



Triumphant Mercy Lebanon

2023 in Review



WHO WE ARE

Triumphant Mercy is a faith based Lebanese non-profit working to bring in the kingdom of God wherever we work addressing refugee crisis as well as Lebanese struggling communities through providing critical aid, education, vocational training, and spiritual help.

OUR MISSION

TM aims at creating safe spaces where children are free to be children and women can blossom to reach their full potential, where we build meaningful relationships with families and help them to rise above their circumstances to develop their potential.





OUR STRATEGY

We work on reshaping societies through community work, transforming families and empowering the next generation so they can rise above their circumstances to develop their full potential and allowing them to dream and hope for a better future.

SCOPE OF OUR

Education and Development

Psychosocial Support

Trauma Healing

Spiritual Education

Humanitarian Help

Media

Youth and Women Empowerment

Medical Support

2023

While we hurt to see the war happening in our neighbouring country and watching the escalation happening on our southern border, we keep on relentlessly working to build hope and future for our women and our children. We teach them how to live and laugh again, and encourage them to grow in every aspect of life.

The following is just a glance into our work this year with some testimonies from our beneficiaries



WOMEN SAGA

Women are known to be selfless people caring for their own families but also for extended families and that is until they find they have nothing more to give. **However, things changed when these women started to come to Triumphant Mercy center.** Monday morning is the worst time to have a meeting, and we all know it. That is, unless you have a group of ladies that enjoy each other so much that they brave the heat, pouring rain, and that Monday morning tiredness to get there. Nadine's ladies breakfasts are this type of meeting. *"I enjoy spending time with the ladies seeing lives changing. And watching them experience peace and joy"- Nadine.* Most weeks the ladies walk together in groups from their areas. chatting and catching up even before they get to class, entering the center laughing from a story or finishing their conversation. Many times the ladies are more awake than we are on Monday morning. The amount of laughter and tears that these groups have shared shows the closeness of the ladies and how comfortable they are together. This group has become a safe place for these ladies to share their burdens together allowing them to carry them together and giving them strength to continue and see victory in their lives.



GOING TO THE SICK, THE POOR, THE HURTING

Visiting people in the sanctity of their homes is one of our main strategies because in their homes we see a small picture of their lives and when someone is in their home they tend to share more about their lives.

It helps us to know the real condition of people, their real struggles as well as their deepest need.

Our teams make it a point to not only visit people for assessment but also to give an encouraging word, share a smile and many times leaving a prayer behind. In those visits, lots of tears are shed and lives are opened up to receive the comforter.

THERESE BLOOMING STORY

This is how we first got Therese to come to our programs, after she had registered at our center. She was shy, anxious and unsure of herself at that first visit, but she has changed. Therese has become one of our most faithful beneficiaries from our Beirut center. She is at our center doing one

program or another at least three days a week. She participates in: English, the ladies' breakfasts, zumba, fitness and E-learning. She also is one of the biggest encouragers. If she sees someone struggling or unsure she comes in giving a gentle push and a promise to help.

SO WE ASKED HER TO SHARE

"Coming to the center changed my life 100% especially psychologically, I have so many problems but if I don't come to the center I feel emptiness. At the center, I feel peace. this is why I am coming daily. I like all the programs, but most of all the bible study program because it gives me inner peace. I started to enjoy life despite all the problems I am passing through." And she ended with this, "May God bless you and keep on going in every ministry you have."



RAISING UP THE LOST GENERATION

For the Syrian refugee children, our school is key for giving hope to the next generation. Over 250 students from grade KG to grade nine are not only learning the basics but are excelling. In fact the reputation of our school is so good that parents of children in the 9th grade have begged us to enroll their children with us so they can be part of our team going yearly to Syria to present their official exams there. The fact is that Our ninth graders who go each year to test in Syria are all succeeding and we even had few students on the honor list. So this year we have opened a second grade 9 class and a pre-ninth class preparing kids to go next year to present their exams. We call it pre- ninth because it is really a strengthening class where kids are raised up to the standard so they can thrive in their 9th grade. One of our students from our center in Zahle,

