



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



Annual Report 2010

Prepared by Hussein Ismail, Ed.D.
Director



Mission Statement

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.



Motto of the LCD

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

Matthew 7:12 & Luke 6:31

Annual Report 2010

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1. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2010)

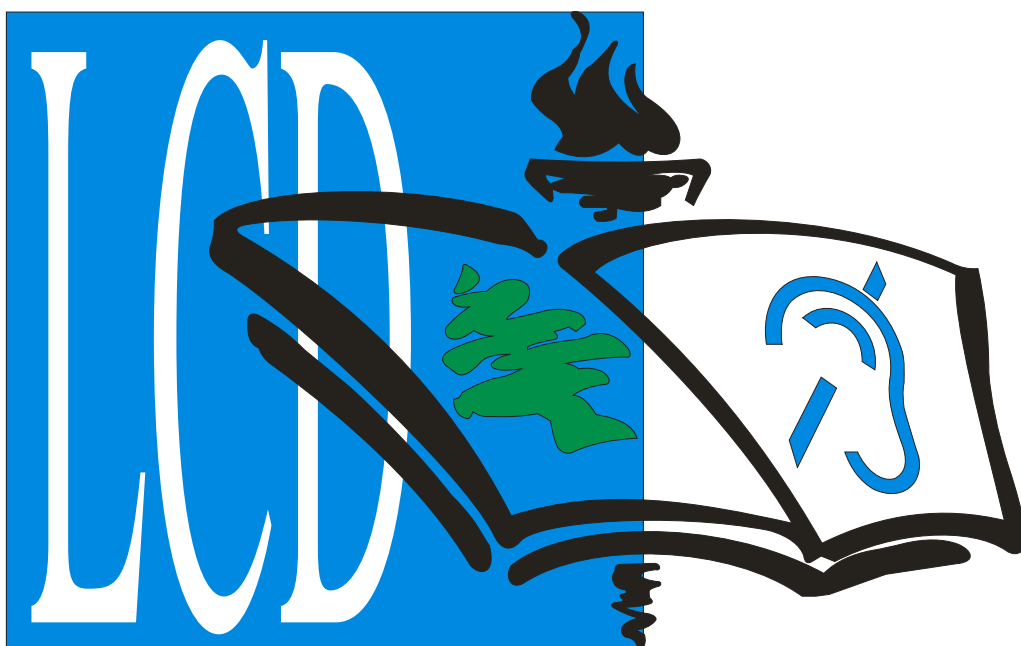
Board of Administration	
Chairman of the Board	Ms. Caroline Haykal (deaf)
Treasurer	Ms. Nouha Sultan (deaf)
Secretary	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
Members of the Board	Dr. Kim Abou Chakra Dr. Raed Mohsen Ms. Najah El Hamad (deaf) Ms. Maha Kaddoura

Staff List	
1. Director / Instructor	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
2. Head of the Early Intervention Program	Mrs. Nadine Badreddine
3. Accountant	Mr. Antoine Faddoul
4. Office Manager / Secretary	Mrs. Mary Rizk
5. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist	Ms. Lara Hayek
6. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist	Ms. Rana Abi Fadel
7. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist	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
12. Nursery Assistant-Teacher	Mr. 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, Chemistry Teacher	Mr. Mohammad Abboud
17. Mathematic, Physics Teacher	Dr. Neeman Isaac
18. Socials, Arabic Literature Teacher	Ms. Miriam Bou Antoun
19. History, Geography Teacher	Mrs. Josette Mshantaf
20. English Teacher	Mr. Levon Momdjian
21. Art Teacher	Ms. May Talhouk (deaf)
22. P.E. Teacher	Mr. Elie Abi Rached

Volunteers	
24. LCD's legal advisor	Mt. Rayan Kouatly
25. Audiologist - Lecturer	Dr. Kim Abou Chakra
26. Psychologist – Family Counselor	Dr. Raed Mohsen
27. Hearing-Aid Technician	Mr. Joseph Zeidan
28. House-Mother	Ms. Young Choi

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Beirut – Lebanon



Mission and Activities

2010

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, 2010 (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 of the LCD

The purpose of the “Learning Center for the Deaf” is to provide a quality program to respond to the urgent needs of deaf persons in Lebanon, i.e., physical, emotional, intellectual, and social. However, the Center’s primary objective is educational with specific emphasis on children and young adults.

Mission of the LCD

The Association of the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-secretarial Association, located in Baabda-Brasilia, Lebanon. It aims at supporting deaf children and their families by empowering them. The best way to empower the deaf individuals is through education.

