



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

**Annual Report 2011**



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

**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 2011

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## 1. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2011)

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

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

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

# **The Learning Center for the Deaf**

**Beirut – Lebanon**



## **Mission and Activities**

**2011**

## 2. The Basic data about the LCD

<b>Name</b>	<b>The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)</b>
<b>Date established</b>	January 2002
<b>Legal status</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charity Registration Number: <b>AD 89</b>, established 2002 with the Lebanese Government</li> <li>2. <b>Presidential Decree No.: 15798</b>, established 2005</li> <li>3. <b>License # 2/294</b>, 2011 (the Integrated Nursery)</li> </ol>
<b>Visiting address</b>	Sacre Coeur Hospital Crossing, Presidential Palace Road, Near Evangelical Church, Brasilia – Baabda
<b>Contact person</b>	Hussein Ismail, Ed.D. Director
<b>Telephone number</b>	00961-5-954584 / 00961-3-700584
<b>Fax number</b>	00961-5-954584
<b>E-mail address</b> <b>Website</b>	<a href="mailto:lcd@lcd-lebanon.org">lcd@lcd-lebanon.org</a> <a href="http://www.lcd-lebanon.org">www.lcd-lebanon.org</a>
<b>Type of organization</b>	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
<b>LCD's Motto</b>	Based on the Lord Jesus's essential statement: <i><b>“Do for others what you would like them to do for you”.</b></i> Matthew 7:12
<b>Main areas of activity</b>	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-Brasilia, 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](http://www.lcd-lebanon.org) .

The Learning Center for the Deaf  
Beirut - Lebanon

### 3. Statistical Data of the number of beneficiaries during the year 2011

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries
<b>Early Intervention Program</b>	
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents	<b>39</b> <b>97 approx.</b>
The Support Group	<b>7 – 11</b> families
Integrated Nursery	<b>25</b>
The Outreach Program	Unspecified
The Resource Room	Unspecified; open for all professionals
John Tracy Clinic's Correspondence Books for families of deaf children	<b>9</b> families
<b>Educational Activities for the Deaf</b>	
Sign Language Class	<b>16</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Over 100</b> families of deaf children as well as deaf adults
<b>High School Education for the Deaf</b>	
Graduating Students (2011)	<b>4</b> students
Third Year	<b>4</b> students 3 boarders and 1 day school
Second Year	<b>3</b> students 2 boarders and 1 day school
<b>Awareness Programs about Deafness</b>	Unspecified; National level

# **The Learning Center for the Deaf**

Beirut – Lebanon

## **4. News of the LCD – the year 2011**

### **Introduction**

Writing the Annual Report is a chance to look back at the precedent year 2011, which was another fruitful year, despite of many challenges. We are thankful that the programs at the LCD have gone well, that we were able to serve deaf children and adults, as well as their family members.

We are indeed blessed to hear the praises given to us by the families of deaf children, professionals and visitors, about the services offered at the LCD, as well as the setting, and the atmosphere. But it is mainly the praises of the people we serve that make all the hardship we face be worth.

Even if we still struggle on the financial part between being able to respect our financial capacity and try to be fair for the salaries of our staff, and even if we have a yearly deficit, which is miraculously covered every time, there is a simultaneous flow of many other blessings which “we see” taking place at the LCD, through which God confirms to us His presence. This is probably His way to invite us to keep faith and remind us that He “can” and “will” respond to every need according to His plan, which may sometimes be a last minute intervention.

We are especially grateful and honored to be God’s tool, to show His love for His children. Equally, others are being His tool to show us His love and care.

May God bless every person supporting the programs of the LCD, those who are offering donations, those who are accepting to work with us for lower salaries, those who are volunteering, those who are spreading the word about our work, and those who are praying for us and whose prayers are certainly being heard and answered.

### **Situation of Lebanon and the LCD**

Several persons have asked us about the situation in Lebanon, which is not really easy for us to put down in words. The situation in Lebanon is generally stressful. The crime rate has grown, and kidnapping is appearing again; leaving us with the feeling that there is a force trying to shake the stability of the country for some political aims.

In addition, challenges due to the failing economy, are increasing and driving political parties to strike. In one hand, there are those who are demanding raises in salaries, and in the other hand those who prefer that the Government controls prices, likewise the LCD, who cannot afford any possibility of raising the salaries of its staff members while the government is only supporting one of its programs (High School Program) and just partially, which is only 40% budget of the program.