Hiba, joined the school in grade 9. She is one of the most bubbly and positive people, so you would never know the struggles she faces at home. Hiba's mother is a widow and because of this, she had to grow up a bit too quickly and take on responsibilities before her time. As you can imagine, being able to study at home is difficult. With younger siblings to care for and housework that her mother needs her help with, the time after school before the next day runs by too fast. Her mother, stressed out by her situation, began threatening to pull her out of school to help her and to work. The staff was able to convince her to allow Hiba not only to continue school but to travel to take her test in Syria. The teachers took an active role to convince the mother even going to her home and reassuring her over a meal. Hiba's story is an example of the perseverance that many of our students in Zahle show. These students face so many different struggles and not only overcome but excel.

In Beirut too, the education programs have needed to expand in the last year, with everyone on edge because of school closures. The government of Lebanon is bankrupt, with a failing economy and the absence of a government. This means that the ministry of education doesn't have the funds to pay the public school teachers which resulted in ongoing strikes. In fact the public schools were closed since January 2023 and did not open again till October 2023 with a government promise to pay liveable wages to again close with new strikes. This means that a whole generation is missing it's right of learning with consistent schooling for children in the prime of learning.

At TM we have opened a door for many children to still learn, and thrive in life. The children love to come and spend time at our center whether it is just to say hello at the door or to actually sit in front of a computer and play an educational game.



HEALING THE SOUL

We work relentlessly to work with women and children who have gone through multiple traumas. It is common knowledge that Lebanon has suffered several crisis one after the other and many people are not able to cope with the situation. We call it accumulated traumas which is hindering people from living, from dreaming and from looking towards the future. With our professional team we work on women and children helping them to live again. But we are also working with refugee kids who are also experiencing lots of traumas with no one there to help them move forward. **THIS IS WHERE WE INTERVENE.** Our school counselor meets with the kids and youth that need a listening ear. Many of the Syrian refugees have hard stories stemming from the reason that they are in Lebanon in relation to ISIS or from subsequent situations they are in because they are here. Sometimes it is a dramatic response to something but many times it is that a caring teacher's eyes will be drawn to notice something that will bring the student to our attention.



RELEASING STRESS THROUGH SPORTS

With everyone's budgets getting crunched, from schools down to households, many times the first things to go to are arts and sports. For kids and teens this is a squeeze. The adults aren't the only ones living under the struggles in the country, these youth need a way to relieve their stress also. Screens are overtaking

their lives. They need a place to connect with each other outside of school and away from screens to grow social skills, and have some fun. TM rose to the call and opened up a sports ministry that is giving these youth this opportunity to move and have fun while also gaining character skills from pointed discussion times.

They are being challenged to grow, and ask the "real life" questions that they often are afraid to discuss with parents. Then they head to the field and are challenged in skill but also to apply what they can to the field. We have seen so many of them grow beyond what we first imagined and are seeing growth in so many different areas.

Marita is one of the students, players, and young women we are most proud of. She has shown wisdom, grace, drive, and determination. She continues to grow on the field, in the classroom, in her faith, and as an individual. We are so proud of the woman she is becoming and asked her to share about her experience with us.

