



The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)
Baabda – Lebanon



A good start in life for the Deaf...for a better future

Annual Report 2012

Prepared by Hussein Ismail, Ed.D.
Director



Mission Statement

The LCD is a non-profit Charitable Service Organization, non-secretarian, and non-governmental Association established to promote, facilitate, and empower Deaf men and women through education throughout Lebanon.



Motto of the LCD

“Do for others as you would like them to do for you”

Matthew 7:12 & Luke 6:31

Annual Report 2012

Content

1. Members of the LCD (2012)

- Board of Administration
- Staff List
- Volunteers

2. Basic Data about the LCD

- The Mission Statement of the LCD
- Purpose

3. Statistical Data of the Number of the Beneficiaries

4. News of the Learning Center for the Deaf

- i. News of the LCD –2012
- ii. Introduction
- iii. Integrated Nursery
- iv. High School Program
- v. Red Cross Training
- vi. Lebanese Government Raise Subsidies
- vii. The Early Intervention Program
- viii. Early Interventionist, Wafa, an Angel Found
- ix. An Article Written by Wafa
- x. Joe, a deaf/blind child
- xi. Nabila, an Usher Syndrome child
- xii. Our Children at IRAP
- xiii. School Trip
- xiv. Sign language Class
- xv. Subtitling for Arabic Programs
- xvi. Registration for the Boys' Apartment
- xvii. ID Design Event
- xviii. Photos - Activities

1. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2012)

Board of Administration	
Chairman of the Board	Ms. Caroline Haykal (deaf)
Treasurer	Ms. Nouha Sultan (deaf)
Secretary	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
Accountant	Dr. Raed Mohsen
Members of the Board	Mr. Sleiman Abi Nader Ms. Najah El Hamad (deaf) Mrs. Charlotte Khalil

Staff List	
1. Director / Instructor	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
2. Head of the Early Intervention Program	Mrs. Nadine Badreddine
3. Accountant / Auditing Office	Mr. Antoine Faddoul
4. Office Manager / Secretary	Mrs. Mary Rizk / Mrs. Arzeh Lteif
6. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist	Ms. Rana Abi Fadel
7. Speech Therapist / Early Interventionist	Ms. Wafa Nawar
8. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist	Ms. Christelle Mnessa
9. Domestic Helper / House Father	Mr. Elias Bou Mansour (deaf)
10. Nursery Teacher for Deaf Children	Mrs. Waddad Daher
11. Nursery Teacher	Ms. Karine Momdjian/Mrs. Garine Nakour
12. Nursery Assistant-Teacher	Ms. Roupina Khandjian
13. Nursery Assistant-Teacher for Deaf Children	Mrs. Roula Jammous
14. Specialist/Teacher for the Deaf	Ms. Hanna Tahan
15. Cook	Mrs. Margo Khandjian
16. Biology Teacher	Mr. Mohammad Abboud
17. Mathematic Teacher	Dr. Neeman Isaac
18. Socials, Arabic Literature Teacher	Ms. Miriam Bou Antoun
19. History, Geography Teacher	Mrs. Rozana Zaklit
20. English Teacher	Mr. Levon Momdjian
21. Chemistry and Physics Teacher	Mr. Vaskin Sarkis
22. P.E. Teacher	Mr. Elie Abi Rached

Volunteers	
24. LCD's legal advisor	Mt. Rayan Kouatly
26. Psychologist – Family Counselor	Dr. Raed Mohsen & Mrs. Charlotte Khalil
27. Hearing-Aid Technician	Mr. Joseph Zeidan
28. House-Mother	Ms. Young Choi

The Learning Center for the Deaf
Baabda – Lebanon



Mission and Activities
2012

2. The Basic data about the LCD

Name	The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)
Date established	January 2002
Legal status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charity Registration Number: AD 89, established 2002 with the Lebanese Government 2. Presidential Decree No.: 15798, established 2005 3. License # 2/294, 2012 (the Integrated Nursery)
Visiting address	Sacre Coeur Hospital Crossing, Presidential Palace Road, Near Evangelical Church, Brasilia – Baabda
Contact person	Hussein Ismail, Ed.D. Director
Telephone number	00961-5-954584 / 00961-3-700584
Fax number	00961-5-954584
E-mail address Website	lcd@lcd-lebanon.org www.lcd-lebanon.org
Type of organization	The LCD is non-profit Charitable Service Organization, non-secretarian, and non-governmental association established to promote, facilitate, and empower Deaf men and women through education throughout Lebanon
LCD's Motto	Based on the Lord Jesus's essential statement: <i>“Do for others what you would like them to do for you”</i> . Matthew 7:12
Main areas of activity	Educational

The Mission Statement of the LCD

Purpose and mission of the LCD

The purpose of the “Learning Center for the Deaf” (LCD), which is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian association, located in Baabda, Lebanon, is to provide quality programs to respond to the urgent needs of deaf persons in Lebanon, with emphasis on education, in its broad meaning, as a tool for change and advancement of the deaf community.

