

*The Happy Childhood Global Network's newsletter will now be issued every 6 months

LAETITIA HATEM REHABILITATION CENTER / LEBANON

22 NEW CHILDREN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2017

The HCF is funding more and more children every month at the Laetitia Hatem Rehabilitation Center, with an average of almost 500 sessions per month including physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and psychomotor therapy. Currently 81 children's treatments are funded by the HCF, with 22 new children since the beginning of the year.

The construction of the LHRC expansion at Hotel Dieu de France is rapidly progressing. We are happy to report that the extension to the center, and the adjacent healing garden should be operational by the end of 2017.

For more information on our work at the LHRC, [watch this video](#).

AWARD/LHRC LEBANON

AWARD GIVING TO MERITING THERAPIST: ON 25 JANUARY

In January 2017, HCF celebrated the incredible work done by the wonderful team of the LHRC, by awarding exceptional work. The very first Award of Appreciation was given to one of the therapists, Vanessa Mallo, recognizing her dedication and the exceptional welcoming care she gives to the children at the center! It was also an opportunity to thank the entire team for their beautiful, tireless work and efforts!



EVENT/LEBANON

THE 2ND EDITION OF THE HCF CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTION

On March 9, HCF held a very successful auction to raise funds for the extension of the Laetitia Hatem Rehabilitation Center. The auction, conducted by Christie's, took place at the MIM Museum, and gathered 26 artworks by International Artists.

We'd like to particularly thank BankMed for their sponsorship of this event.



FUNDS/HCF LEBANON

During the first half of 2017, HCF Lebanon received generous financial donations from a number of private individuals as well as gifts in kind for the LHRC healing garden.

HAPPY CHILDHOOD VILLAGE

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE ON ALL FRONTS

In March, PHF President, Georges Hatem and board member of PHF Geneva, Dolly Hatem, visited the site of the Happy Childhood Village Tanzania [HCVT], and met with orphans in the vicinity. They also met with Maasai leaders involved in the HCVT and gave them copies of the [HCVT brochure](#), as well as with local business leaders to validate vocational training programs.

An Addendum to the protocol between HCF Africa and the Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha was also signed for additional land (originally 262,000 square meters), mainly:

- Addition of 10,000sqm for the solar panel farm
- Addition of 10,000sqm for the agriculture/farming program
- Addition of 4,500sqm for the construction of additional dormitories for secondary school children

An agreement was also made between HCF Africa and the CAA in the Addendum to protocol: the 26th of May being the birth date of Philippe Hatem and the Feast of Saint Philip Neri, the 26th of May of each year will be the Village holiday and all activities will be stopped and replaced with happy celebrations, including at HCVT's Saint Philippe church.

Progress is also to be signaled in the fund-raising campaign for the HCVT, with a number of international institutions showing interest in partnering with HCF Africa for this project.

For more information on the environmental assessment of the village, [please download the executive summary here](#).



PARTNERSHIPS

TERMINATING OUR LONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW PAGE AT THE HCF

The Board of Directors of The Happy Childhood Foundation, Lebanon decided unanimously at its last board meeting in May to end their funding of children programs through other associations in Lebanon, by December 2017. After six very successful years supporting these programs, the board decided that such a step was necessary to focus all its resources, financial and otherwise, on the Laetitia Hatem Rehabilitation Centre, to accommodate its expansion plans, and on other new initiatives promoted directly by HCF Lebanon.

HCF Lebanon met with all the responsible individuals at these associations and advised them of the strategic change. All associations understood fully the decision and were very thankful for the support HCF had provided them in the last six years. Also it remains very clear that all such associations will continue to make use of the LHRC for any of their children's rehabilitation needs. These associations will thus remain close partners to HCF Lebanon.

The partnership with Notre Dame de Nazareth will continue until June 2018, as the two students HCF is currently supporting will graduate then.

Similarly, the board of HCF North America terminated its support to the programs through other organizations in Chile and India. After six years of impactful funding, the board decided to focus its energy and resources on supporting its sister foundation in Africa for the HCV project in Tanzania.

This excludes the gift that HCF North America has committed to the RIC's new pediatric floor in the Shirley Ryan Ability lab.

HCF/BOARDS

All the members of the HCF Lebanon have renewed their commitment for a new year, in May 2017. You can read more about our members here. Only Jasmine Busson had to step down, due to frequent travelling outside the country. The board also created different committees to divide responsibilities as to the different operations of HCF Lebanon. All members also renewed their commitment at HCF North America and HCF Africa.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS, HOW YOU CAN HELP,
OR ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HAPPY CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION,
PLEASE CONTACT**

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