Lebanese Ministers change, often too quickly, and every change brings with it new plans. But rarely do ministers continue the work accomplished earlier, especially if the previous Minister was from a different political party, and surely because there is rarely any well studied long-term planning in Lebanon. Quick fix really characterizes the work of most Ministers.

This is a kind of difficulty to add to the high rate of corruption and the political/ethnical belonging system where things work for those who are from the same “clan”. This is the way to survive in Lebanon for many, which makes it really hard for those who do not fit in this kind of system. But God is above all difficulty.

Another difficulty in the field of disability world wide, where “fashionable subjects”, such as CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) or Inclusion for Disabled Persons in a regular school setting, or advocacy, which can be in application more destructive than constructive, since the focus goes often in the direction of following the fashion where application is mostly superficial, leading the work away from the real and primary needs of the people which differ in kind and level of priority from one country to another.

Also in the direction of fashion, the world big donors today prefer to support law based projects rather than charity based projects. Donations for charities such as the LCD are decreasing, due to such a politic (to add to decrease due to world economy). As a result, there are suddenly dozens of conferences raising awareness about the law for the rights of people with disability, especially on an international level (UN Convention), at a time where people with disability are in reality facing more and more challenges, because the charitable NGOs which used to help them get some of their rights in application and not in words, are receiving less financial support. Big decision makers, heading for such policies in order to help people with disability, did not take this gap into consideration, where the law is not yet applied, and provision of services in the charities is in a state of agony.

Another example in relation to the application of the law, is the Lebanese Law 220/2000, concerning the rights for disabled persons, where for years Hussein has been involved with the National Council for the Rights of the Disabled, but so far VERY LITTLE has been implemented. Many activists in the field of disability, among them Hussein, tried to make the law 220/2000 work, but there were always unnecessary obstacles and political priorities ahead of the rights of people with disability.

If we were to look at all the difficulties we face, we would feel despair. Fortunately, in the midst of it all, we enter the LCD and we are almost out of this reality. We are blessed to live in an atmosphere of people having one heart, who are pleased to serve the children who are under their care, who continuously support one another, and are delighted to see each other again despite the hard work ahead of them.

It is amazing to watch the mixture of personalities among the staff and how God combined them in one place. They are different in a way which is very complementary and enriching, creating great harmony, based on respect and love.

We tend sometimes to worry about losing this blessing due to the financial challenges. But then, we remember that worrying has never helped, only the reliance on God's guidance has always supported the LCD despite of many challenges with the situation in the country, the hard dealing with the government, and other difficulties. God still puts in the heart of some people the wish to give, in a world where taking has become the norm.

## **Haitham**

Haitham (12 years) is a special child, deaf and severely developmental mental delayed. Together with the mother of Haitham, the LCD was trying to find an institution for him as part of the Consultation Program, which developed due to the need. Whenever the mother visited an institution to place Haitham and sensed hope, she went to the psychiatric specialist recommended by that institution in order to evaluate Haitham's case, in order for them to accept her child. Unfortunately, after these evaluations, Haitham was again and again not being accepted.



Her despair blinded her from the truth that constant change of doctors and medicines is more harmful than helpful. In this matter, people tend to blame the mother, while the real blame should first go to the professionals and mainly some doctors who should be providing minimum guidance and follow-up to the mother besides a quick prescription of medicine for Haitham.

Finally, the mother accepted our advice not to quickly follow a doctor's advice without our coordination, because we agreed with one psychiatric who accepted to adopt this case earlier, to always be our consultant for Haitham. This doctor is the only one who gained the conviction that Haitham needed to be in an institution, before coming to a real diagnosis, in order to determine his real capacities. He was ready to prepare a report suggesting that Haitham be in an institution, to work with him with the right approaches and strategies as a preparation for a real diagnosis.

Meanwhile the mother was so stressed that she had to be hospitalized twice. Finally, she decided to go to the press and was in touch with a journalist who accepted to put her story on TV.

As a consequence the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health gave attention to this case. Haitham is now in a psychiatric institution to prepare him become ready to be in an educational institution. The journey is not over yet...

There are many cases like Haitham who cannot find a place. The reasons are many, one of which is lack of finances.

### **The High School Program**



During June 2011, the fourth group of the high school students, comprised of 4 deaf students, performed the official governmental examinations. Fortunately, for the first time, all the students have passed the examination with distinctions. We are all very proud of them. It was such a fine experience to observe these students passing their official exams, and now enrolled at the universities during September. We did some follow up and found that they are doing remarkably well, despite of their hearing handicap, thanks to the kind support and attention by the professors and administrators of each university. At first, they had some difficulties, but with time, they managed to follow and catch up with the courses. We wish them all the best.

