work is not a top priority.

Let me argue why it is. I've known the Spafford Children's Center for 16 years now, and I have been a supporter for ten. I know that the Center will not bring about lasting peace in the Middle East. Still, I am deeply convinced that no lasting peace can exist without our work. Lasting peace needs to honor the dignity of vulnerable children and afford them opportunities to hope, and that is what we do. Viable peace means parents can find sanctuary for their children, and that is what we do. Peace with progress means women are empowered through continuing education and social support, and that is what we do.

I am so grateful that the Spafford Children's Center found me. The news breaks my heart, but through the Center I know I can participate in something good that uplifts lives and gives hope a chance to breathe. With your giving, you have that opportunity too.



Their Hometown is an Archeological Site

Many of the children who come to the SCC live in the Old City of Jerusalem. The current walled city was built by Suleiman the Magnificent in the mid-1500s on top of earlier fortresses dating back to the Crusader, Byzantine, and Herodian times. A field trip to the Pro Terra Sancta Centre allowed them to explore the museum's archaeological displays of frescos, ceramics, Byzantine mosaics, coins, Crusader capitals, vases from Bronze Age tombs, sarcophagi, and jewels. The children displayed what they learned by copying drawings of the items they observed. The summer is full of excursions that are part of SCC's broader effort to combine learning with emotional well-being and healing.



Infant Intensive Care, Food Distribution, & Happy Babies

This year marks the centenary of the *Spafford Children's Center*. Beginning in 1925 the building in the Old City high on the wall between Damascus and Herod's Gates transformed from a home for babies to a children's hospital with 60 beds and a surgical wing, then an outpatient clinic, and now a renowned educational and therapeutic center.

In the historic pictures (from below left) a severely malnourished child received intensive care at the Spafford Children's Hospital. During times of need nurses from the hospital organized bags of flour and other staples for distribution in the Old City. Ms. Mary Frangi, a well-loved practical nurse at the Spafford Children's Center clinic, held a smiling child eating a piece of bread. Throughout its long history, SCC has relied on generous donors to provide the services needed. Please support SCC through GlobalGiving at <https://goto.gg/31839> or use the envelope that came with your newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, *Chair*



Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD, *Secretary/Treasurer*

