



“All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of Today”
Indian Proverb

Picture of F102 - Gamal Abdel Hadi School, Fayoum

Dear Donors and Supporters,

Welcome to the summer edition of Springboard's newsletter. This issue marks the end of the first half of 2015. Six months of visits, maintenance activities and joyful events. In this newsletter we bring to you all that took place during this period. On top of all, we are happy that we are back visiting the schools with Apache's expat wives who add joy and smiles to the girls in the schools. We are also glad that we were able to buy 47 computers and distribute some of them to Springboard Schools this year; we couldn't have done this without the support of Apaches in the Fun Run/Walk event last year.

Since 2004, Springboard and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) have been working hand in hand to continually provide sustainable services to the schools and we are glad that this year was full of many joint events between Springboard and NCCM.

We have said this before and we continue to say it, “The under privileged girls of Egypt have been blessed by Springboard supporters like yourselves.” You complete our mission and we are thankful for all your contributions no matter how big or small they are. To us, you are Springboard's family because you are part of everything we are doing. In this issue we are paying a tribute to one of Springboard's dearest supporters Ms. Louise Lawrence who has passed away last quarter and whose contributions in a range of fields have touched the lives of many.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. Springboard Team and the school girls are wishing you a happy summer!

You Ran, They Got A Computer!



On behalf of Springboard teachers and students, Springboard Team would like to thank Apache employees, Apache families and friends for being part of the success of last year's Fun Run/Walk day- Year Three, which is a joint project with Apache Wellness Program. The cumulative distance covered was 535 kilometers and this allowed us to purchase 47 computers for the schools. We are happy to let you know that we have started the distribution process. We delivered some computers and we are planning to distribute the remaining computers by the end of the students' summer vacation. No words can describe the students' excitement after we have installed the computers in

their schools. They were very thrilled to use the keyboard, mouse and understand the computer's techniques. We showed them the basic techniques: how to move the mouse and click on objects, how to switch off/on the computer, how to type on the keyboard. The students were very interested to know more. The teachers told us that computers engage the students in the learning process and increase their focus and attention and have a positive impact on the students' learning experience. We, the Springboard Team, are keen on meeting the needs of the schools and giving the chance to Springboard schools' students to explore the computer world.

Back To the Visits, Back To the Fun!

Due to safety concerns, Apache wives' and other supporters were prohibited from visiting the schools in the past two years. We are glad that this year Apache wives and other supporters along with the Springboard Team are back to visiting the schools. To present, we have visited 27 schools. The first expats visit was to G10 - Batn El Bahr School in Giza; the school girls and teachers were very excited to the visit as they always love to see new faces.

We started the day by playing puzzles, Jenga, Barrel of monkeys and twister. The visitors: Betsy Steer, Sally Johnson, Liliana Mason, Kim Hampton, Maureen McGregor, Rita Gore and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kurtz enjoyed playing with the girls and took a lot of pictures with them. At the end of the visit, the girls received notebooks and candies from the visitors and the girls sang for them a song about Egypt.

After this visit, Springboard Team decided to plan a visit every week for Apache's wives. We visit two to three schools every week. Although we always bring with us a lot of games and art materials, some school girls have their own games to share. Games like: musical chairs, balloon stomp and many other games.

Each school has its own uplifting spirit and the girls are the ones behind that spirit. Our visitors also add a lot of joy and smiles to the girls.

We are very glad that our constant visitors (Sally Johnson, Jayne Kimmet, Ann Brady, Angela Larson and the Maadi British International school (MBIS) teachers and students are back again visiting the schools.



Sally gave the girls strings and beads and they made beautiful bracelets.

F65 Shakshouk School, Fayoum



Jayne showing the girls how to make beautiful collages using colored papers, glue and scissors.

F10 Sheikh Mangoud School, Fayoum



MBIS teacher and student helping the girls perform a rhyming story, using actions and musical instruments.

G23 - Sakkara School, Giza

We are also very happy to have new faces on board: Randi Kiester, Maureen McGregor, Janice Spencer, Jackie Adams & Sara Esfandi who showed great interest in Springboard's schools and enjoy the visits. Randi Kiester wrote a blog about her experience with Springboard and below is part of what she wrote:

"The girls have welcomed us with songs, role-play and acting. Although the language spoken is Arabic, we have been communicating with single Arabic words (one pick up a few) and hand gestures. They all know how to count to ten in English, and also words like welcome, and bye bye. Each time we have visited about 3 schools. We had so much fun playing with them, and I look forward to next time already." **Randi Kiester.**

To read her full blog, go to this link <http://tinyurl.com/k7b496l>

NCCM & Springboard: Two Hands, One Goal

A wise man once said "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Since 2004, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and Springboard have been working together to achieve the best for the schools. This year was full of successful joint events; Springboard was present at NCCM's mother's Day celebration at the Opera house and had the pleasure to honor remarkable Egyptian mothers. The NCCM team has joined in Springboard's trip to Minya schools and distributed backpacks, caps and T-shirts to the schools' students. The Springboard Team has done an extreme makeover to F07 - Amer Abdallah School. The school was facing many structural problems and the Springboard Team managed to transform the school completely. The NCCM team has seen the school before and after the renovation and they were really impressed. As a result of the great work done in the school, they decided to celebrate the school's renovation by inviting the Egyptian Minister of population, Dr. Hala Youssef and the Governor of Fayoum, Mr. Wael Makram. On the right is a picture of the Minister with F07 - Amer Abdallah School girls. The girls were very excited to see the Minister and they gained a lot of confidence after they presented their work to her. This visit was very fruitful to the girls and very honorable to us as members of the Springboard Team. We were happy that the Minister has witnessed our work and thanked us for our efforts.



