



Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed our Autumn 2019 newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy reading news of the children and staff at the Institute. I know from feedback that this is very important to you, as like us you are all keen to keep in touch with the latest developments and to ensure the continued well-being of all the children.

Tim Martin & I did manage to make a visit to Salt in February - we'd forgotten how cold it could be(!) - and were able to spend valuable time with Fr. Luay in all departments and gained further reassurance that inevitable management changes at the school are working towards the benefit of the students and continuing improvement of standards and conditions. We were particularly moved by our time spent with the deafblind students, and thoroughly enjoyed attending classes throughout all the year groups, where we even learned a little Arabic. You will be able to read elsewhere in this newsletter others' experiences this year.

I'm sure you'll be pleased to note that last year we were able to send £30,000 of your donations to help with the running of the Institute and I would like to thank you all for your contributions both monetary and spiritual.

Many of you will already know that we very sadly lost Henry Hanning in February; a stalwart of our charity and an inspiration to many. He will be sadly missed but I'm sure would be pleased that his work happily continues for the benefit of the children in Jordan.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and generosity and I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2020.

With kind regards,

Jonathan Allen  
Chair HLID UK

October 2019

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## A Visit to Salt in September 2019



At the beginning of September, the chairman Stephan Killgus and two other members of the German supporters of HLID Thomas Rupp and Gerhard Reider travelled to Jordan to look at the local conditions and talk to the staff. Stephan has shared his experience with us. He writes:

*“The dialogue with the recently appointed director, Father Luay, was particularly important to us. As is common in such a change, it can take a while for a new director to “bed in”, which is why getting to know each other has taken some time. We have been very grateful for this opportunity to see Father Luay again personally, and to exchange ideas with him. Upon arrival we were warmly greeted from all sides, a feeling which was reinforced by the sight of our national flag hoisted in the school yard. Both at the Institute and in many other places, we received a great appreciation of our support, which we would like to pass on to you.*

*As the commencement of the new school year coincided with our visit, we were very fortunate to be able to attend the inauguration ceremony. The children contributed to the programme in a variety of ways and their celebrations made for an enjoyable afternoon and a successful start to the new academic year. This year there have been fewer new enrolments and fewer registrations for the kindergarten. There is focus on how to manage this development. We saw concern too, to better reach out to the children and their families where appropriate, to make known the unique opportunity the Institute offers. Nevertheless, we experienced loads of activity in the different areas of the Institute and were able to enjoy the positive development which is apparent in the children.*

*For example, Deputy Headmaster Samir told us that much success has been achieved through seminars and training. Among other things, some of the children's family members have taken part in offers to learn sign language. Through collaborations with other school's projects they have realised opportunities to promote exchange among the deaf community and to improve the understanding and acceptance of the deaf within society.*

*Parallel to the classical school instruction much emphasis is put on the training of handicraft activities. It is the stated goal to dissolve stereotypical role-models and to inspire students, for example, with an apprenticeship in carpentry. In addition, cooking classes started in the old hospital. After many years of renovation work, a kitchen with attached public café has been opened. A training period for the students lasts three months and we witnessed the completion of the first group to undertake the course. A successful result is rewarded with a certificate, so that even potential employers can recognise what knowledge the students have gained. Since the café also offers the opportunity to generate revenue in addition to the training offer, it pays off in many ways. Although the number of guests is as yet modest and advertising will continue to be necessary, we saw the work there as very positive. We hope that as the café continues to mature, word gets around in Salt and so a larger clientele can be reached.*

*Not every child can make their way to Salt. That is why the two branches of the Institute in Jofeh and Kreimeh also play an important role. There, in addition to deaf children, some children with mental health difficulties come to school and are an asset due to their cheerful nature. Even if there are always minor difficulties in school life, a lot of things succeed. Infrastructural conditions are satisfactory and solutions to problems such as difficult communication with families can often be found. Unlike the children who live in boarding school in Salt, they must attend school in the field centres and continue to live with their families.*

*During our time at the Institute, we were able to experience again, what a valuable work is done there. Although the circumstances are difficult in many situations and the Christian school in Muslim Jordan is repeatedly distrusted, the operation is currently working well. However, there are still some challenges ahead in the near future: the Jordanian high school graduation was reformed three years ago, and students are struggling to achieve good results. To change this, the school tries to improve after-school care by creating new offers with specially trained staff.*

*Due to the current critical economic situation in Jordan and rising prices (partly due to the tense relationship with the US), it is not easy to promote the children in the best possible way.*

*The children are always grateful for their attention and love.*

*Stephan*





Open day event to mark the start of the new academic school year



The successful conclusion of the first culinary course at the "Dine & Sign Café"



Some of the students benefiting from training in the art of cooking and serving food



Two deafblind students showing their skills at creating 3D artwork



Ever popular - an impromptu game of football after school



Learning the skills of hair-cutting, under expert guidance



## NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE

In February the students celebrated the birthday of King Abdullah II with the deafblind children getting involved by creating 3D artwork that embodied the festivities. Staff from that unit continue to visit at home children who cannot be accepted at the Institute due to special needs which could not be accommodated in the dormitory; and monitor their improvement and training given to their parents. One boy, Issa, has now moved to the United States to receive specialist education there. All wished him well.

The Outreach centres at Jofeh and Kreimeh have successfully completed training centred around teaching people in the community about the special considerations required when working with people with disabilities. While at the refugee centres in Azraq and Zatari training has been given on how to rehabilitate local communities. Also, staff welcomed HRH Prince Jafar with Princess Dina and even taught the prince some sign language! A new steel fabricated carpentry workshop has now been installed at Jofeh.

Lectures have been held at the Institute to inform all students of their rights as children and also on the challenges of cyber crime.

In the Vocational Training Department new opportunities have opened up. Once a week a barber comes to the Institute and students have a chance to learn the fine art of cutting hair. Renovation works continue at the Old Hospital site and the "Dine & Sign Cafe" has been launched. It offers both a training facility and also some work experience for students interested in a future in the hospitality industry. Girls are now encouraged to try out their wood-working skills.

The Sign Language Department has commenced a new sign language course in the King's Academy with more than 40 students attending the course lead by Ahlam.

Many activities have been held aimed at bringing staff and children together; in particular a football competition held between a male student's team and male staff. The teachers won! The female students had their own badminton competition where happily the students won! Both were very successful in breaking down barriers.

Nine new students arrived this autumn and received a warm welcome (see below).



Learning new wood-working skills



Majid (7) Hussein (8) Mohammed (9) Tayma (10) Waleed (11)  
Soundos (12) Issa (12) Mayada (12) Rafa'a (13)