The team (management and teachers) of the LCD fervently believes in the empowerment of the Deaf in general, including the family of the deaf persons, and reaches out to the world of the hearing with information that helps spread awareness about deafness and how to deal with the Deaf.

Therefore the LCD has initiated challenging services and programs which were not available in the country before, in order to complement the existing programs and provide better possibilities and opportunities for the deaf and their family members.

The LCD today presents many important services to the deaf community in relation to the Disabled Persons Law 220/2000 and advocacy, to the development of Lebanese Sign Language, and other services. These were added to the two major and unique programs which were consecutively initiated by the LCD in 2001 and 2003, being the family based Early Intervention Program and the High School Program. The High School aims at providing the deaf young people the choice of passing the official Baccalaureate (High School) exams and heading to University, like their hearing peers. The Early Intervention Program which is a rich comprehensive program prior to school-age, is a stepping stone that empowers the family and provides them the tools to surround the child with a rich environment supportive to his/her general development, with a greater emphasis on language. This stepping stone preeminently determines the quality of the future life of many Deaf children.

For the details of the LCD’s programs and activities, please go to the website: www.lcd-lebanon.org .

The Learning Center for the Deaf
Baabda - Lebanon

3. Statistical Data of the number of beneficiaries during the year 2012

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries
Early Intervention Program	
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents	39 95 approx.
The Support Group	7 – 11 families
Integrated Nursery	32
The Outreach Program	Unspecified
The Resource Room	Unspecified; open for all professionals
John Tracy Clinic's Correspondence Books for families of deaf children	11 families
Educational Activities for the Deaf	
Lectures and activities	35 – 40
Sign Language	
Sign Language Class (2 nd Level)	8
Consultation	Over 90 persons (deaf, families, other disabilities, needs)
High School Education for the Deaf	
Graduating Students (2012)	4 students
First Year	11 students 6 boarders and 5 day school
Third Year	3 students 2 boarders and 1 day school
Awareness and Advocacy related to Deafness	Unspecified; National level

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Baabda – Lebanon

4. News of the LCD – the year 2012

Introduction

We are really happy to have turned the LCD into an island of excellence in the midst of the hectic Lebanese life. The result is that the people who come for the services at the LCD, not only receive professional work, but also a breeze of love to help them breath in the midst of a life full of stress and commotion.



Having the Nursery is a blessing with all the little angels being around us, and the garden is a green space which delights them as well as all visitors and staff even if they hardly have any time to spend in it.

Prayer every morning is a great way to start the day before the arrival of the kids. This small prayer performed by Margo, the cook, whom

the children call grandma and the Nursery teachers, reminds us to rely on God who has always given us the strength in the hardest of times, to see all the good things around us instead of the bad things.

Integrated Nursery

The beginning of the year is a time to admire the patience of the teachers who joyfully and lovingly receive new children and comfort them for days one after another.

Whatever we try, there are children who have to go through the hardship of separation. But seeing the evolution of the children, especially at the end of the year, is the greatest reward a teacher can have.

Karine, a teacher at the Integrated-Nursery, who is a great person, has left us since she married and presently lives in an area which is quite far from the LCD. The salaries at the LCD are not sufficient to cover extended traveling expenses. We are comforted to a certain extent to have found a very fine lady to replace Karine. Karine still comes once a week, to give us a hand with a program.

High School Program

During June 2012, the class of 4 students has presented their official examination, held at the special department, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Education, and the result was that they all have performed very well. These students, as well as the administration of the LCD, were eager to know the results of their examinations, but due to the political problems in Lebanon, the results were delayed and finally published during September, confirming that all these students have passed.

During mid September and onward, these students were enrolled at different universities.



On October 1st, 2012, the LCD has opened a new class of 11 students, which is very encouraging.

So, far, 32 students have graduated from the high school program, many of them have already graduated from universities, and 2 will pursue their doctoral degree.

These achievements change the image of deafness to the Lebanese society. Going to University is not a sign that they are better persons, but it is a proof that they can succeed where they, their parents and many professionals did not believe that they could.