The Egyptian Minister of population Dr. Hala Youssef at

F07 - Amer Abdallah School in Fayoum

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Before



After



F97 - Bahnas

F07 - Amer Abdallah

F122 - El Hosnia

Springboard Team is happy to share with you the latest updates regarding the schools' maintenance activities. 31 schools have successfully undergone maintenance to date; two of them are in Giza and the remaining 29 schools are in Fayoum. Fayoum's agricultural land is very fertile and has sometimes an effect on the school's structure; this is why most of the maintenance activities are done in Fayoum. Also, the electricity grid and water channels encounter problems; Springboard's main focus this year is to solve this problem by installing a water motor to enhance the water flow and by changing completely the electricity cable structure to improve the school's electricity. We have also changed the flooring material to ceramic in many schools. Ceramic has two benefits: it is not easily broken or cracked and it makes the cleaning process much easier in the schools. We also repaired the fences and installed steel doors in some of the schools. Springboard is committed to visit the schools on a regular basis to make sure that the needs are fulfilled and we maintain to ensure a safe and healthy educational environment is being offered to Springboard girls.

Honorable Mentions

Compared to the previous years, this year Springboard received an outstanding amount of donations. During the last six months donations have reached \$12,700. These donations brought huge smiles to our girls' faces and because you are the reason behind these beautiful smiles, we are dedicating this section to thank each one of you. Thank you Mr. John Polasek for giving a donation to Springboard. We are happy to let you know that we have used your donation in the following: we bought art materials for five schools, we bought a new laptop, repaired the garden of one of the schools and we have also financially supported a family of three girls who were about to drop from school to work with their mother and help her cover the rent fees. Thank you Mr. Chansoo Young for giving a donation to F125 - El Minawi School; the donation allowed us to buy art materials, new laptop, educational CDs and to build a pathway on top of a water canal that is in front of the school. We would like to thank our continuous supporter, the Maadi British International School, for providing G23 - Sakkara School with art materials, musical instruments and for organizing a trip for the girls. The Fagensons Family has also donated to F76 - El Omda School; we bought a new laptop for the school and we are going to install a new water tank. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Maher for their donation to their School G03 - Om El Awlad; their donation will help us to provide many needs for the school. F05 - El Quaria El Guidida school girls will go on trip outside of Fayoum for the first time in their lives this August; this would not have been possible without Ms. Kathy Neal's donation. We would like also to thank Ms. Mary Joan Giansante for her donation that allowed us to buy a new laptop and art materials for her school, G08 - Arab Dabour. Thanks to Steer Family for their donation to G10 - Batn El Bahr; it allowed us to buy a new white board, puzzles and art materials for the school. Thanks to Mackintosh Family for donating clothes to one of the schools. Also thanks to Ms. Angela Sackman and Mr. Oldani for donating two printers. Thanks to Mr. Mohamed Al Reedy for donating a laptop to F115 El Motalath School. Thanks to Ann Brady, Randi Kiester and Maureen McGregor for donating art materials, puzzles to some of the schools we have visited together. The Springboard Team can't thank you enough for your continuous support to the schools. Not only these contributions they bring beautiful smiles to the girls' faces but they are the true investment in the schools' development.



G08-Arab Dabbour School girls exploring the new laptop



Art materials delivered to G04-El Kebira School

Ms. Louise Lawrence: A Mother Like No Other



**Ms. Louise's last visit to her School
M08 - Awlad Ahmad, Minya 2008**

"People may leave this world but they never really leave our hearts." Springboard family lost a dear mother "Ms. Louise Lawrence" last March. Ms. Lawrence is the donor and supporter to one of Springboard Schools M08 - Awlad Ahmad in Minya. She used to send mails to her school girls and tell them about her life and encourage them to continue their education. Her last visit to her school was in 2008. In 2013, her school girls knew that she was sick so the girls along with Springboard Team decided to create a video wishing her a speedy recovery. Link to the video: <http://tinyurl.com/aewumhy>

Every time we visit her school, the girls and their teachers keep asking about her. They might forget details about her last visit but they will never forget how she made them feel. Even though she left this world, her picture is still hanged on the school's wall and her love will never leave this school. Definitely she has a place in each girl's heart.

Ms. Louise was not only supporting M08 School but she was also known for her volunteering activities and services to her community. "Nanny's heart was larger than it had any right to be, and her concern for the less fortunate was infectious." **said by her grandson.** Springboard Team will miss this remarkable woman but we will treasure her memory forever.

Dear Donor and Supporter,

We just want to say that Springboard Team does not consist of two or three members. Springboard Team is a family and each one of you is a member of this family. Thank you for being part of every special day and for sharing your love with us. We appreciate all that you do to make our school girls feel happy and loved. Thank you for being part of our mission of delivering sustainable services to the students through maintenance work, monitoring the students' performance, providing school supplies and ensuring a safe and healthy educational environment.

Your generous contributions don't only help us carry on this vital work but they also have a lasting benefit because they shape 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:

Visit our website:

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

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**Special thanks to
Springboard's
Egyptian partner:**

**The National Council
for Childhood and
Motherhood**



A special goodbye to a special friend

It is hard for us to say goodbye to a special friend who in a short period had a very big impact on Springboard girls. Maureen McGregor was very caring, loving and most importantly very patient with the girls. She was very interested to understand the schools' culture and was always excited to the schools visits. We will definitely miss you Maureen Mcgregor.