



UNITE LEBANON YOUTH

VOLUME 10

JUNE 2013

ULYP's Newest Program: Back to Basics

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After a year of reflection and preparation, ULYP delivered its first Back to Basics program in April and May. Back to Basics is designed to assist vocational students in the development of the entrepreneurial, leadership, professional and communication skills necessary to successfully transition into the workplace.

The pilot was implemented with ULYP's partner, INJAZ Lebanon, who gave us their expertise in equipping youth with Work Readiness, Financial Literacy, and Entrepreneurial skills. These components were integrated with the skills of decision-making, teamwork, communication, citizenship and peace-building that are at the core of all ULYP's programs.

60 young men and women aged 17-20 from the UNWRA Sibline Vocational Center and the Mowasat organization in Saida participated in the pilot. ULYP and INJAZ Lebanon's assessment validated the need for this program, and confirmed its impact on shifting the youth's perception to empower them as responsible citizens of the future. The participants voiced that they are

now better prepared to develop their resumes, sit for interviews, and respond to ethical dilemmas in the workplace. They felt encouraged to apply for jobs and said they now comprehend what it takes to succeed in the workplace and beyond.

ULYP is now incorporating Back to Basics into the core programs of its Youth Academy. ULYP and INJAZ Lebanon will continue refining, developing and delivering this program together. Congratulations to the pioneer group who piloted this program and best of luck in your new endeavors! We will certainly see you again.



A new format for MOMs Most Outstanding Mothers

This quarter, the MOMs program was slightly different: it was longer, more intense and focused mainly on English language. For the first time ULYP partnered up with HAYYA BINA who worked with us within the TWE (Teaching Women English) program, which is funded by the Department of Public Diplomacy and Cultural Affairs at the US Embassy in Beirut. Hayya Bina brought new teaching materials and trained our teachers to enhance their skills.

23 mothers from different backgrounds and communities worked hard together to improve their skills in all elements of English. The highlight of the Women's English program consisted of the TWE curriculum, including computer skills, career coaching, mentoring, physical fitness, early childhood development and life coaching. The theme for this program was "Empowering Women to Self-Empower Themselves". Through the TWE program, women have been able to effect positive change in themselves and the physical wellbeing of their children. They met

the challenge patiently and enthusiastically and were able to overcome the hurdles to succeed. We are pleased to learn from the women that their relationships within their households and communities are growing and developing. Congratulations to our mothers and a big THANK YOU to our partner, Haya Bina. As a follow-up, ULYP seeks opportunities for the mothers to continue learning and facilitates their enrollment in programs and with organizations within our network. For the second time, AJYALUNA offered 14 slots to MOMs program participants to enroll in their 3 months nursing program. ULYP is currently working with the moms to coordinate their admission to this program.

Children from HAPPY say THANK YOU to everyone who made their program possible. (page 2)



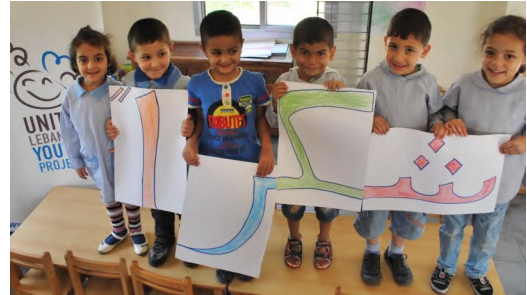
Returning Programs: HAPPY

For the third year in a row, ULYP offered its HAPPY program to 120 five-year-olds last quarter. The children were divided into mixed groups of marginalized Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian refugees. This two-month head-start program seeks to enhance the pre-academic, social and emotional skills of young learners. Children on the HAPPY program participate in activities and new learning experiences that compliment programs in their preschools. The program is project-based, encouraging the children to learn to work together, and focuses on character building skills, IT, music, nature exploration and arts and crafts.



The Welfare Association's grant contributed to making this program possible. We are so

grateful for their continued support and are looking forward to purchasing and setting up the first section of our HAPPY playground. Thank you Welfare Association for making everybody even happier!