Red Cross Training on First Aid Principles

During February 2012, 7 high school students, along with their teacher (for interpretation into sign language), and a volunteer from Switzerland, participated in another school (for hearing students) in order to have a training sessions, held by a professional team of the Lebanese Red Cross. The training covered the principles of first aid, CPR, etc., and lasted for 2 days. After this training, the students had to present their practical examination, whereupon they all have passed and received a certificate from the Lebanese Red Cross for each student.

Lebanese Government Raises Subsidies

In a meeting with the parents of the High School students, as is done every year, we explained that the income from the Lebanese Government presently only covers about 40% of the general expenses of this program and that all other LCD's programs have no support from the Government at all. They were also advised that people from European

Organizations, who are not necessarily rich, give money in order to help their children; and so do the staff members who contribute by accepting to have lower salaries than what they can have elsewhere. Therefore parents are also expected to consciously contribute to the program, each according to their capacity.

During April 2012, the LCD participated, with other schools for the deaf and persons with disabilities, in a strike by closing their doors for 3 days in order to put pressure on the Lebanese Government to ratify the law, which was formulated in 2006, to increase the subsidy costs to about 86 percent.

The series of strikes came to a fruitful result, and the Lebanese Council of Ministries met at the end of April and approved the law. The law was implemented as from June 2012.

The Early Intervention Program

During the year 2012, we have served at least 39 deaf children, along with their family members, in the Early Intervention Program. Some of these children could not personally come to the sessions, as they are living in remote areas; consequently we were only able to provide these families support in terms of phone calls, providing John Tracy Clinics Correspondence books, so that they can implement the basic principles at home.

We thank God that we were able to consolidate this program during 2012.

Early Interventionist, Wafa, An angel found



Wafa is one of our language and speech therapists / Early Interventionists who has started working with us on a full time basis.

We are also very grateful for Allah-Kariem Switzerland and AMT-NL for their willingness to contribute to provide a reasonable salary for Wafa to allow her to be with us

on a full time basis, for many years to come.

Wafa did a special training in Auditory Verbal Therapy thanks to the contribution and support by the BibleLands – England (now called Embrace the Middle East), a training which suits her vivid personality. Children as well as parents are delighted to be with her in the therapy. Due to the charm she has which is the result of the pure love she has

for them and the heart she puts into her work, we often transfer the rather difficult cases which other therapists cannot handle to her.

Wafa has become a great support to Nadine in the Early Intervention Program and she does not mind helping elsewhere, wherever there is a need.

In conclusion, we are indeed blessed to have Wafa working with us on a full time basis, thanks to the support and kind consideration of supporters from Switzerland and Holland. The atmosphere at the Early Intervention Program section is so positive and healthy, especially considering that Wafa is much more involved, not having to share her attention in many places. This helps Nadine and Hussein to have less pressure running this program. Wafa is slowly taking over many responsibilities from this program, which is a great relief for us. This would also help Nadine and Hussein to give more time for National Council for the Rights of the Disabled, particularly the deaf, which consumes plenty of our time and energy.

An Article Written by Wafa

As a speech-language pathologists, we graduate from University with a general idea on each pathology that we may encounter in our careers. In my fourth and final year of study, I did my internship at the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD), where I discovered my interest in deafness. However, I decided to work in a school and a clinic for the Army where I could discover different pathologies and gain more experience. After few months, I arranged my schedule to work two days with the LCD since I was passionate about their work during my training. I really enjoyed their work with families, their pleasure of sharing and their righteousness that I didn't find anywhere else.

During this period, the LCD gave me the opportunity to participate in a fifteen months training with Mr. Warren Estabrooks on Auditory-Verbal Therapy with children who are deaf and their families. This training course allowed me to gain a huge experience and refine my work. In addition, this training confirmed my passion about my work with children who are deaf and their parents so I've decided to limit my work to this population.

After three years of work, I am delighted to accept the offer of the LCD to be with them as a full timer even if I easily could have had a better income elsewhere. I thank God for having given me this opportunity to work in a place where I found myself in an atmosphere where the targets and perspectives reveal a sense of caring, empathy, authenticity and sincerity.

Joe, a deaf/blind child

Joe is a deaf/blind eight years old boy. He started therapy at the LCD in 2007. Having poor sight, he also could not benefit from his sight which was very weak and became absent. Joe has been through very difficult times of depression but has shown great improvement in this aspect. He enjoys therapy with Wafa and loves going to his school. In the summer, the family had difficulty finding transportation to bring Joe for therapy.

