



**"If you educate a woman, you educate a family"**

**Class picture of the girls of G27 – El Rahawi, Giza**

*The girls were excited and happy to see us during the summer session.*

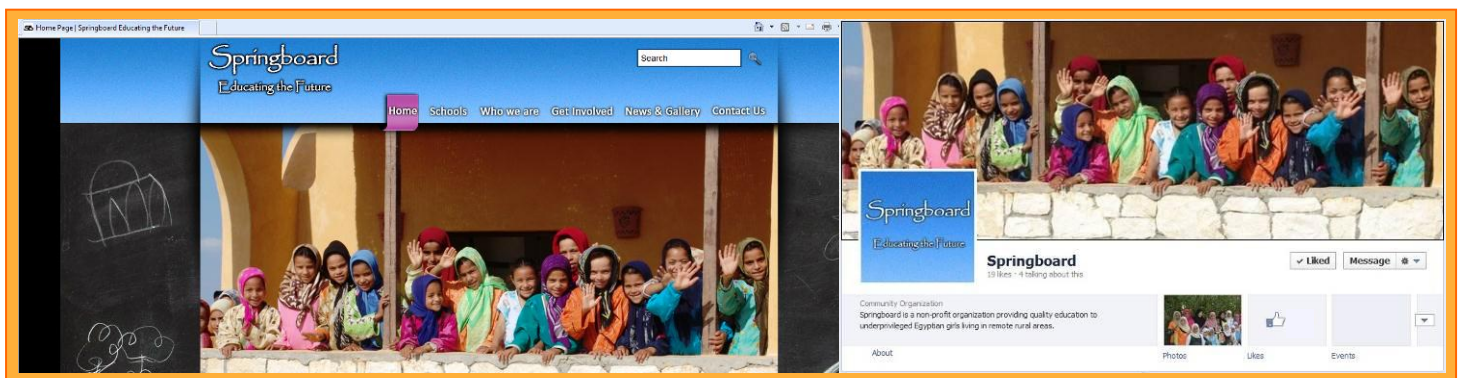
Dear Donors and Supporters,

Springboard has had a busy and exciting year. We have managed to provide maintenance services for a number of 22 schools during 2012. Encyclopedias, magazines and maps donated by USAID and Cairo American College (CAC) were successfully distributed on the 201 schools. We also revamped our website and created a Facebook page and a Twitter account in an effort to stay connected with you and keep you updated with our latest news. The girls' schools initiative has been transferred from under the umbrella of the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) to that of the Ministry of Education as planned and scheduled.

Our greatest challenge is to continue maintaining the level of enthusiasm and support to the girls at the schools. Your generous contributions and efforts, along with our work, continue to enrich and maintain the educational lives of the girls as well as benefit their communities.

The under privileged girls of Egypt have been blessed by Springboard and Springboard supporters like yourself! We and the 5,000 school girls are wishing you a happy summer!

## Our New Website Goes Live



In an effort to integrate our donor outreach activities and truly engage with our supporters, we redesigned our [official website](#) to provide everyone with information on the schools and the academic performance of the girls. The user friendly website features maps of the schools, updated pictures of

the girls and a detailed description of the design and functions of the school building. You can now subscribe to our newsletters, volunteer or place a donation request online. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) account for more information.

# “School days are always good days.....”

It feels like it's going to be a good day. The Land-cruisers, packed with school supplies, books, games, and ladies eager to visit, start the trek out to the girls' schools. Along the route, there are water buffalo plodding along the roadside, small children herding sheep and goats, and tuc tucs buzzing through it all. Upon arrival at a school, the young girls greet everyone with singing. The words are unfamiliar, but the voices are lovely, the smiles are contagious, and it all makes for a warm welcome.

During a typical visit, the classroom is divided into small groups of girls, and games such as Twister, Memory, Barrel of Monkeys, and Eye Spy are played, often times in new and exciting ways. It feels like playing, but in reality, dexterity, coordination, memory, math skills, and English are being practiced. The girls are quick to catch on, and are exhilarated when they excel. Numerous “bravos” are echoed around the room.

Other times, the girls have their own games to share. On one trip to the Fayoum, the girls had constructed a volleyball net out of branches and vines, not to regulation standards, but a volleyball venue all the same. The girls must have been practicing their technique; they solidly defeated the visitors in every game.

