



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"

Eleanor Roosevelt

Picture of F33- Fahima Bahnas School , Fayoum

Dear Donors & Supporters,

In a blink of an eye, a year has passed. Much progress has been made but we still have more to do. Springboard newsletter's whole purpose is to always keep you connected to your schools and update you to what your students have reached so far. Ten years have passed on this project; each year has its challenges, accomplishments & stories. The older this project becomes, the brighter the future we see. This newsletter covers the latest events, schools' maintenance progress and much more from Springboard schools students. This year's Fun run/walk day aim was different from all other years; the main aim was to integrate technology in the students' learning environment by supporting the schools with computers. The cumulative distance covered by the 89 participants was outstanding this day. We are also happy to let you know that 65 schools have undergone maintenance activities this year. 2014 was full of challenges and it turned out to be a great year for the schools as we were able to sign a protocol to support the schools with The National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM). Springboard Team wouldn't have been able to go this far if they were doing it alone. We started it together and now we are on the right track because of your continuous support and generous contributions. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy 2015!

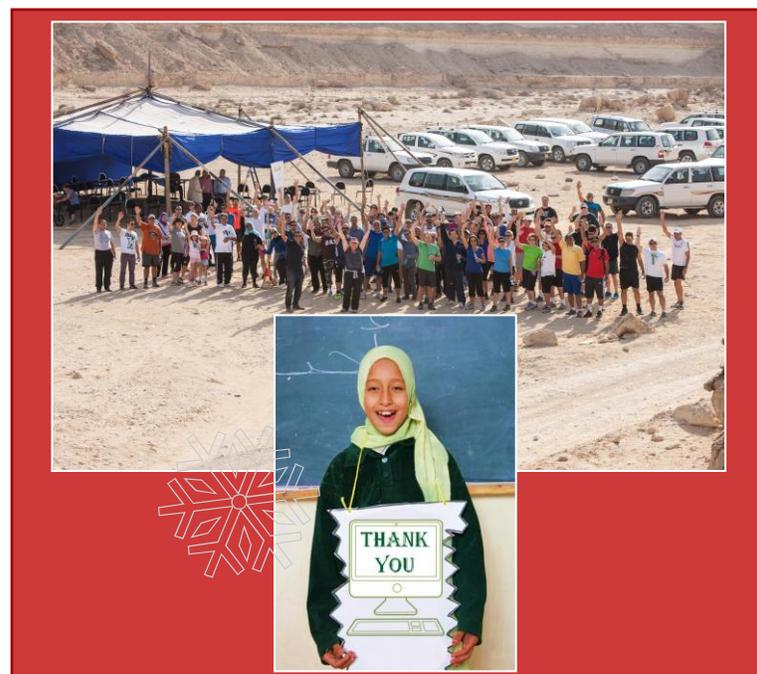
THANK YOU FOR THE 535K !

Meeting the demands of many Springboard schools, Springboard Team along with Apache Wellness Program decided that this year's Fun Run/Walk day will support the schools with computers.

The Fun run/walk day took place in Wadi Degla protectorate on November 13th.

The cumulative distance covered by the participants this day was outstanding. 535 kilometers were covered which allowed Apache to support 47 schools with computers.

We were really grateful to all who contributed to make this day such fun. We were very happy to see all age ranges present; they didn't only add joyfulness to the event but they also were counted as part of the cumulative distance. Technology is advancing at a speed that is far beyond anyone's imagination. Now computers are an essential feature not only in education but also in the girls' daily lives. Thank you for giving the chance to the girls of Egypt to explore the computer world and to enjoy their learning experience that they deserve.



Before & After Renovation



F12- El Gawahery

F39- Akila & Soliman

G37- Oseya

The schools' needs vary from each year to the other. From our schools visits this year we have realized that the areas where some of the schools operate became more populated, and accordingly the schools became more exposed. The teachers have also reaffirmed this and requested a solution; accordingly the Springboard Team decided to install a steel door to protect these schools and to give the opportunity for the teachers and the girls to use this extra space. Challenging the safety concerns in Egypt, the Team has managed to maintain 65 schools.

18 schools in Minya, 16 schools in Giza & 31 schools in Fayoum. Every time we maintain a school, we add a new feature that contributes to the durability of the school building. It makes the school more durable and reduces the maintenance cost for the coming years. The regular maintenance does not only develop a safe and healthy environment for the girls, but it grows the girls' devotion towards their school. Springboard Team values the importance of the school's environment. Thus we will always keep delivering sustainable services to the schools.

