

*The Happy Childhood Global Network's newsletter is issued every 6 months

LAETITIA HATEM REHABILITATION CENTER / LEBANON

THE LHRC MARKS ITS FIVE YEARS MILESTONE

In November 2017, the LHRC marked its fifth-year milestone, with its biggest year to date: **5,789 sessions** of physiotherapy, psychomotor therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy all covered by the Happy Childhood Foundation.

More than 100 children come to the LHRC every month, with an average of 2 to 3 newcomers welcomed every month, under the full coverage of the HCF.



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LHRC CONTINUES ITS EXPANSION

With construction that began in January 2017, the extended center is expected to be inaugurated in the spring of 2018, and will cover a total area of 2,350 square meters; it will be equipped with additional state of the art equipment, and will include a pool for water therapy, as well as a beautiful rehabilitation & healing garden designed by Board member Vladimir Djurovic.



LAETITIA HATEM REHABILITATION CENTER / LEBANON

TWO DESERVING THERAPISTS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK

Twice a year, HCF rewards excellence at the LHRC. In December 2017, two awards were given: Zakhia Naoum the Yearly Award for excellence in Rehabilitation Care and Nagi Chartouni the Half-Yearly Award for Hygiene.

It is thanks to the continued excellence and commitment of all those who work at the LHRC that children continue to make visible progress every day, and that the LHRC has become a center of rehabilitation excellence in the region.

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IT'S CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYBODY AT THE LHRC!

Every year, HCF friend Michelle Tabet generously puts together a Christmas party for all our LHRC children and their brothers and sisters, with food and presents for everyone! This year, 111 children were gathered in the Hotel Dieu auditorium to celebrate.



HAPPY CHILDHOOD VILLAGE/ TANZANIA

FOCUSING ON THE REHABILITATION CENTER

In August, PHF President, Georges Hatem, visited the site of the Happy Childhood Village Tanzania [HCVT], and met with local partners to complete work on the project on all fronts. The Board of the Happy Childhood Foundation Africa has, in cooperation with the Board of HCF North America, decided to focus efforts first on constructing the rehabilitation center. The goal is to start construction of the Tanzania center in 2018.

For more information on the Happy Childhood Village project, [please click here](#).



PARTNERSHIPS/ LEBANON

TERMINATING OUR LONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW PAGE AT THE HCF

The Board of Directors of the Happy Childhood Foundation, Lebanon decided unanimously to end its funding of children programs through other associations in Lebanon, by December 2017. After six very successful years supporting these programs, impacting for the better the lives of thousands of children, 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 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.

PARTNERSHIPS/HCGN

TERMINATING OUR LONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW PAGE AT THE HCF

For the same reasons as in Lebanon, after several years of continuous and impactful support to children in Chile and India, the Board of HCF North America has decided to discontinue its grants to Corporacion Jesus Nino and to the Mother & Child Foundation. Both organizations were very grateful for the years of support from HCF which has helped hundreds of children.

HCF North America will of course continue to meet its strategic commitment to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (recently renamed the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab), with a gift for a rehabilitation space in the pediatric floor of their new hospital, carrying the Happy Childhood name, to be settled over a period of five years.

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