Imaginative creativity in the girls' schools is abundant, and this was exemplified on a three-day trip to the Minya area in the spring of 2010. Tours of the classrooms showed the corners to be filled with projects, created with skilled little hands. The Great Pyramids, a common theme, were constructed with accuracy, incredible since the girls had never



**G14- El Belieda, Giza, 2012**



**F79-Seif El Nasr, Fayoum, 2010**

traveled to see the pyramids. Other projects included fruits molded from clay, paper flowers, and a doll with a fashionable outfit made from a potato chip bag, which shows that nothing goes to waste, and anything can be transformed into something.

At the end of the visits, almost all of the projects were bestowed upon the visitors as gifts, so many that they filled the back of the vehicles. Whether in Fayoum, Giza, or Minya, the Egyptian school girls are all the same. They are eager for company, they are excited about showing off their classroom and their projects, and they enjoy new activities and interaction with visitors. They love to learn, and they dream of big futures ahead. Books and school supplies are so much appreciated, and the girls are generous in their reciprocal outpouring of gifts, smiles, and hugs.

Yes, school visiting days are always good days.  
Kym Fish



**M27-Maghraby, Minya, 2010**

# Introducing the New Faces!

“Throughout my extremely short career, I've been blessed with working in a national project. Before joining the great team of Apache, I worked in a project for building residents for the under-privileged youth. After my tenure there, I had the chance to join the incredible schools project of Springboard. Although I haven't been working in Apache for a long time, I feel like I've been in the project for years. Every time I go to a school I get more and more attached to the project. First I looked at the project from a professional perspective; but when I saw the innocence, the eagerness, and the enthusiasm of these girls, I knew then that I can influence and improve their future by doing my best in my job. I feel responsible for the well-being of these girls. I'll try-as a project engineer- to maintain the schools and provide the best possible environment for the girls to enhance the educational process. Now I fully understand the motto of the project which states "If you educate a woman, you educate a family.””



**Mohamed Younes**

**Junior Project Engineer**

“Before joining Springboard, I always wanted to work in the development sector. Coming in close contact with the underprivileged, the marginalized and the poor provides a unique perspective to life and its priorities I felt I was distant from. Upon finishing my mass communication undergrad degree at the American University in Cairo, I decided to shift my focus and pursue a master's degree in development at University College London. The exposure I got from development studies made me even more eager and ready to put theories into practice. When I started visiting the schools as part of the Springboard team, it made me realize how little effort it actually took to make a big difference in someone else's life. It sounds cliché, but the experience of just playing with the school girls and seeing the thankfulness, laughter and smiles they show feels rewarding. It is truly gratifying to be part of a project that aims at improving the livelihoods of Egyptian girls by providing spaces where they can be agents of change, challengers of stereotypes and the future women of Egypt.””



**Salma Abou Hussein**

**Project Assistant**

## Meet... “THE SCHOOL”



The school team has updated the school design description on the website to give our donors and supporters better insight on how the schools really look like and how they function. The schools were designed to be a local hub for the girls, take advantage of natural light, and embody a sympathetic relationship to the surroundings. Simple, durable, low maintenance materials were used in the construction of the schools to achieve high and effective results. For more information, kindly visit the [innovative school design](#) section.



### Our Contacts:

Visit our new website:

<http://www.springboarded.org/>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/springboarded>

Or on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/SpringBoardOrg>



***"A human being is not attaining his full heights until he is educated."  
Horace Mann***



Dear Donor and Supporter,

The girls are grateful for giving them the opportunity to go to schools and practice their right to free education. Thanks to generous supporters like you, the girls' lives are shifting to the better and their futures are becoming brighter.

We are now trying to foster an environment where the girls and their families become more and more empowered. In order for our schools to provide this type of empowerment, the sustainability of the schools has to be ensured. They are in constant need for building maintenance, educational supplies, achievement awards, fences, water wells, educational trips, minor medical needs (hearing aids, glasses, etc.).

The Donations you provide are used to avoid logistical problems like flooring issues, septic system blockages, issues with the walls and electric repairs. These items, if not handled properly, negatively affect the schools' academic performance. Through this letter, we are asking you to renew your confidence by continuing to support this initiative and help us create a better atmosphere for the girls to learn. Your contribution can and does make a difference in the lives of these young girls!

Tax deductible contributions can be made to Springboard

You can send a check to:

Springboard – Educating the Future

2000, Post Oak Blvd, Suite 100

Houston, Texas 77056. USA.

The underprivileged girls of Egypt thank you for your support and for enabling their dreams to become reality.  
The Springboard Schools Team