In addition the long school summer holidays, affected him negatively to the point that the mother was concerned that he exhibited signs of autism to a certain level, a behavior which is a normal result of lack of communication with the world. But, luckily as soon as he started school again in October, and came back for therapy, he picked up again.

Nabila, an Usher Syndrome child

Nabila has become a young lady of 12 years old. Nabila has usher syndrome and her sight is slowly decreasing. Therefore the family is looking for the possibility to make a cochlear implant for her to benefit from some hearing since Nabila has no residual hearing at all.

In addition to listening, she is also being trained on feeling through touch. This skill Nabila may need later.

Despite the difficulties in terms of audition and sight, Nabila is a very happy child who loves and is loved by her family, who is a great source of love for her.

Our children at IRAP

During June, we were invited to the celebration of a School for the Deaf, called IRAP which we consider as part of our family. We cooperated and get along together quite well. While there, we saw a number of children who were previously in our Early Intervention Program performing dances and scenes. It was a delight to see them and to see the effect of our work with them. We were very happy to see their parents running towards us to express their love and gratitude; it is so rewarding.

Ibrahim, one of our EIP children who is now at IRAP and who is 9 was about to leave IRAP. We had meetings with IRAP and his family to study the possibility for him to find another institution which can work on his additional needs, which was not an easy matter. IRAP finally decided to keep him and to study the matter of his transfer more carefully. Ibrahim is much older than other children who are at the level of his capacities; he needs a special setting for both hearing loss and intellectual skills. To find such a place in Lebanon that also works on the individual needs of the child, is not an easy job.



School trip

As we do on a yearly basis, during and around the Ascension Day, the LCD made a school trip for a whole day to an area of interest in Lebanon. This time, we went to the famous Rashaya Valley, where the first leaders of Lebanon were kept in custody by the French mandate during mid 1950s. And it

was there where the Lebanese flag was designed. We then went to the Qaraoun Lake, where we had a lunch at a restaurant overlooking the lake. On the way back, we had the chance of visiting to the Kefraya Valley and Cave, the famous wine production area. A fun learning experience for us all.

Sign Language Courses

8 hearing students, of different professional backgrounds, took a second level sign language course, which lasted for 3 and half months, and have shown remarkable ability.

Subtitling for Arabic programs

Among the different activities the LCD is undertaking is a trial to provide subtitling for some Arabic Programs (open captioning). For years, we tried to encourage such a possibility but failed since TV stations were not willing to spend money on a service which only a minority of people can benefit from. Our effort is to produce a film clip in order to attract sponsors who may be willing to pay for this service for the TV. The clip has been completed and we had a great time filming it in our home (to economize). We hope to succeed first in broadcasting it and second to attract sponsors.

Registration of the Boys' Apartment

After several attempts with the Lebanese Government to have the apartment for boys registered free of charge, which took us years, we have received a negative answer. Hence, the registration formalities cost us about US\$ 3,900, and fortunately, AMT-NL has accepted to cover the expenses, for which we are very grateful. On October 25th, 2012, we have received a "Paper of Ownership" of this apartment, and it is finally registered as the LCD's property.

ID Design Event



The ID Design event was held during December 19th and 22nd, 2012 at their gallery. The gallery has beautiful and attractive furniture in addition to home-ware such as vases frames, kitchenware, pillows, etc.

The purpose of the event was to support the LCD, by giving 20% of every purchase, with the rebate cash going to the LCD.

The idea seemed to be good, but we have learned the lesson that the time-frame established was not so suitable, as people were busy for Christmas. Now we think that the best time would be during October.

During the event, deaf students as well as LCD staff members were at the gallery, each day, to teach the costumers some of the Lebanese sign language.

The LCD received a check of US\$ 917, as the result of the event. Not bad, though.

Special Visitors

Among several new and known visitors, locally and internationally, who had visited us during 2012; there were special visitors, whom are indicated as follows:

Rainer Nobs, the then president of the Allah Kariem Foundation, together with Max Rissi, a father of Tanja, who volunteered at the LCD for six months, came and stayed with us during April for 5 days.

Raya Abi Rached, a TV presenter of MBC2, called “Scoop – Red Carpet”, based in London, visited us during December. The students were very delighted to meet her in person.



Raya, 5th from the left

Photos during 2012



Children at the Integrated Nursery



High school student, cooking time



Sign Language Diplomas



2 different deaf generations



Participating a Marathon fun run



Awareness at a university setting



Please visit us at the www.lcd-lebanon.org, for detailed information about our services and activities during the past years.

**Thank you for your continuous prayers and support for our humanitarian work.
God bless you all.**