



# THE PHILEMON PROJECT



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

Summer 2019

### Please Help Me

Since the Syrian civil war officially began March 15, 2011, scores of families have suffered under a brutal conflict that has killed hundreds of



thousands of people, torn Syria apart, and set the standard of living back by decades. Millions are scattered, creating what experts say is the largest refugee and displacement crisis of our time. About 6.7 million Syrians are now refugees, and another 6.2 million people are displaced within Syria. Half of the people affected are children.

Recently, a single mother, from Syria came into the GROW Center. She needed a safe place for her child while she looked for work. Her story is like so many we meet. Desperate, alone, and vulnerable, she fled Syria to get away from the brutality of war. Now, living in Lebanon as a refugee, she faces limited options.



The GROW Center meets the needs of Syrian refugee, migrant worker and underserved Lebanese communities. We serve 75-80 children, providing

the best early childhood development and also adult mentoring for over 150 parent/s a month, making an impact in the lives of

the people we serve.

While the present GROW Center is going very well, sadly, there are months we reach capacity and cannot accept new children. When the single mother from Syria learned that

we couldn't receive her child, she burst into tears, falling to her knees, pleading, "please help me...I have no place to put her..."

After some time, we were able to make room for her child; but they both suffered while waiting for a space at the Center. Because of this mother and her daughter, and many others like them, we are firmly committed to replicating our work to reach more families with the love of Christ.



Lebanese. The vision of the Philemon Project is to provide these at-risk and most vulnerable,

underserved/unreached groups with the best possible Christian early childhood development program, seeking to significantly narrow race- and income-based achievement gaps.

Additionally, we work with parents in our Adult Mentoring program, seeking to break cycles of dysfunction and pain and teach new skills. The overarching goal of the



project is, in the words of the church father Eusebius, to "prepare the ground for the

Gospel." GROW's vision is to grow whole and healthy children and families, making a gospel impact by sharing the love of Christ.

### Women Led, Women Run

The GROW center employs local Christian women who boldly exhibit the love of Christ. Our teachers use Bible stories, Christian songs, and prayer time with the children to expose them to Christ and His love. While students develop cognitively, socially, and spiritually, 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. GROW is a non-profit ministry that operates with "business as mission" principles which also empowers families and contributes to the economy by training local

### Catalyst for Change

The story of GROW began with one migrant domestic worker's desperate plea for help seven years ago. This plea motivated the founders of the Philemon Project to start an Early Childhood Development Center in Beirut, Lebanon. Situated in one of

the poorest neighborhoods of Beirut, the GROW Early Childhood Development Center serves over 75 children of Syrian refugees, migrant workers, and underserved



**EPCWO**  
WORLD OUTREACH

women in best education and business practices.

### Three Levels of Impact!

We work for transformation on three levels. First, we work with the local staff to carry out the missional work. Our staff of 18, including the Director and Coordinator, are mentored and trained in the best professional practices.

Secondly, they serve as missional representatives, creating a center where children are being educated cognitively and socially. Finally, it is a vital, contextual ministry, where children daily hear about and experience the love of Christ. Parents notice the positive changes in their children, and the love of Christ is changing families. Some are making decisions to follow Jesus and begin attending partner

Lebanese churches. Our partnership with Resurrection Church Beirut's church planting team creates space for new believers to grow in their new-found faith. Our desire is to replicate our Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring program in other areas of Lebanon.

### Replication Mission Site

The Philemon Project has some exciting news to share! Our lawyer negotiated a \$540,000 purchase price with the seller of the site we have found to replicate, which is a significant reduction from the original \$650,000. That is great news, but the rest of the story is that, by God's grace, we now have \$200,000 towards the replication phase of our ministry. We are currently working with our partners to raise the remaining \$340,000 in order to buy and renovate the facility.

**Please consider partnering with us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our time.**

### Kafrashima Building

The new site is strategically located between two densely populated areas of Beirut who desperately need the love of



THE PHILEMON PROJECT

GROW

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
A MINISTRY OF THE PHILEMON PROJECT

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



Christ through our early childhood development project.

We hope to create an addition of another floor above the structure to provide office space and a guest house.

The large enclosed yard provides an ideal setting for the playground for an early childhood development center.

### Making The Investment Count



Investing in early childhood development and adult mentoring makes good missional sense. It makes good social sense, as well. According to UNICEF studies,

every \$1 invested in early childhood development produces a \$13 return to society. An investment in GROW is an investment in people, the kingdom of God, and the transformation of our society.

### Help Us To Share

We love to share about the impact of GROW. Please contact me to share with your church, mission conference, or group about the work and ministry of GROW.



Highlights of our work:

- Four Muslim families have become Christians and are being discipled by our partner church (RCB).
- 87% of the children finishing our program are admitted into private (many on scholarships) or public schools.
- Four adult mentoring sessions are held

each month with an average attendance of 32 parent/s each session.

- Average children served each month – 76.

• 30 children graduated from our program this summer.

• An independent research team held a focus group among Muslim mothers and discovered that 74% of Muslim mothers understood that The Philemon Project's GROW Center's motivation for their work is "following Jesus' example."

### How Can You Help?

Please consider partnering with The Philemon Project's GROW Early Childhood Development and Adult Mentoring ministry to help us replicate throughout Lebanon to reach more children and impact more families with the love of Christ. We are committed to our work, knowing that we're investing in the kingdom of God transforming lives and breaking intergenerational cycles of dysfunction and poverty.

### Donate Online!

<https://www.epcwo.org/supportphilemongrow/>

### Share Our Site With Your Friends

<https://www.thephilemonproject.org/>

### Contact

[roberthamd@me.com](mailto:roberthamd@me.com) Or

[philemonproject@me.com](mailto:philemonproject@me.com)

WhatsApp/Mobile +202-525-9090