Volunteer Spotlight: Claus von Bohlen



I came to ULYP having recently completed a psychology degree in San Francisco. I had decided to resume my nascent Arabic studies in Beirut, and also to look for an English teaching position. I wanted to volunteer in an active NGO while in Lebanon and learned about ULYP from the founder's daughter. I applied and got accepted and ended up doing a four month internship with ULYP. I supported the admin team in the office work as well as taught in

the BRIDGE program's SAT preparation course.

I enjoyed my time at ULYP, though I will not deny that at times I found the teaching quite challenging. The SAT exam is not an attractive exam at the best of times. It tests cognitive skills rather than creativity or original thought, and as someone with a background in humanistic psychology, that does not sit particularly well with me. On the other hand, I do understand that the exam has its own purpose.

Teaching students from Palestinian camps was a learning experience for me too. I learned something about myself. For instance, on one occasion I devoted part of a lesson to some career guidance counseling. I prepared factsheets about the architecture degree at AUB and asked the students a few follow up questions. One question was: 'What is your favorite building, and why?' One of the best students in my class put up

his hand and told me that he didn't understand the question. I was perplexed, since I was sure he knew all the words. However, it transpired that he didn't have a favorite building. In my mind, I scrolled through the buildings I have seen that have most impressed me: the Guggenheim in Bilbao, the Empire State building, the Taj Mahal. But then I realized that my students had never left Lebanon, and that coming from Ain el Hilweh to AUST, who were partnering with ULYP on delivering the courses, was possibly the longest journey he had ever undertaken. Quite possibly, he had never seen a building that had been designed with anything other than pure functionality in mind. It made me realize how many assumptions I carry around, and also how lucky I am.

I was sad to say goodbye to my class. It was a challenging course to teach, but I found the students very likeable, and I feel a warm sense of affection for them.

I enjoyed meeting the ULYP team and working with them. I felt that there was a good atmosphere in the office, and the people who work there are committed and competent. I hope I have made some lasting friendships, and I am grateful for the opportunity I was given, and for the trust and warmth that I felt. I am also grateful to the AUST team with whom I taught for their support and friendly attitude.

I intend to return to Beirut in September, in order to teach philosophy and English literature at Brummana high school and of course, keep in touch and help ULYP in any way I can. In the meantime, I continue to work on a new novel.

New Volunteers

This summer ULYP has taken on many new volunteers, both independently and from our partner organizations. We would like to welcome Coco Burch; Jade Zoghbi and Stephan Beavers from the Arab American Institute; the DUKE Engage team. Coco, Jade and Stephan will be working in ULYP's office, while for the second year running the DUKE Engage volunteers will be teaching SAT preparation and English for the BRIDGE program. Welcome to ULYP!



ULYP would also like to say goodbye to Amanda Wiseman who went back to her home in the USA to have a baby. Thanks for all your hard work and good luck!

Spotlight on ULYP BRIDGE Scholars PAGE 3

Mabrouk - to two of ULYP's first BRIDGE students: Hiba and Alaa

Both Hiba Mawed and Alaa Othman were granted scholarships from the generous donation of Mrs. Rima Hourani, which allowed them to study nursing at the Lebanese American University (LAU).

Hiba was recently awarded the Lions Club Award for Excellence in Nursing. The award is given to one student from each school of nursing in Lebanon per year to support their studies. A student in her junior year at LAU, she is currently working towards completing her Bachelor degree in Spring 2014. ULYP celebrates the recognition of Hiba's hard work and determination, and wishes her the best in completing her degree and the steps that follow thereafter.



Hiba at Maounet Hospital

Hiba hopes that the supportive environment and individuals of LAU's medical school will continue to encourage her as she transitions through her academic and professional career.

Alaa was awarded the President's Circle Award from the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing in recognition of her professional presentation, delivery of patient-centered nursing care, and strong academics. This Award is given every year to one graduating nursing student, selected by the faculty.

We asked Alaa for her thoughts on winning the award: I cannot tell you how much this award means to me; it is an honor and I value it highly. Graduating with such an award, which represents the faculty's recognition of my professional approach to nursing, is a great booster that encourages my professional and educational development. I am looking forward to continuing my master's degree after one year of experience in this field. I hope by that time to become a clinical instructor in order to spread the message of caring that is the art and science of nursing.



Alaa practicing nursing skills with a model.