Therefore our Association initiated challenging services and programs which were not available in Lebanon, in order to complement the existing programs and provide better possibilities and opportunities for the deaf and their family members.

The main two programs at the LCD are the High School Program and the Early Intervention Program. The first program is unique, aims at giving the possibility of providing choices to the deaf young people, as much as their hearing peers, since their handicap does not stop them from reaching Baccalaureate (High School) and then university if it is their choice. The latter program, which is the Early Intervention Program, is a comprehensive program, with its components, prior to the school age, a stepping stone, which empowers the family and provides habilitation/rehabilitation services for the deaf children and their family members. This stepping stone will determine the quality of the future of many deaf children.

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

For the detailed information of the LCD’s programs, please visit our website www.lcd-lebanon.org.

The Learning Center for the Deaf
Beirut - Lebanon

3. Statistical Data of the number of beneficiaries during the year 2010

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries
Early Intervention Program	
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents	43 105 approx.
The Support Group	10 – 12 families
Lectures for families of deaf children, and other concern (teachers, professionals, etc.)	15 – 20 families of deaf children, and some professionals
The Outreach Program	55
Integrated Nursery	28 (8 deaf children)
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	
Sign Language Class	24 graduated in summer
Consultation	Over 100 families of deaf children as well as deaf adults
High School Education for the Deaf	
Graduating Students (2010)	8 students
Third Year	4 students 3 boarders and 1 day school
Second Year	4 students 3 boarders and 2 day school
First Year	3 students 2 boarders and 1 day school
Awareness Programs about Deafness	Unspecified; National level

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Beirut – Lebanon

4. News of the LCD – the year 2010

Introduction

The year 2010 has brought with it some challenges as well as many good fruits. While in a country like Lebanon the challenges are numerous especially for humanitarian work, the appreciation is great for any good results, and these are many, praise the Lord.

The Early Intervention Program has served 43 children and their families. The High School had 19 students, eight of whom graduated in October, and were enrolled at different universities. A real challenge!

Other services are well established and consolidated, such as the Integrated Nursery, the Outreach Program, and the Educational Activities for the Deaf. We are very grateful to God for all what He is offering His children through us, and for using us as a light to guide the people to recognize His great unconditional love.

We are also very grateful for every person for supporting the programs of the LCD, by giving donations, by working with us at a humble salary, by volunteering, by spreading the word about our work, and finally by praying for us as prayers are certainly being heard and answered.

The Early Intervention Program and the Integrated Nursery



While the Integrated Nursery is hardly covering its expense, it is also gaining a very good reputation in the neighborhood and beyond. This reputation that is earned due to the qualitative and hard work; crowned by a great love, seems to be more appreciated by the foreigners who enjoy the Nursery greatly and the interaction of their children with the deaf children. But, luckily, there are also a good number of Lebanese families

who value our work and this interaction between the children, which they are able to see as a positive experience.

Therefore, one of our prayers is that we are surrounded by a team of persons with the right spirit.



In the Early Intervention Program, one of the challenges is the change of therapists almost regularly due reasons such as marriage and moving, which become a good enough reason when the salaries at the LCD are not up to the level of competition.

While the therapists admit that the working experience at the LCD is very valuable, their aim to gain enough money to

catch the fast train of growing needs drives them to seek other roads to fulfill that aim. Even therapists who have high values seem to be taken in that direction. Therefore, we are very grateful for what we are able to accomplish in a country where back up in the area of Early Intervention is completely absent, neither financially, morally or technically. There is not even a study of the available programs and their effectiveness, nor are there in-depth trainings in the area of deafness, and among other challenges.

Our reward is the outcome of our work with the families, especially the ones of lower social economic backgrounds who make a great effort to come to the LCD and show a great cooperation with the program. Our comfort is in God who gives us the patience and the insight to see the solutions while they are not there yet, and in people of donor organizations (individual donors, staff, etc.) who have the will to support strangers of a different country, which is a touching act and a proof that humanity still has hope in the midst of the chaos.

The Outreach Program

The Outreach Program, in relation to Screening and Awareness about Early Intervention, has taken place twice, once in the South of Lebanon and once in the North in cooperation with Liliane Fonds (hearing aids), the American University Hospital (screening and diagnosis), IRAP (school for the Deaf for screening) and other partners. The campaigns are a great success in what they can provide. It is also true that we still miss a great number of young children with hearing loss in the area despite the campaigns. In order to be more effective there is a need to study what can be done additionally. Possibly, there is a need for regular awareness conferences for the active entities in these areas who can reach the people, there is a need to have trained employees whose job is to search regularly for young children with hearing loss (and other disabilities/difficulties) and encourage the families to take early steps, which can also be done in partnership with other associations or bodies, and such steps should be evaluated to study what is the most effective way to find these unfound children.