With respect to the first class (2006), one student Wissam has just finished his Master's education at the American University of Beirut, majoring in Biochemistry. He will



cease his studies and look for a job, for a year or two, before continuing his education towards PhD.

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.

### **Support for the Training Costs**

In the midst of all difficulties, the year 2011 seems to be a year of compensation in many ways.

Nadine has been trying, for the last years, to find ways to do in-depths trainings for the therapies of the Early Intervention Program. Finally, her pursuit to have a year-long training in Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT), succeeded. One of the LCD's therapists has participated in an AVT training which is partially sponsored by Cochlear, to share her knowledge with the whole EIP team. This therapist is contributing by covering the air fees and visas of 5 travels in the region, in relation to this training, and the LCD is trying to find a sponsor for the rest of the training cost which is \$4,500. It is a very big sum for the LCD but this training is really worth it

During their visit to Dr. de Laat at the Leidse University Hospital, in Leiden, Holland, in February 2011, Hussein and Nadine were very hopeful for the possibility of receiving a week visit from a therapist from the hospital to help the LCD in areas where they need to gain more skills such as information about the amplification of the hearing aid and mapping of the cochlear implant, as well as speech acoustics, etc.



We were also invited by a school for the Deaf, with whom we have a very good cooperation, to receive one week training in a method called “verbo tonale”. We highly appreciated their invitation. A trainer from the States who is assisting a school for the Deaf in Lebanon may give the LCD some hours to answer some important questions in relation to “listening skills”. Increasing our knowledge adds to our capacity to protect the child. With the knowledge we have, we already discovered

many mistakes in relation to wrong tests and wrong diagnosis, and inappropriate fitting of the hearing aids. We can be more specific about the type of mistake if we gain more knowledge, especially in relation to amplification, where we still ignore many details.

### **The visits of the Wilde Ganzen (NL) and BibleLands (UK)**

Besides the difficulty of having in-depth trainings, in which we were really blessed this year, things are generally going harder and harder in means of finances. Liliane Fonds, with whom we had a very good relationship, is gradually stopping their support to any associations in Lebanon. This is due to their new policy as a consequence to the Dutch Government cuts.

While, in the past, donors used to look for places to help and be blessed, today we go to an opposite direction where it is rare to find donors, and therefore we highly appreciate every support given, which helps us continue with our mission.



Praise God for opening a new door of hope this year. We had a visit from the BibleLands (UK), which gave us hope for future possible support. We also enjoyed realizing that this organization will also give us moral support. While they are professional enough to regard numbers, their primary interest is the heart put at work. They have preference supporting places where

the compassion of Christ is expressed rather than places which only hold a Christian name, and this suits us perfectly well

The same week of the visit from BibleLands, we were delighted to receive our dear friend Johanne van Dijk from the Wilde Ganzen Foundation, Holland, together with the director Mrs. Josine, who together, have proven that there is a special spirit of kindness and humbleness at the Wilde Ganzen Foundation. Having encouraged us during our visit to Holland for the idea of the Sign Language Café, together, we called the representatives of the company “MAF” that built a new shopping mall center, to pay them a visit and introduce Wilde Ganzen as supporters for the project.

### **Hussein Won the PHASE 2011 Awards**



On April 12th, Nadine and Hussein were invited by the Princess Haya of Dubai to participate in the Award Ceremony 2011, of the Princess Haya Award for Special Education (PHASE). In the Ceremony, there were hundreds of participants, royal guests, and 169 contestants.

As a result, Hussein nominated for the Award of

the Outstanding Educator for Special Education. He was indeed honored by winning this award. After they have conducted nominations to 29 winners of different categories, they announced that there were only 2 Outstanding Awards for the Best Employee of the Year 2010-2011, across different categories, still to be designated. Hussein was surprised to hear that they announced his name for the second time. It was a real honor and privilege for Hussein to receive this outstanding award, as he did not expect that at all. Hussein also felt blessed and grateful to the Almighty for these provisions.

Not only Hussein, but every staff member of the LCD, as well as deaf communities in Lebanon, and schools for the Deaf, shared the same feelings.