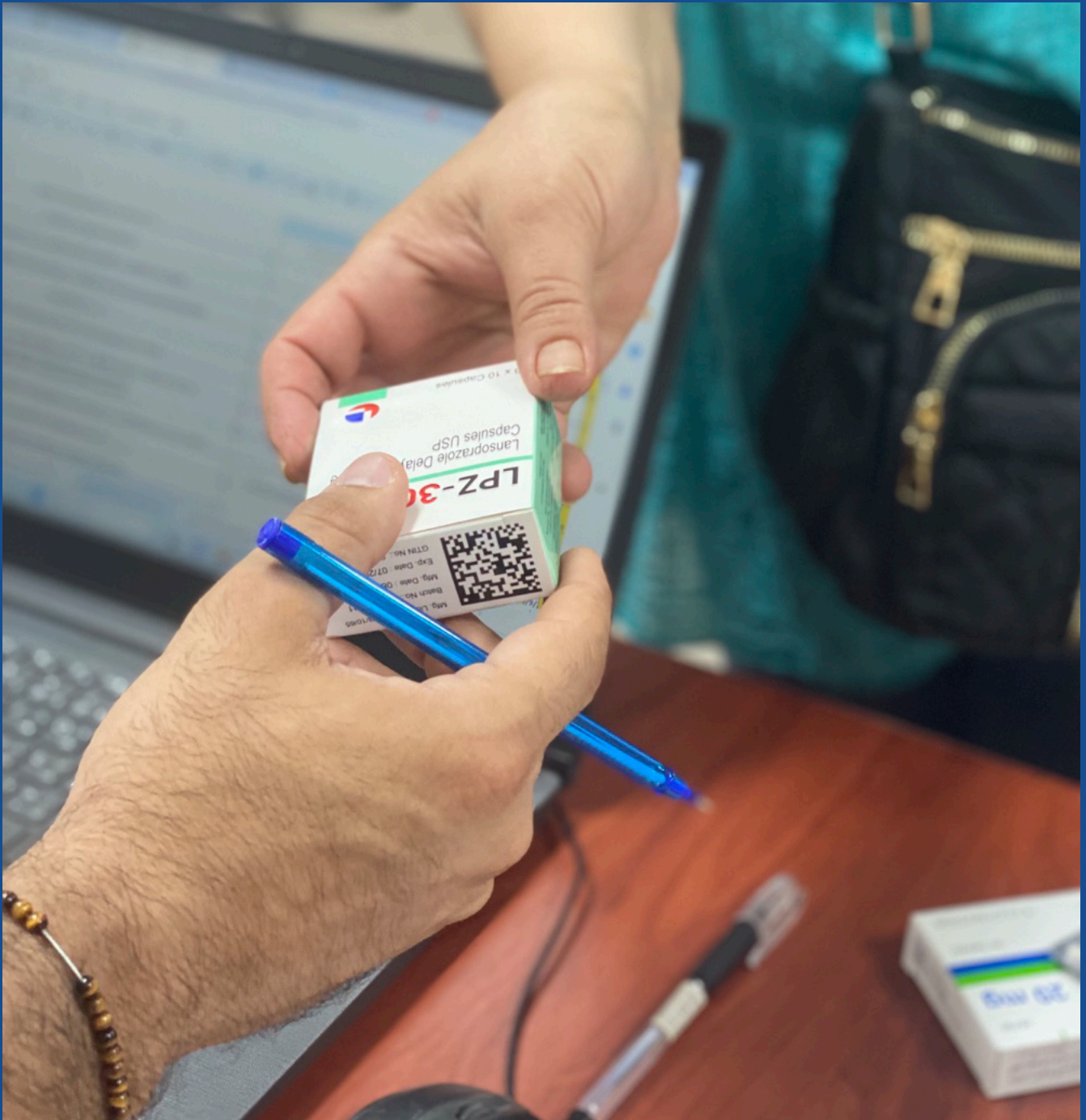
“Triumphant Mercy helped me to get to know God more and all his characteristics. I started to come to Triumphant Mercy in order to learn English. I believe that God opened a door for me to come and I am sure that Jesus Christ is the one who pushed me to go there. Recently, I have been doing more than an activity with them. I am learning English and Spanish. I joined the sports ministry as a football player. And sometimes I volunteer with them and that brings me inner joy in a strange way just by seeing the happiness in our beneficiaries’ eyes. Other than all the things I have learned I met lovely people and they have become dear to my heart: Triumphant Mercy gave me strength mentally, physically and spiritually.”

Faithfully
Maritta

The same program is also applied in our school for refugee kids and the sports ministry is a place where evangelism is taking place systematically. All the kids in our school are Muslims and finding opportunities to share the gospel is always something we try to take.

IN THE AREA OF HEALTH

As the currency began falling in 2019 the prices of necessities began to skyrocket. One of the most essential of these necessities is medication. Many medications became unavailable. Those that remained available, more than tripled or quadrupled in price putting it way out of reach for those already struggling. After hearing the same story again and again. The stories of no longer being able to pay for medications or skipping days of medication in order to make it last longer, we stepped into action. We began providing medication monthly for over 200 beneficiaries. But with all our help programs we want to offer more than just the practical need. We also want to offer connection and encouragement.





SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camps in all our centers are a perfect place to share the good news of the gospel. Many parents have heard of the impact that Triumphant Mercy had on their neighbor's kids or their cousins etc... and they flock to us trying to register their kids. From the start we tell them it's a Christian camp and they agree. They know that their kids need is not only to have activities but to be shaped into a respectable person who would be a good influence to others.

FIGHTING AGAINST GENDER BARRIERS

At Triumphant Mercy over the years we have worked to fight against gender barriers to prevent child marriage and continue education for girls . This require us to fight and Negotiate with parents to encourage them to keep their girls in school. 10 of the 15 of our students who passed their exams in Syria were girls. This year over the summer we had two women volunteers who knew woodworking so we decided to continue to challenge these gender norms by opening up a carpentry class for our teen girls and some of our female staff. The girls were hesitant at first, but quick learners, they were soon grabbing tools with confi-

dence. ***“Carpentry is a man’s job in many of their minds, so seeing them embrace the challenge and enjoy the work was amazing! We hope to run additional workshops down the line to impact more women in the surrounding community.” -Bethany (Principle in Zahle).***

At the same time a class was opened for boys to learn sewing. Starting with basics the boys took right to it, and began to be creative, coming up with their own ideas and experimenting with the new skills they learned. ***“I love the idea of learning to sew and that it isn’t just for girls.” Faraj 15 years.*** This pushing the boundaries of the gender norms is allowing the girls to continue school and learn helpful life skills, as well as allowing the boys to learn a practical tool for life. It teaches them to dream

bigger and push past the “norm” to discover new things they may enjoy and are passionate about. It’s not just the kids’ minds that are changing, but also the parents’. With one mother in support of her daughter saying ***“I want my daughter to be a doctor in the village. I help with her homework by trying to keep the atmosphere at home quiet so she can concentrate. I provide her with this support because my hope is that her future will be more beautiful and better than my future.”***

We look forward to this new year to see and support the dreams of our students. Encouraging them to dream bigger and then giving them the tools to chase that dream and helping them to build the confidence and strength it will take to succeed.





WIDOW'S SUPPORT

When the economy takes a dramatic hit, the already vulnerable become even more vulnerable. Many of them end up feeling alone and abandoned. Widows are a part of this group. Many widows already struggle in Lebanon as it is a male dominated society in which the higher paying jobs generally go to men and the demands that are on a single mom make her less attractive to an employer. So many of these women have already spent most of their lives struggling only to feel even more defeated when a crashing economy and other's life choices makes things even worse.

At Triumphant Mercy we created a widow's regular meeting where widows join and have a time with each other feeling understood. They spend time with one of our staff members talking about the storyline of our lives through its high and its lows, the happy moments and the sad moments and the way to overcome and move on etc.. We use drawing, and painting as a way for these ladies to express themselves. We also take the opportunity to encourage them with the word of God so they know they are not alone.

RESTORING A CULTURE OF CELEBRATION

One of the things that is disappearing in Lebanon is the culture of celebration. Within the refugee community this culture doesn't exist but within the Lebanese community, this is a new norm because of all the stress, the fear, the uncertainty and the impending doom. Many don't celebrate birthdays, school success, Mother's Day, or any feast. However at Triumphant Mercy we preach another culture, a culture of thanksgiving and celebration. We celebrate the teacher's birthdays (those teachers never celebrated their birthdays before) we celebrate teachers on their special day, we celebrate mothers, we celebrate success and we celebrate Christmas and Passover.

And as we teach others to celebrate we also include them in the preparations to bring joy to their neighborhood. One of those stories was the community BBQ that we planned. The music was on and the women were ready.

They were laughing and enjoying each other and the work.

The testimonies we heard afterwards was one of thanksgiving, excitement and readiness to do more for their neighborhood



All the small acts of love we do, in the many different areas we serve in, have one goal. We care for those who are struggling physically, mentally and spiritually, we lift them up from the dark place they live in and then we teach them to do the same in their own community. We have seen this happening around us when people have testified of transformed lives, transformed homes and transformed communities.

Thank you for reading through.
Please pray for wisdom to navigate the year 2024 with grace in the midst of turmoil and regional challenges.



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