High School Program for the Deaf

The High School Program, which is partially supported by the Lebanese Government, is bringing great proofs of the capacities of the Deaf when given the chances. During June 2010, the third group of the high school students, comprised of 8 deaf students, performed for the official governmental examinations. The result was that the 7 students passed the exams, and the 8th one has to make a second chance which was taking place in August. She had a problem with a specific subject matter. She did the second examination, and as a result, she passed with distinction. During September 2010, these students were fortunately enrolled at different universities.

It was such a fine experience to observe these students passing their official exams, and eventually enrolled at the universities of their choice. We did some follow up and found that they are doing remarkably well, thanks to the kind support and attentions made by the professors and administrators of each university. At first, they had some difficulties, but with time, they manage to follow and catch up the courses. We wish them all the best.

A new class of the high school program has joined, comprised of 3 students, during the end of September 2010.



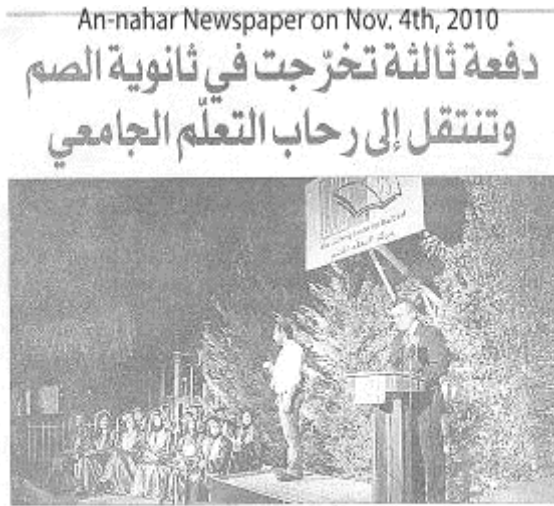
A graduation ceremony on October 28th, 2010, was held for 11 students (3 of the students from the previous year). The detail of this ceremony is mentioned in the next article. It was a fine experience, especially that the first group of students who

graduated in 2006, also have finished their university studies. One of them Habib Fawaz gave his testimony speech of his experience at the university.

Al-together there are currently 11 students in the high school program, divided into 3 different levels. The 3rd year group of 4 students is now preparing for the official examination held during June 2011.

In general, it is so nice to be in the high school program, observing these students study and learn together, as well as eating and staying with us. It made us so proud of them. We also thank the good Lord for this wonderful opportunity for these students to have a place to learn and succeed in their life.

An Article was published by the major Lebanese newspaper, An-Nahar, on November 4th, 2010, about the Graduation Ceremony of the LCD



الدكتور اسماعيل يلقى كلمته في الاحتفال وبدا المتخرجون.

الإنترنت (SKYPE). وألقيت كلمات لمدير مركز التعلّم للصم الدكتور حسين اسماعيل، والسفير الهولندي، والسيدة نجاة حنا وهي رئيسة لجنة الطلاب وعضو فاعل في جمعية أولياء الصم في لبنان. وأحد قدامى المدرسة الثانوية للصم حبيب فواز الذي تخرّج هذه السنة في جامعة السيدة اللويزة. وركزت الكلمات على أهمية دور المدرسة الثانوية في عبور التلامذة الصم إلى الجامعات، وإرادة الطلاب في متابعة تحصيلهم العلمي. ومن ثم وزع الشهادات على التلامذة السفير الهولندي والدكتور اسماعيل وهو الأهم الحاصل على شهادة دكتوراه والذي أنشئ الجمعية حالماً بإيصال الطالب الأصم إلى الجامعة، بعدما ساعده أبوه الروحي الأب أندويج الهولندي وجهات داعمة. وتوجّه الجميع إلى حديقة مركز التعلّم للصم حيث أقيم كوكتيل.

