



FORGOTTEN SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN IN LEBANON

Dear Club President,

The 15th of March marked the 8th anniversary of the start of the Syrian Civil War. A War that has cost over 500,000 lives, displaced almost 10 million people and caused a flood of refugees into the neighbouring countries of Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

Lebanon, a country about the size of Counties Cork and Kerry with a population of 4 million is now host to over 2 million Syrian refugees, 500,000 of which are of school going age. The infrastructure of Lebanon is simply overwhelmed by the sheer numbers and is unable to provide educational facilities for over half of these children. The greatest long-term difficulty facing the children is this loss of educational opportunity while in the camps.

Lions of Multiple District 104 (Nordic Countries) have constructed and are financing the ongoing running cost of a Safe Centre for these forgotten refugee children. A Safe Centre is a haven where children can be children, are prepared for the Public-School system, can participate in creative and stimulating child-activities like music, dance, theatre and art, are provided with Primary Health care including psychological, inoculation and nursing services and are protected from Child Labour abuses.

Our District 133 has already contributed \$50,000 toward the construction cost of this Safe Centre. At our Convention on the 2nd of March it was agreed that District 133 would continue supporting this project and will contribute \$25,000 per annum for the next 5 years to increase the number of children served by this Centre.

A Power Point Presentation outlining the great work done in the Safe Centre by the devoted people who run it is available in the Members Area on District 133 website (www.lionsclubs.ie. Password melvin1917).

In order to finance our commitment, we are asking for a yearly donation from all Clubs in the District. The donation requested is based on Club membership numbers and would amount to €10/£8.75 per member per year for 5 years, e.g. a 50-member Club is requested to contribute €500 per year and the amount being sought from a 10-member Club is €100 per year. While the requested amount is based on membership numbers it is not a levy on members and would come out of the Activities (Charity) Account. Of course, a Club may wish to make a larger donation or contribute the full 5 years up front and this would be very welcome.

On behalf of District 133 we ask you to open your hearts and your purse-strings and contribute to this noble cause, let us not forget these children.

Please send donation to the District Treasurer, marked 'Forgotten Children Project'.

On behalf of the Forgotten Children, we thank you.

PDG Terence Mangan
District Lions Club International Foundation Officer

PDG Paul Allen
Forgotten Children Project