We asked a recent graduate of ULYP's BRIDGE Program, Aya Bahij, who attended the SAT prep program and applied to university abroad to reflect on her experience in the program – here is what she said:

I found the instructors on the BRIDGE program to be really dedicated. The course was very valuable to me in allowing me to practice my English accent with an English teacher, which helped me gain confidence for the official SAT exam. I really enjoyed meeting all of the nice students from different schools who were really interested in studying and improving themselves. Mr. Claus, the ULYP volunteer teacher, gave us many important English and life lessons. There was really nothing that I did not enjoy about the program because the classes were so interesting and lively. I learned a lot of new vocabulary, and many rules about English grammar which I had never properly learned such as tenses, suffixes,

prefixes, and subject-verb agreement. The course will help me achieve higher scores on my SAT and I hope this will make me a more competitive candidate for my college applications. Last but not least I made many lasting friendships with students from all over Lebanon.

I am so excited about heading abroad next year, and I am so glad that I'll be able to introduce my country and culture to students from different countries around the world. I know that I will make my country, family, and teachers proud of me as well, and hope to change many of the negative ideas about my homeland, Palestine, and about Arab culture.

Community Service Projects

The community for ULYP

The American Community School at Beirut (ACS) has been wonderful at supporting ULYP. Within their Community Service program, 12 students in grades 10-12 and two teachers spent two days at our campus in May. Together they worked towards meeting the needs they had assessed on an earlier visit. The ACS team painted a section of the ULYP wall adding their colors and creativity. They also worked on the fence surrounding the campus which was in desperate need of some repainting and fixing.

This was a win-win experience as the ULYP beneficiaries will now enjoy a more beautiful campus and the ACS students were able to make a difference in Lebanon by helping others.



ACS Middle School community service students also played an important role at ULYP. They met with ULYP's acting director Nicole Abuhaydar and listened to an overview of the role of civil society in Lebanon, leading

to a discussion about ULYP and its mission, vision, goals and programs. Consequently the students were introduced to and decided to adopt ULYP's HAPPY program. 52 boys and girls in grade 6 and seven teachers spent a day at HAPPY and beautified its grounds. The students also raised funds to purchase a part of the HAPPY play structure, a much needed outdoor playground. They achieved this through several fundraising activities, including bake sales, and pot luck lunches, over a period of one year; a generous check of 3,898,500 LL was awarded to ULYP. Thank you ACS MS for making our HAPPY children even happier!



ULYP for the Community

This summer 35 students from ULYP's BRIDGE program are volunteering to teach English to 7 and 8th grade UNWRA students. After benefiting from one of our programs, they are keen to give back to their communities and provide others the help to get ahead in their studies that they were given on ULYP's SAT preparation program.



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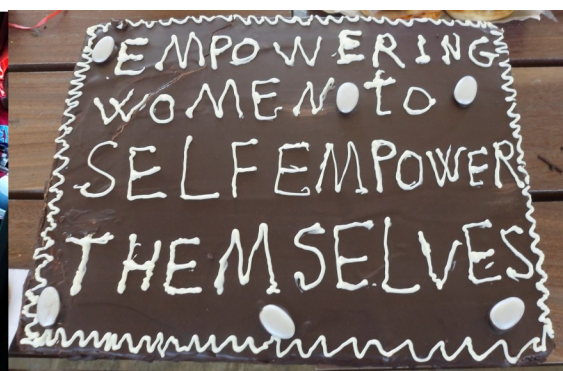
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

If you are interested in volunteering with ULYP, please send your CV to us at ulypvunteers@gmail.com and we will send you our volunteer application.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless"



BRIDGE scholars being trained to teach UNWRA students this summer.



Please donate! Sponsor a program or a student.

Your donations and support make the impossible possible.

Please donate to ULYP so we can continue providing the marginalized children, youth and women of Lebanon opportunities to accept, tolerate, respect, trust and care for each other.

To help us work towards a more united Lebanon, you can fill out the form below and return it to us or join our online campaign.

Donation slip to Unite Lebanon Youth Project - ULYP

Questions? Please Contact ULYP at +961 1 346 422 or 03 042200

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Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your support!



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HOPE, KNOWLEDGE and
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