

SPRINGBOARD Girls' Schools Newsletter



Girls are very excited about taking a photo

*"El Maamal School –
Donated by Jeff and Jenny
Bender in Honor of Jessica
and Janelle Bender"*

Season's Greetings – The Springboard Team

Dear Donors and Supporters,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thanks to supporters like you, 2010 was a successful year for us. This past year has been a challenging one for our Team in maintaining and sustaining the schools but yet there is much to be done. We hope to reach our goals and expand our services to the Schools from the generosity and commitment of people like you.

We wish you a new year filled with peace, joy, and meaning.

Students Involvement

During 2010 the school team has been approached by several students and teachers wanting to volunteer and commit to the girls school project. They have several ways for getting involved some help in the maintenance of the schools, others in teaching and others in arts and crafts.

This group was a significant one, Annie, her father Carl Heinrichs and her friend Kailey Lummus decided to go and paint a whole school from the inside. We assisted them in getting all the items needed and they did a good job with their painting. During 2011 we are expecting more Students to get involved and committed.



Annie & Carl Heinrichs and Kailey Lummus painting the walls of Abdel Hadi School donated by Harrison Lovegrove

Personal Perspective on Springboard Schools

As of January, I have been in Cairo for a year. I have always enjoyed working as a Social Worker so I was in need of a project to keep me busy. Then I meet Angie Joyce! She introduced me to her world of the girl's schools that Apache sponsors, and the wonderful team of project directors, Salma Zaky, Haytham Gamal and Youssef Youssef that have been a pleasure to work with and I have been hooked ever since.

Looking back, I remember entering my first school and the beautiful faces were looking so eagerly at us. We grown women were all lined up stiffly (for most of us it was our first experience) in front of the classroom and the first question asked was "Why are we visiting?" We all stood in silence like a deer in headlights until Angie spoke up and helped us fit in. The young girls seemed much wiser and reserved than us in many ways. The girl who asked the question couldn't have been more than 10 years old. So while in the beginning I may have felt like an alien from another planet, I left feeling like a rock star! Even with the language barriers, many of the girls were so gregarious and they found ways to show us their world through their school projects and what they have learned. After having some experience, I no longer feel like an alien but march in with my broken Arabic greetings and enjoy getting right in the middle of the girls and giggling with them just like any girls you would find in our world.



*Shelly Heinrichs and Jayne Kimmet
with the girls after doing art work at
Helwa School
"School donated by Raymond Plank in
Honor of Joe Jamail "*

As you look around the schools, they are covered with art and the aesthetics are cheerful and welcoming. The girls are gifted in so many ways. During the Fall of 2010, I wanted to experiment with different art projects to show case what the girls are capable of. In the process we learned much about these girls without having to speak the same language. In the beginning, the girls were apprehensive about cutting into the paper and creating their own designs. This is only my observation but in the beginning they were so reserved and almost stifled over their concerns about making a mistake; that it took them a while to realize there are no mistakes and to just go for it! As we sat down and started cutting, they soon mimicked us, and it didn't take long for them to surpass our attempts at creating amazing art. What was wonderful was that all the girls could participate no matter what the age and they were able to create their own perspectives of how they see their world regardless of the theme of the collage that day.



*Shelly with the Girls of El-Kebira School Dontaed
by "Terry and Donna Johansen IHO Laura Bush"*

We also found that some students have never used scissors because they have none in their schools. Teachers were asking if we could leave them glue and scissors and they were so grateful for the paper we left after the art projects that we considered scrap and probably would have thrown away. These girls are artistic and busting to shine and one medium is through art. But with their limited resources, it is difficult. That's where we come in.

Spring of 2011 we plan to have a local fundraiser to not only to make money for supplies but to bring awareness to the local expat community that there are positive ways to get involved and at their own comfort level. One of our volunteers is creating a cook book to raise funds while another volunteer is creating a calendar with all the proceeds going to the girls' schools. Our first project was creating collages and each child contributed a piece of the collage to create beautiful art. But just going out and interacting and playing games with the girls makes their day. I don't know who gets more out of these experiences, the volunteers or the girls. Regardless, I take for granted the things we have in our lives and it is wonderful to give back. It doesn't take much. As guests in their country, it is a privilege to enjoy their company, show case their creativity to others and watch them sparkle and shine as they express themselves in a safe and welcoming environment thanks to the creation of these schools.

Shelly Heinrichs



"Girls creating the Village Collage"



"The Village Collage"

*Created by El-Moa'skar Girls –
donated by Chip and Barbara
Lawrence"*





"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself". John Dewey

Dear Donor and Supporter,

Your initial support and contribution to build a school has made an impact on Egypt! The young girls of Egypt attending these schools now have an opportunity for education - the opportunity to read and write, the ability to add numbers when purchasing basic supplies, things that most of us take for granted, but was impossible and only a dream for these girls until your school was built in their community. The girls, their parents and the community that houses the schools say THANKS!

Building the schools within budget and on time was a challenge, but now we face a greater challenge – sustainability of the schools. We have adopted the Apache culture and philosophy and these schools are “built to last”. The school needs building maintenance, educational supplies, achievement awards, fences, water wells, educational trips, minor medical needs (hearing aids, glasses, etc.).

Our maintenance works for our schools was directly affected by the lack of needed funds. Our Maintenance plan was minimized, the number of schools we were planning to maintain was decreased, and some of work items were canceled. This was done to give priority to those schools most in need, schools with major problems like flooring issues, septic system blockages, issue with walls and electric repairs. Those schools were in critical need for maintenance, and they look brand new after the maintenance work was completed. The year 2011 is holding quite a long list of schools in need for repairs, and yet still our funds are tight. Funding the maintenance of these schools helps provide a better atmosphere for the girls to learn - a better school for them to enjoy and enhancing their leaning environment.

Your contribution, no matter how large or small, 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.

Or can wire funds to

Bank Name: JPMorgan Chase Bank
Bank Address: JPMorgan Chase Bank
Manhattan
1 Chase Plaza
New York, New York 10005
SWIFT: CHASUS33
ABA: 021000021
Account name: Springboard – Educating the Future
Account Number: 662634781

Our Contacts:

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www.springboarded.org



“Thank You”

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

The Girls' Schools Team

*Special Thanks to Springboard’s Egyptian Partners: The National Council of Childhood and Motherhood and Sawiris Foundation