احتفلت جمعية "مركز التعلّم للصم" في بعبدا - برازيليا بتخرّج الدفعة الثالثة من تلامذة المدرسة الثانوية للصم الذين نجحوا في الامتحانات الرسمية - فرع علوم الحياة. وكانت الجمعية احتفلت بتخرّج الدفعة الأولى من تلامذتها عام 2007 بعدما نجحوا عام 2006. وتخطى المتخرجون كل المعوقات وأنطلقوا في رحاب التعلّم الجامعي حيث أثبتوا تفوقهم. حضر الاحتفال عدد من السفراء، وتقديمهم السفير الهولندي هيرو دي بور الذي شارك في استقبال المدعوين وتكريم التلامذة، إلى جانب عدد كبير من الأهل والأصدقاء ومديري المدارس والجمعيات. وتخلّل الاحتفال تكريم أعضاء المنظمة الهولندية "أ. م. ت" التي دعمت جمعية مركز التعلّم للصم منذ تأسيسها عام 2002. واستخدم للتكريم البث المباشر بين لبنان وهولندا بواسطة

"A Third Group of Students Graduate from the High School for the Deaf, and are Ready for University Studies.

"The Learning Center for the Deaf in Baabda – Brasilia celebrated the graduation of its third group of high-school students after they had passed the official 12-grade examinations for the Life Sciences Section.

The Center had celebrated the graduation of its first group in 2007. Overcoming all obstacles, the students achieved their university education with great success.

A number of ambassadors attended the ceremony. The Dutch ambassador, Drs. Heere de Boer, participated in welcoming the guests and honoring the students. Many parents, friends, and school directors also attended the event.

AMT, a Dutch organization, that has supported the Learning Center for the Deaf since its founding in 2002, was honored during this event through a SKYPE connection.

A speech was given by each of the Director of the Learning Center for the Deaf, the Dutch ambassador, Mrs. Najat

Hanna, who is the president of the Parental Committee and an active member of the Deaf Parents' Association in Lebanon, and Habib Fawaz, who was a former student at the High School Program and has graduated this year (2010) from the Notre Dame University. The



speeches highlighted the significant role of the high school in opening the door to university education for deaf students.

Finally, the Dutch ambassador and the deaf founder of the Learning Center for the Deaf, Dr. Ismail, distributed the certificates to the students. It was Dr. Ismail's dream to support deaf students in reaching university as he was himself supported by his Dutch foster-father, Father Andeweg, and some donor organizations.

After the ceremony, all the attendees participated in a cocktail party held in the center's garden."

Collaborations and Workshops

The LCD has gained a very good reputation among professionals working in this field. This has been translated already through the referrals when people need an expert opinion. It has also been translated in kind of partnerships we are having in some projects such as the Outreach Program. The American University Hospital has informed us that the LCD will be chosen among three associations to have an exhibition about our work during 2 to 3 days conference which will be held for the Middle East region in April 2011.

Markus Barta, the representative of the Med-El company for Cochlear Implants in Austria has chosen the LCD to make a conference for all parents of children with a CI. This is a great accomplishment to have such a respect in a country where most relations are based on common interests.

Young



Young is a volunteer from Korea who served the LCD for the second, consecutive year. She is delighted to help us; as she is a kind lady who left her country in order to come to Lebanon and to serve the people as a way to serve God, when she heard of the war of 2006 and its horrors.

She is creating a very motherly atmosphere at the girls' boarding section, and she is also assisting us at the Nursery. In addition, she is available wherever there is a need, to prepare a material, or just replace a sick Nursery teacher.

Habib Fawaz, gave a message speech during the graduation ceremony

My name is Habib Fawaz, I'm deaf, and I graduated with a distinction from Notre Dame University with a BA in Graphic Design – Multimedia.

I'm a former student of the FAID, and of the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD), a high school that helps people like me. Thanks to the LCD, I had the chance to attend university.



After my graduation, I was eager to enter university after knowing that everyone was talking how nice life there was. Of course it was something new to me, since all students there can hear, unlike me. I did not complain about that, on the contrary, I have gained many new experiences. At first, I found some difficulties entering classes and introducing myself. In

spite of many struggles, I refused to give up.

First day I went to class, I told the teacher that I am deaf, and that I need her to open her mouth while speaking so I can read her lips, and thus understand what she's saying. However, she kept forgetting that I'm in class, and never paid attention to whether I understood or not. For a while, I wasn't happy with this course. Therefore, I went to see Dr. Ziad Fahed, Assistant director of student's affair office, and required to change teacher. He agreed. With the new teacher, I was able to understand everything and participate in class. I figured that I should choose the right teacher before registering my courses. Luckily, most of them are great.

