



ULYP Winter Newsletter

December 2019, Issue 30

The end of 2019 marks the conclusion of ULYP's nine years of operation; nine amazing years of growth and development. As we wrap up this quarter, we reflected on achievements and updates to share within this newsletter. We wondered whether to skip this newsletter considering the ongoing situation in Lebanon, but instead, we felt even more motivated to share our news, to continue to hope and to work, even harder than ever, for a united Lebanon and a better future. We thank you, as donors, supporters and participants, for believing in ULYP and assure you that our commitment and promise to you and our mission continue to be unquestionable.

This quarter presented challenges that we have, as everyone else has, had to meet. After a brief halt of all ULYP activities, we slowly went back to implementation following the main guideline of "safety comes first." We developed contingency plans and alternative schedules to meet the needs of our beneficiaries, support them to the best of our abilities, and deliver the promised services. In this issue, please find a brief summary of ULYP's programs since our last issue. As we look to 2020, we believe that we will indeed see a more united Lebanon, and our participants will be a part of this positive change.

We send our warmest wishes for a blessed holiday season and a peaceful and productive new year.

Children Ages 5-15

HAPPY, with its slogan 'bringing childhood back to children,' has been active, mostly on our campus with a few exceptional sessions that we had to implement locally when safety was an issue. This foundational preschool program targets a new approach to early childhood education and brings change to children, their parents and their teachers. Thank you Beit Jiddi Foundation and Taawon/Lebanon.

SHARE, 'Spreading Hope and Reviving Education,' continues for the fifth year in a row, targeting children in grades 5-8 living in and around the Shatila camp for Palestinian refugees. This powerful long-term program renews the students' commitment to learning and growing. Thank you Beit Jiddi Foundation.

Rainbow is back at ULYP and has been relaunched to bring the ray of light in the form of education to rekindle hope and retain children at school. Rainbow works in five different locations around Lebanon and targets refugees and host community children to strengthen their academic performance in English, Math and coding. Thank you, Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund.



TARGET: AROUND 500 CHILDREN

Youth Ages 15-18

Change remains active for the second year and works with youth in or around the areas of Mount Lebanon, Saida and Beirut. Change is true to its motto ‘change starts with education,’ and through intensive sessions for enhancing English and Life Skills, students build a strong skillset for a better future. Change is in partnership with the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund.

#Respect is back this year and aims to transform marginalized youth into active agents of positive and sustainable change, embodying, promoting and leading intercultural dialogue. #Respect re-imagines displaced youth as a potential, not a burden. The image of this population portrayed in the media is synonymous with war, oppression and suffering, leaving the truth about potential, abilities and respect absent from this picture. #Respect changes the image of this youth BY this youth. #Respect is supported by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

UPC, the ULYP University Prep Course, is in motion working closely with current UNRWA 11th graders who are performing well at school. They are offered SAT prep courses and receive college counseling sessions to help them get ready for university applications and acceptances. UPC is funded by various donors.

TARGET: AROUND 500 YOUTH



University Education and Beyond

Bridge graduates: 2019 year brought the total of ULYP's Bridge alumni to over 500. These young men and women have graduated from different universities in Lebanon and abroad; some are pursuing higher degrees and others are either already employed or on their way to employment.



Bridge current students: The number of students in universities pursuing undergraduate degrees in a plethora of majors total 382. These scholarships are made possible by different private, organizational and governmental donations.

In addition, 25 ULYP students have been granted USAID scholarships that have been offered for the first time ever to non-Lebanese at AUB and LAU under the Refugee Scholarship Support Program. Four other ULYP students have been granted scholarships at AUB by the Mastercard Foundation, and eight have received Al Ghurair STEM Scholars Program scholarships.

Special Diploma: 43 students are currently pursuing specialized short-term diplomas that build on their Bachelor's degrees to increase chances of employability. These diplomas are supported by the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund (AGFE).

AUST: 86 students are now in their second year of tertiary education at the American University of Science and Technology studying different majors in one of the university's branches around Lebanon. This is made possible by cost sharing from the university as well as AGFE. The Asfari Foundation has joined forces and provides additional support to some of these students to alleviate the risk of dropping out due to extreme financial demands.

In Other News

ULYP has been able to develop a digital Student Management System and design an online application to serve its ever-growing Bridge program with the support of Asfari Foundation and their commitment to building organizational capacity.

We are honored to share the news that ULYP has become one of the major scholarship programs under the umbrella of the LEAD program (Leadership, Equity And Diversity) platform partnering with the American University of Beirut to, in President Fadlo Khuri's words, "develop a whole new cadre of AUB educated, world class scholars who are ready to impact society in a meaningful way, who will understand that fear of the other is an obstacle not an asset."

