



"A girl child who is even a little bit educated is more conscious of family planning, health care and, in turn, her children's own education."

Azim Premji

**Picture of G16 – Bassiouni School
Fayoum**

Dear Donors and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the Springboard schools' latest updates. We are pleased to let you know that we have delivered all the laptops raised from the 5th Fun Run/Walk/Cycle event organized collaboratively by the Springboard and Wellness teams. Ramadan, the month of good deeds and charity, was very special this year. The Springboard team, along with the Apache employees, celebrated it by delivering 78 Ramadan food bags filled with one month's worth of food supplies for the students' families of G27 El Rahawi and G24 El Kashlanah Schools.

As we understand the importance of integrating the students' parents in the learning process, we also organized a parenting session at one of our schools to inform parents how they should respect their daughters' choices and dreams. For 13 years, Springboard has been seeking continuous improvements for the schools. Currently, the Springboard Team along with the Graduate School of Education (GSE) at the American University in Cairo (AUC) are developing a new strategic plan that will lead to many improvements and address challenges. Upon implementation of the plan, we will share updates.

As always, we wish there were more ways to show our appreciation to each of you, our donors, our supporters, our partners, for your time, dedication and donations. This newsletter is one of the ways to let you know how much we have accomplished and how much we value you.

LAPTOPS DELIVERED!



This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Fun Run/Walk/Cycle event. The Wellness Program and the Springboard team organize this yearly event. Its purpose is not only to promote a healthy lifestyle for Apaches and their families, but also to raise funds for the Springboard schools. The event took place at the Wadi Degla Protectorate on November 17, 2016 where participants gathered to walk, run and cycle. They covered a cumulative distance of 640 kilometers allowing the Springboard Schools team to purchase 16 laptops for the Schools. We are glad to update you that we have delivered the laptops to 16 schools in Giza and Fayoum.

We cannot describe the look on the girls' faces when they received the laptops; they were very thrilled to learn how to use the keyboard and type their names. On behalf of all of the students that received the laptops this year, we want to thank all the determined runners, walkers and cyclers who contributed in providing our girls the opportunity to explore the computer world and enjoy their learning experience. The teachers and students are very excited to make the best use of the computer and learn many computer skills.

The Spirit of Ramadan at Springboard Schools

Ramadan is the holy month of giving, spiritual reflection and charity. This year, Apache employees decided to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan with the Springboard schools' teachers and girls in a very special way.

On June 7, 2017, Apaches helped and contributed in preparing 78 Ramadan food bags using donations received from: Hani Nasr, Ashraf Ghali, Fatma El Far, Mostafa Hussein, and Wafaa Kotb.

Special thanks to Fatma El Far, Yasser Waly, Tamer Abdel Salam and Ahmed Abdel Ghaffar and Bassam Salah for volunteering to help in purchasing, packing, and delivering the bags to the schools.

The food bags were delivered to two schools in Giza: G24 El Kashlanah and G27 El Rahawi. The bags included rice, cooking oil, beans, pasta, tomato sauce, and frozen chicken.

We visited the schools to wish them a happy Ramadan. Fatma El Far and Yasser Waly distributed biscuits and juice to all the students. We sang with them a few songs and gave the food bag to each one of them.

36 bags were delivered to G27 El Rahawi and 42 bags were delivered to El Kashlanah School. The students were very happy to receive the food bags that covered their families' needs during the whole month of Ramadan.

The Springboard Team appreciated this act of kindness from the Apache National employees and looks forward to repeat this day again. It was definitely a day to remember.



G24 El Kashlanah School girls after receiving the Ramadan food bags



G27 El Rahawi School girls after receiving the Ramadan food bags

Our Mothers Are Like Our Schools



Parenting session held at F42 Abaza School in Fayoum



Group picture of F42 Abaza School students' mothers

There is a quote by the well-known Egyptian Poet, Hafez Ibrahim that says, "A mother is a school. Empower her; and you empower a great nation."

As we strongly believe in the role that mothers play in their daughters' future, we organized a parenting session to raise awareness of the importance of education.

The purpose of the session is to integrate the mothers in the learning process and to reassure them that the Springboard is there whenever any of the girls need support.

