

.....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet..... The Cedar Home

How it all started

The Cedar Home was founded by local Christians in Beirut, to care for girls who have lost at least one parent, due to divorce, separation, or death, and where the other parent is unable to provide for them.

The children at the Home come from different backgrounds and religions. The Home provides a family life, enabling them to grow up in a normal home environment full of love and care. In short, the Home lives out its motto of giving the girls: *A Better Chance for a Better Future.*



Key facts

Founded: 1960

Directors: Chadi & Joyce Melki

BibleLands First Grant: 1980

BibleLands' Grant: £15,816 p.a.

The Cedar Home's mission is to provide a Christian home to take care children at risk in Lebanese society. It aims to help them develop the five dimensions of their personality: spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and social, so they can fulfil their highest potentials. The Home prepares them to enter society, the work field and marriage, as mature individuals capable of depending on themselves.

Current Activities

About 30 girls, aged between 3-18 years, live at the Home as one big family. House mothers help to care for them, guiding them through their daily life, providing a homely atmosphere and giving lots of love to the girls.

The girls go to local schools, where they can meet with other children their age. They are also encouraged to join local youth groups, such as scouts, which help them to gain confidence. Some clubs and groups also visit the Home regularly, providing fun and games.

The children all take a share in the chores according to their age and ability – cleaning, washing up, doing laundry and caring for the younger ones.

As a Christian Home, there are regular prayers and Bible studies. Although the girls come from many faith backgrounds, all are encouraged to join in these spiritual times. However, they are not compulsory, and it is very much up to each girl to find and follow her own faith.

The girls live at the Home either until they can return to live with their families, or until they reach adulthood, get a job and so become independent. However, the Home continues to provide support for the girls after they leave, whenever they need it, such as helping the girls to find a job, or somewhere to live. These older girls often return for visits, to see their houseparents and 'sisters'.

The Home also helps another 30 local children, who are from very poor families. The Home helps to pay these children's school fees and offers additional tutoring in the afternoon. After a meal each evening, these children return home to their families.

Over the years, this Home has provided care and shelter to about 500 children. Often this has been made possible through the sacrifice of many good people, who have given freely of their time, their love and their energy.

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Tamer (not her real name) came to the Cedar Home when she was 13 years old. Her father had just died, and she was unable to live with her mother. Her grades at school were always good, and with the Home's help, she went to university. She is now a maths teacher at one of the prominent private schools in Beirut. She says: *"It would be impossible to be who I am now without the support of the Cedar Home. Especially Chadi Melki, who was an adviser, a friend, a brother and a father for me, and his wife Joyce who was a big help in times of trouble. Cedar Home trained me to be a guide, a friend, a sister, a leader, a wise mature lady and to be patient. I grew each day in my knowledge and commitment to Jesus Christ, that converted my beliefs and convictions."*



Above: Chadi and Joyce Melki, the Home's Directors

Left: A message to BibleLands, from the girls at the Cedar Home



Following its 15-year civil war, from 1975 – 1990, Lebanon was beginning to rebuild itself and there was an optimism for the future, despite huge international debts and high unemployment. However, the war with Israel in 2006 left the country unstable once again. Levels of unemployment and poverty have risen and many people fear a second civil war. Therefore, your support of these girls is even more appreciated. Thank you.

Contact us:

BibleLands

PO Box 50, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7QU

phone: 01494 897950 fax: 01494 897951

email: info@biblelands.org.uk

www.biblelands.org.uk