### **A Course in Edinburgh, Scotland**

Hussein was very grateful for the great opportunity for him to participate in the course of “Deaf Managers – Facing the Challenge”, which was intently prepared for Deaf Managers who work with Deaf people, held at Heriot Watt University, in Edinburgh, Scotland, during 14 and 17 of May 2011, thanks to the encouragement and generous support of AMT-NL, as they have covered all the course and traveling expenses.

The experience in that course was great and indeed beneficial; especially that Hussein has made a good amount of new connections with other Deaf directors and managers. They can always support and refer to one another when coming to technical and managerial problems.

During this course, Hussein was happy to meet a deaf person from Saudi Arabia, Miss



Hend, with whom he had close contact through emails since 2007. It was a big surprise for Hussein to meet her in Edinburgh. They have discussed so many issues related to the Deaf, and future potential projects.

Hussein has also learned about leadership styles, based on theory and practice, which helps him improve his directorship tasks at the LCD.

### **Hearing aids project**

While the Lebanese Government does not provide hearing aids for deaf children in Lebanon, it is naturally the parents' responsibility to buy them. For parents who cannot afford them, they try to seek financial support from different sources to buy at least one hearing aid for their child. They may succeed and they may fail. Others do not seek help at all since it is too complicated.



In rural areas, it is more likely to find children with hearing loss who have not been offered any kind of services or assistive devices.

Therefore the LCD, partnered with the Liliane Fonds, among other local partners, in order to provide hearing aids for children from low socio-economic backgrounds, after having gone through a screening campaign specifically planned for the rural areas.

This year 30 new hearing aids have been offered to children, mostly from the North. Parents are enjoying the full services where the child receives an ear-mold, and has his hearing aid be fitted and checked until it gives the maximum input for the child's hearing potentials.

## **The Royal Decoration Ceremony for Wim and Meta Verhoogh**

During February 2011, the Mayor of Voorburg/Leidschendam, represented by Her Majesty the Queen of Holland, performed a Royal Decoration Ceremony for both Mr. Wim and Mrs. Meta Verhoogh in recognition for their outstanding contributions for their services for the Deaf of Lebanon for more than 30 years. The honor also goes to AMT-NL members who have devoted their time and effort to support deaf children of Lebanon.



Nadine and Hussein, also participated in the Ceremony, and were indeed thrilled to observe the honoring of Meta and Wim.

The Ceremony was a touchy and a wonderful experience, as there was an extreme happiness in the hearts of Meta and Wim. The Mayor has made a very nice speech.

Meta and Wim are really special persons. They also have supported

the LCD in many ways, where they showed their interest and care during the high needs and difficult times.

## **The Visit of Mrs. Elisabeth Scheele**

Elisabeth has visited the LCD several times in the past. We are always happy to have her with us in this year, despite of her health condition. This time, she brought a trolley with her and therefore felt comfortable to walk around with it.



Also, this year, Elisabeth brought with her from Holland our dear deaf friend and Hussein's foster brother, Suheil, as a travel companion, and as a birthday gift for Suheil to be in Lebanon during Elisabeth's stay with the LCD, which lasted for 12 days.

During her stay with us, Elisabeth and Hussein went to a shopping center, with a list to buy some needed items, as donation from her to the LCD. What a lovely experience.

Elisabeth is really a guardian angel for the LCD, supporting us both morally and financially for so many years.

## Photos during 2011



Children at the Integrated Nursery



High School Students in a class



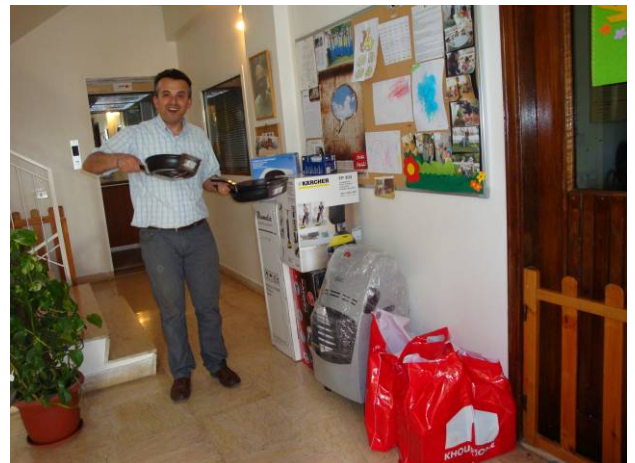
Sign Language Diplomas



Sign language activities for the children



A School Trip to the North



Equipment supported by Elisabeth Scheele



Please visit us at the [www.lcd-lebanon.org](http://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.**