I reached a point where I consider myself doing very well at university; I was even helping some students if they didn't understand the requirements of a certain project. And if it happened and I didn't understand a certain point, I would directly go to the teacher's office or ask one of my classmates.

Throughout my university years, I have made many friends from my faculty, my dorms, and even outside my faculty. At first it was hard for both sides, my friends and me. Some had to repeat their sentences many times and I had to put my whole focus on what they are saying. But time changed everything. After a while we both got used to each other, they learned how to communicate not only with me but also with all deaf people, and they learned to be patient. Some of them even became interested to learn sign language. I felt like I accomplished something and change went both ways. However, still many of the people I met were scared when they knew I was deaf.

I figured out that the years I have spent at university have prepared me for the real life, and taught me how to adapt to different environments, something that not all students my age have experienced.

Nowadays, I am working, and I am encountering new challenges every day.

I thought it was impossible for me to continue my studies and get a master degree; but now, I am aiming to continue that after I finish my 2 years of working experience. If my economic status will help, I'm thinking of attending an American university that gives

special help for deaf people. I'm sure I will gain a new and unique experience over there.

Trip to the South of Lebanon



During the summer 2010, the LCD planned a trip to the South with a group of High School students, as well as a volunteer from Korea, Young, and Nadine, for 2 days.

We had a great time. Some students were thrilled as they have never been as far as to the border of Israel, as these students saw Israel for the first time from the Lebanese border, at one

point, it was just few meters away, behind the electrical barb wires.

In the first day, we visited the village of Melida where there is an open air museum of the Resistance Party, a village of Al-Khayam to see the Israeli prison, and Mount Maroun to observe picturesque scenes of the South and Israel. Then we stayed overnight at the School for Children with Special Needs, run by Hussein's sister.

In the following day, we visited a village of Qana, where Jesus performed the first miracle during the wedding party, and observed the cave where the wine pitchers were placed... Then we drove through the South, towards the city of Saidon, where we had lunch and walk-tour around the old part of the city.

The experience was not only fun, but it was educational, as some students have never seen such places in the South. Therefore, we were glad to perform such a trip, and hope to do similarly next year, in different parts of Lebanon.

Participation in the Marathon Event

During November 2010, the LCD has participated in the International Marathon Day in Beirut. Some staff members and students have also participated. We did not register in the 42 km run; as we thought we could not reach that level yet. So we participated in the Fun Marathon Run which is 12 km long. A large number of participants joined the event, whose were at least 36,000. The atmosphere was good, especially the weather was excellent, and we were happy to be part of it on that day.

Projects Accomplished During 2010

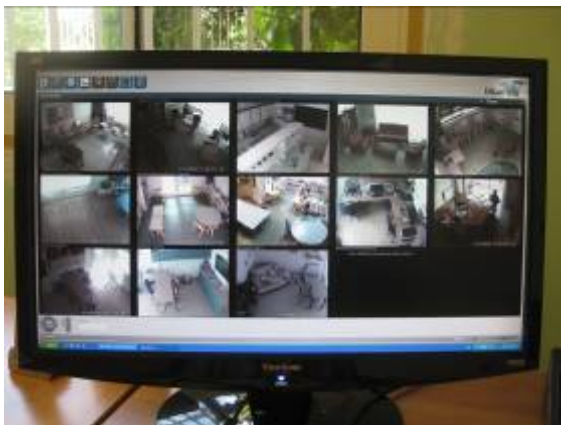
Beside the generous contributions from different sources, some equipment and furniture have been successfully implemented, thanks to the generous contributions made by AMT-NL, as well as contribution of Liliane Foundation for supporting the hearing aids and computer projects. Some highlighted photos are shown, as follows:



Woodwork projects in the Nursery, offices, EIP, Dorms, etc., supported by AMT-NL



Equipment (i.e., sound level meter), furniture (high chairs for EIP), carpets (at the LCD and the Boys' Dorm), supported by AMT-NL



IP Camera Surveillances in different rooms, supported by AMT-NL



Playground Equipment, and Educational Material for the Nursery and the EIP, supported by AMT-NL



Renovation and aluminum works at the offices, supported by AMT-NL



3 new computers, supported by Liliane Foundation

Photos during 2010



Circle time in the Nursery's Garden



Nadine with Deaf/Blind child, Joe, with his mother and brother



Presenting Official Examinations during June 2010



Hussein with Nour, a repetitive scene



H.E. Dutch Ambassador addressed a speech to the AMT-NL members during graduation ceremony through Internet's Skype



Audience of the Graduation Ceremony, observing the event



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.**