The session took place on May 22. We had the opportunity to meet the students' mothers from F42 Abaza School. We started the session by introducing them to simple respect-building parenting practices that mainly focus on the following: listening carefully to their daughters' needs, giving them love and respect, and encouraging them to continue their education.

During the session, we listened to the mothers' concerns regarding their daughters' education. We understood their needs and culture constraints. We shared with them success stories of girls who decided to continue their education despite the usual traditions and culture that oblige the girls to get married at an early age. The mothers were inspired and they said that this session made them realize the importance of regular conversations with their daughters. They also realized that they no matter what, they should respect their daughters' goals and dreams.

The session was very successful and we received positive feedback from the parents and the community.

SOMETHING NEW IS BEING COOKED!



SPRINGBOARD

Educating the Future

A team from the Graduate School of Education (GSE) at the American University in Cairo (AUC) along with the Springboard team are currently working on a new strategic plan for Springboard-Educating the Future Organization. GSE is a model and disseminator of good educational practice and policy for AUC, for Egypt, and the region. It contributes by assimilating and adapting (and in some cases, creating) educational knowledge useful for practice and policy. The purpose of the GSE and Springboard's new strategic plan is to provide a clear path for the girls' schools to achieve full and long-term sustainable success. The plan will address Springboard's current challenges, focus on the teachers' professional development, graduates' mentorship and sustainable solutions for the girls' friendly community schools. The GSE team are now in the process of drafting the strategic plan. Once the strategy is finalized, we will be glad to share how the schools project will move forward. Stay tuned!

Honorable Mentions

Since the initiation of Springboard in 2004, our generous donors and supporters have always contributed in providing extra needs for the schools. Here is an update of how the valuable donations were put to use in the last six months.

Not only were the girls happy to receive the in-kind donations, but also meeting and connecting with their school's donors made them feel happy.

G13 El Hawanem school girls were very glad to meet and connect with their donor, the Brennan family. The Brennan family delivered backpacks and stationary to the school and spent a great day playing games with the students.

G03 Om El Awlad School girls were also very blessed to receive generous in-kind donations from the Maher family. The donations included clothes, backpacks, and bracelets. The Maher family also arranged lunch for all the students during their visit. We cannot forget to mention all our thoughtful supporters whom whenever they donate, remember our girls. Special thanks to Ms. Rana Mostafa for donating clothes and delivering them to G01 Abu sir School. On behalf of F48 Shoeib Mikawi and F39 Akila & Soliman schools in Fayoum, we would also like to thank our continuous supporter, the Kiester family for donating art supplies and games.

G02 El Moaskar School students and teachers had a great chance to meet four American fellows, Farhiya, Lance, Herman and Spogmay who were visiting Egypt as part of their fellowship program, organized by Hands Along the Nile Organization. The American fellows on their visit decided to donate to the school and their donation allowed us to provide educational board games and bracelets for all the students. We have also received a donation from the Polasek family and it will be used to build a fence and undergo maintenance activities at G08 Arab El Dobour School.

We were thankful to receive a donation from the Pitman Family and it will be utilized in providing extra supplies for the schools.

Using the Versfelt family's donation, we organized a competition between two schools (G14 El Beleida and G25 Bandar El Ayat) in Giza and the winning school (G14 El Beleida) won a field trip to one of the play areas located in their neighborhood.

Your donations undergird our mission of providing sustainable services for the girls of Egypt.

Every act of your kindness is priceless. We hope you know how much we value you!



School backpacks donated by the Brennan family
Picture of G13 El Hawanem School



Board games donated by Farhiya, Lane, Herman and Spogmay
Picture of G02 El Moaskar



Dear Donor and Supporter,

As we look back over the past years, we can never forget those who contributed in shaping the Springboard Organization. Each contribution from our valuable donors and supporters has helped in putting this organization on the right track. You were and you are still part of a great journey that opens the doors for thousands of girls to dream.

There is no end to this journey; Springboard is continuously committed to provide sustainable services to the girls of Egypt. You can always be part of this journey and contribute in 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
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The National Council
for Childhood and
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