



# THE PHILEMON PROJECT



[www.thephilemonproject.org](http://www.thephilemonproject.org)

Fall 2018

## We're GROWing!

We are elated to announce that GROW is in the early stages of opening another location in Lebanon! After some time of searching for the best location, we have found an old family villa in Kafrashima. This villa has two stories with a large backyard and includes all the amenities we need, such as a kitchen and several bathrooms. The property location fits our vision perfectly, strategically placed between two densely populated areas of Beirut who desperately need the love of Christ through our early childhood development project.



establishments. GROW occupies a unique space in Lebanon, consistently committed to providing the best Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring for the people we serve.

## Our Mission, Children and Parents

Not only do we continue to nurture the children, but the GROW Center also strives to improve overall family situations by working with the parent(s) through our adult mentoring program. These weekly meetings strive to introduce valuable parenting skills, as well as discuss issues that impact their personal lives.



development (ECD) and adult mentoring (AM) ministry throughout Lebanon, but continues to further develop it to impact more children and their parents. There will be more meeting spaces for the AM ministry, as well as a private outdoor play space for the children to play safely. It has always been our goal to replicate this project, and we are seeing this dream unfold with the hopeful addition in Kafrashima. If God is willing, we plan to open other locations across Lebanon: Sidon, Tyre, and Tripoli. Eventually, we also hope to open GROW Centers in Syria.

## Our Context

Migrant and refugee families have very few to no rights, nor do they have citizenship in Lebanon. These children do not have proper and safe options for daycare. Their parents are faced with the grim and abusive reality of corrupt agencies.



Likewise, poor Lebanese families do not have the money to send their children to proper child care

What is our ministry goal? Our early development project focuses on underserved children and their parents. In order to ensure that what the children learn during the

day with us becomes embedded in their family structure, we also include our Adult Mentoring program as part of our ministry. Meeting both child and adult ensures that the child not only continues their growth, but the parent joins in the GROW mission as well.



## Our Mission, Expanding

The hopeful replication of our second property not only helps support the Philemon Project's GROW early childhood

Our goal is to demonstrate the love of Christ, reaching groups of people who need early childhood development and adult mentoring. We are humbled and excited to witness God's hand in our work and we are committed to faithfully carry out our vision of helping many more underserved and at-risk children and their parents to receive the best Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring.

## Our Team

Our staff are committed to providing the best Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring. We are thankful for our staff of 17, many of whom have been with us since we launched the project. We recently promoted Nairy, a long term staff



member, to Coordinator. In her new role, Nairy works with the teachers to make sure we are meeting our benchmarks for the children's development.

We also introduced a social worker last year, Marie-Helene. Marie-Helene focuses predominantly on the Adult Mentoring program, and creates a space for candid conversation on issues such as domestic violence and anger management. This is radical. In Lebanon, these issues are rarely addressed. In order to break the cycles of poverty and dysfunction, we need a holistic approach. That is to say that while we work with the children in their developmental phases, we also mentor parents on pressing issues as well. In this way, the parents are able to implement healthier family patterns at home. The addition of the social worker helps the Philemon Project's GROW Center provide healthy practices and remediates many structural problems the underserved face.

We also recently added Nariman, our new Nurse, this past August. Nariman comes to us with a strong passion for early child development and offers constant care for children who otherwise would not receive medical care due to their lack of finances. Nariman works with the parents on a wide range of health topics. GROW is a space where God uses to minister to the sick and hurting and to receive medical help and support.

Our team consistently and exceptionally provides the best Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring possible. Thus, while students develop cognitively, socially, and spiritually through the influence of our teachers, parents also receive positive mentoring from our social



worker and our staff. Additionally, both child and parent receive quality health care and training from our Nurse.



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GROW

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
A MINISTRY OF THE PHILEMON PROJECT

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### How Can You Help?

We have come to the last piece of the puzzle: how can you help?

**A UNICEF study found that every \$1 invested in Early Childhood**

**Development (ECD) produces a \$7 return into society. Another important reason why we're committed to our work is knowing that we're investing in the kingdom of God transforming lives and breaking intergenerational cycles of dysfunction and poverty.**

This alone is staggering motivation enough. A New York Times article explores studies that present for the reader the impact a family's financial status has on their child's cognitive abilities, and the massive importance of early childhood development.

These studies find that the wealthier the family, the more educated the parents, the higher scoring their toddlers are, automatically. This demonstrates the disparity between the wealthy and the poor, and the effect on the children. A wealthy family may have a more supportive network, a more secure and structured day where the child feels safe and supported to learn. Whereas, the poor family is not as secure, and does not have the space for the child to develop these important skills. It is clear that it is not sheer will that pushes the child's intellect, but too often, whether the



family is resourced or not is the foundation of their child's future success.



We must focus our attention on early childcare development for the poor and helpless, who otherwise, would never be able to reach the same cognitive and social level as their wealthier counterparts. This long term investment helps to benefit the children, their families, and eventually, society.

GROW comes into a society where options are nonexistent for underserved families. We emphasize critical cognitive, social, and spiritual growth that ensures children are supported, and cared for in a safe environment. That is why it is so important that we exist, that GROW is supported, that we represent Christ in every step of these children's childcare journey. Our new addition is key to actualizing this goal, and we are more than excited to share this news with you and invite you to join us on our journey. As you saw, just \$1 gives a staggering \$7 return to society. Anything and everything helps. We know that God

works through ministries like GROW and with your help, we can continue to serve these underserved children around Lebanon and the Middle East.

### Your Support Helps!

Donate online: <https://secure-q.net/Donations/EPCLivonia/11480>

Check: EPC World Outreach  
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510 Orlando,  
FL 32822

If you desire to support us to continue to carry out the vision God has called us — mark your gift: **Robert & Joyce Hamd**

Otherwise please mark your gift for **GROW**

