

Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls

Newsletter July 2005

News from the Home

Our sponsorship scheme for the girls of the Lazarus Home has been running now for almost seven years and the Trustees would like to thank our sponsors for their most generous donations and continued support.

As well as maintaining the girls in their present rented accommodation, we have been able to finally purchase the piece of land we required to build the new home on, and so are now involved in new fundraising initiatives to raise money for the building.

Most of our sponsors will be well aware however of some of the minor problems which we have encountered in trying to maintain the present system. In the early days, prior to the 2000 Intifada, we made frequent trips to the home and so were able to bring you up-to-date news through the newsletters we produced. We were also able to monitor the progress of the girls and knew exactly which girls were in the home at all times.

Unfortunately, times have changed dramatically in Palestine since 2000, with frequent curfews and the construction of the wall. This means that communication with the home is much more difficult and the movement of girls in and out of the home varies from month to month. This has meant frequent letters to the sponsors explaining that 'their' girl has been moved to another home and a new girl offered in her place. We know that this is not entirely satisfactory, as many of you feel that you like to build up a 'relationship' with your sponsored girl.

The Trustees and ourselves feel, however, that it is time to change the format of the Sponsorship Scheme and we would like to outline our ideas in this letter.

From 1 September 2005, the sponsorship scheme will operate on a 'whole home sponsorship' basis and sponsors will be asked to support all of the girls in the home, rather than having an individually-named girl. We feel that this is a much fairer system as far as the girls are concerned, as the whole of the sponsorship money can be divided equally amongst the girls.

However, we realise that this takes away a little of the personal element and so we will understand if some of you feel you are no longer able to continue with your support. We do hope to be able to send all sponsors regular letters from the girls in the home and will endeavour to keep all of you as up-to-date as possible with the general progress of the girls.

Hopefully, because we are sure that you are as committed to the work of Samar as we are, you will continue to support us and, if this is the case, then you need to do nothing: your bank will continue to send us your monthly payments as before.

If you have any queries whatsoever regarding the scheme, the home or life in Palestine in general, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours in Christ,

The Editors

Letter from Samar

This is to thank you for your continued support and encouragement for the Lazarus Home for Girls. This scholastic year has been a very good year as we have done our best to make it as successful as possible for all of the girls.

We believe that education is the key for a better future, **developing people is developing peace** and we believe that organising thirty girls to be better citizens is helping to organise the whole of Palestine.

Twenty girls have now been registered at the Russian School, which is a private school in Bethany. The expenses we have to pay for each girl (see below) are well worth it, as the girls are learning English and Russian as well as Music and Computing.

We are now considered to be the best-organised home in Palestine and have been visited by one of the top ministers of state.

The Trustees have discussed fully with me the proposed changes to our sponsorship scheme and I support the new system wholeheartedly. We must continue to do what is best for the home and for all of the girls who live here, no matter how long they stay. Christian support is so vital in today's circumstances.

I have given the Friends a list of the approximate running costs for the home, which will hopefully show how much your continued support is needed and appreciated.

May the Lord richly bless you all. We do pray for your continuous support for those orphaned girls.

In Christ,

Samar Sahhar

Approximate Yearly Running Costs for the Home

Item	£
Rent of the House	7,600.00
Electricity and water	3,500.00
House Mother salaries	28,000.00
Soaps, detergents, etc.	2,000.00
Food	8,000.00
Medicines	1,200.00
Educational materials	9,000.00
Auditors fees	1,400.00
Total	60,700.00

or approximately £2,000.00 per girl.

School Fees at the Russian School, including travel, are in the region of £400.00 per girl per year.