Honorable Mentions



G23 Sakkara school girls after they have received their Feast boxes that are crafted by MBIS students



Mrs. Maria Maher handing out new pair of shoes to her school "G03 Om El Awlad" students



The orphan students after they have received the blankets that are donated by Apache's Orphanage Committee

There is a proverb that says "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Springboard Team has made it this far because of the support of many schools' donors. We started it together and we are even getting further each day because of your continuous support. Your contributions, no matter how big or small, are the real investment in the schools' development. Special thanks to Maadi British International School (MBIS) for their continuous contributions to G-23 Sakkara School. Sakkara School students were very happy to receive The Feast boxes that were filled with candies & small gifts and were personally crafted by the MBIS students. Thanks to Mrs. Maria Maher for donating shoes to all her school (G03-Om El Awlad) students. The students were very happy to see Mrs. Maria and as a way of gratitude three girls from the 6th grade sang a song to Mrs. Maria, Mrs. Karen Maher & Ms. Noha who were in the visit. Thanks to Oldani's Family for donating a printer to one of Springboard schools. We also would like to thank Apache's Orphanage Committee for donating 40 blankets to be distributed to Springboard orphan students. Winter Weather is setting in and a blanket was certainly the most thoughtful gift for our orphan students. All of these generous contributions do make a difference. The girls appreciate the tiniest things because in their eyes they see them very big.

A TALE OF TWO GIRLS: IHSAN & FATMA

Ihsan & Fatma are two girls who got graduated from one of Springboard schools G23-Sakkara. Each one of them has a different story that is worth sharing. Although they both have a different story, they have one thing in common; Sakkara School is where their story began. Ihsan & Fatma were chosen to represent Springboard Schools at a Press conference that was attended by many reputable figures. They gave a speech about their stories and they inspired mostly everyone who attended the conference. Stories like those are the real measurement of Springboard project's success. There are many girls like Ihsan & Fatma and definitely they will be tomorrow's educated mothers.

Ihsan, 19 years old: "I was nine when I joined Sakkara school, I didn't know anything. I used to see road signs but I couldn't read them. Sakkara school is where I began to understand the world around me. When I was 16 years old I got engaged. My parents wanted me to stop going to school but I refused. My best friend Fatma & my teacher used to come to my house to convince my parents that I shouldn't stop. I broke up with my fiancé to continue my education. I fought for this right because I want to educate my children in the future, I don't want them to pass through what I have been through. I'll advance in my education, finish high school and join faculty of engineering to become a petroleum engineer".

Fatma, 18 years old: "I was lucky because I was raised in a family that wanted me to finish my education. A lot has changed in my personality. I was very shy when I first joined Sakkara school but now I became more talkative, confident and open minded. When I was young, my dream was to have a child in each country. When I became older I started to realize that this dream is not possible; I can't give birth to hundreds of children. So, when I thought about this dream for a while, I reached a conclusion that this dream can be possible because I'll finish my education and I'll be able to teach many children and they will spread education everywhere. I'll consider them my own children and hence my dream will be achieved."



Fatma giving a speech about her experience



Fatma & Ihsan with US Secretary of State Adviser David Thorne & Apache Egypt Vice President Tom Maher

Renewing the partnership with the National Council for Childhood & Motherhood

Since 2004, Apache and the National Council for Childhood & Motherhood (NCCM) have been working together in building and monitoring the 201 one-room classroom schools project. After the Revolution in 2011, the NCCM's involvement was stopped and the project was transferred from the NCCM to the Ministry of Education. We are glad that NCCM are getting involved again in the project under the supervision of the Ministry of education. This initiative was originally founded by NCCM and they have a strong ownership towards this project. **"We call this project "our baby" because we have seen it growing in front of us and we have witnessed its impact on many families. We cannot neglect Apache's commitment in continuing the maintenance activities although we as NCCM weren't involved for four years. We're happy that we are getting back together"** Dr. Azza El Ashmawy (NCCM Secretary General).

Activating this partnership, Apache & NCCM signed a protocol. This protocol gives the privilege to Apache to further provide sustainable services to the schools. We are glad that this protocol is coming into force and we are looking forward to fruitful years with the NCCM.



Celebrating the Universal Children's Day!

On November 20th 2014, G02 El Moasker School students celebrated the Universal Children's Day. Representatives from the National Council for Childhood & Motherhood and from the Ministry of Education came to attend that day. The program started with a welcoming song from the girls. Then they showed us a short movie that raises awareness on harassment and its different forms. After that the girls were divided into groups. Each group explains the harassment problem in a different way; some girls showed data & graphs about harassment activities, others wrote "stop violence, stop harassment" using art materials. They have also told us what they have learned from the movie; they will break the silence and speak up and they will go to report if anyone of them faced any forms of harassment. Everyone was really impressed from the teachers and girls' efforts on this day. We as Springboard Team were also impressed from the girls' confidence in front of the visitors and from their work done on that day.



Dear Donor and Supporter,

Over the past 10 years, you have played a big part in the lifetime of Springboard schools project. What Springboard has accomplished these ten years, would have not been reality without you. Your support has repeatedly played a key role in our success. Your continuous contributions have demonstrated your deep commitment to our work of providing a healthy, enjoyable learning environment for the girls of Egypt.

Your contributions are making it possible for girls living in unfortunate circumstances to lead happier and fruitful lives. Your contributions help us providing new ideas & enhancing young girls' education. With us you are shaping the future of many.

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

Our Contacts:

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Special thanks to
Springboard's Egyptian
partner:

The National Council for
Childhood & Motherhood



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