

Zahrat Al-Amal

Educational magazine issued about persons with disabilities in the Middle East

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Our projects for Eid Al-Adha

Opening Speech

Seasons of Charity

Indeed, it's no wonder that almighty Allah intentionally decided that charity and philanthropy are offered on a seasonal basis...

After the Holy Month of Ramadan, the month of kindness, now Eid Al-Adha is around the corner. This occasion reminds us of the importance of hard-work and sacrifice for the sake of our convictions and values.

Eid Al-Adha is certainly a great opportunity for all of us to help persons with disabilities who are deprived, marginalized and urgently need our support and assistance. Above all, we are required to believe that human beings are uncompromisingly invaluable creatures and never judged in terms of having or lacking senses or limbs.. Humans are decent creatures honored Almighty Allah... Thus, we are all bound to show respect to each other, spend everything in our power to lift any bigotry or discrimination everywhere, and try our best to achieve a decent life that we all truly deserve.

The Editorial Board

Words of Charity People



Randa Bu Hamdan

The General Director of the
Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs

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Al-Amal's 1st Charity Iftar



the ceremony was inaugurated by showing a film of the Lebanese champion in a special manual cycling sport, Ahmed al-Ghoul, who in turn moderated the celebration. Al-ghoul spoke about the idea of the campaign "There is hope" launched by Al-Amal in the holy month of Ramadan. This campaign sheds light on the issue of disability. He also showcased his success story and how he managed to turn his disability into power, encouraging young persons with disabilities and others to achieve their ambitions regardless of incalculable obstacles.

In addition, Al-Amal's chairman MP Dr. Imad Al-Hoot addressed the audience, commending the efforts spent for tackling the disability issue. He also reflected on a number of achievements of Al-Amal throughout the past few years.

Some of these achievements were: Al-Amal's First Conference on disability – "Shining Suns" held in Istanbul, establishing the Balsamah Center for prosthetics and Physiotherapy in Sayda, offering and installing artificial limbs, medical hearing aids, electrical

wheelchairs, financial sponsorships for persons with disabilities and so on. Dr. Al-Hoot stressed on the importance of charity and philanthropy in the Holy month of Ramadan adding: "To fast during the holy month of Ramadan means that you believe that all creatures are dependent on Allah, and the most loved ones by Allah are those who help their families most. It also means that you do believe that interdependence and solidarity among the members of society are the strong basis of any flourishing community".

The executive Director of Al-Amal Bilal Hussein concluded the Iftar celebration by launching an initiative to honor people who have provided services to the cause of disability in Lebanon. After that, a medal was awarded to Dr. Ali Al-Zaarat by the Society for inventing a photocopier of Braille papers for persons with visual disabilities. Another medal was awarded to the University student Manar Al-Haraki for inventing an electronic artificial hand that works according to mental commands.

Al-Amal's Ramadan Campaign "There is hope"

In an attempt to remind ourselves and the Lebanese society of the importance of giving, and spending funds for the issue of disability, we have launched an unprecedented Ramadan campaign in the streets of Lebanon under the title: "There is hope". The campaign's poster carries the picture of Ahmed al-Ghoul, a Lebanese champion in a special manual cycling sport, intended for persons with disabilities. Through this campaign, we wanted to send a clear message to openhanded people that persons with disabilities can be heroes, but they need support in order to highlight their creative skills



Equipping Balsamah Center with a hearing medical checkup department



Step & Peace Project Installation of artificial limbs



Eyes Project installing glass eyes



Food Packages



Eid Al-Fetr Zakat



Ramadan Iftars

Al-Amal "The goodness"



Randa Bu Hamdan

The General Director of the
Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs

Al-Amal Society for Development and Social Care has always cared about persons with disabilities given its full conviction and firm belief in the abilities and capabilities of these individuals. Therefore, If persons with disabilities receive training, rehabilitative services and adequate support, and have access to equal opportunities, they will definitely participate effectively side by side with the rest of the community members. Al-Amal also has a deep faith that the issue of disability is a collective one.

Thus, governments, civil society and private sector organizations, as well as persons with disabilities themselves must join forces and coordinate efforts in order to address this issue. Therefore, we are to provide care, social rehabilitation, and vocational training services for these categories. We should also offer them needed assistance and support so that to become citizens who can rely on themselves socially and financially based on their abilities. As a result, we will have contributed in securing their psychological, social and financial stability.

We should also raise awareness about the types of disability, how to diagnose and detect them as early as possible. Raising public awareness is achieved through various media platforms, taking part in international conferences and exchanging of expertise with other countries.

In spite of all the efforts spent within concerned institutions, societies and bodies, we still need further support to fulfill the needs especially with regard to achieving integration and social inclusion for persons with disabilities. For that, Al-Amal Society for Development and Social Care has been issuing this informative quarterly for over five years. It mainly addresses disability issues, and is currently distributed electronically to concerned associations and bodies in many countries. We hope that this quarterly represents a glimmer of light amidst this tunnel of darkness we are passing through.

How was Braille language invented?

Braille was invented by a nineteenth century man named Louis Braille, who was completely blind. Braille's story starts when he was three years old. He was playing in his father's shop in Coupvray, France, and somehow managed to injure his eye. Though he was offered the best medical attention available at the time, it wasn't enough—an infection soon developed and spread to his other eye nerve, rendering him blind in both eyes. While a tragedy for him, had this accident not happened, we wouldn't have Braille today. There was a system of reading in place for the blind at the time, which consisted of tracing a finger along raised letters. However, this system meant that reading was painfully slow and it was difficult to discerning by touch the relatively complex letters of the alphabet. As a result, many people struggled to master the embossed letter system. In 1821, Braille's teacher, Dr. Alexandre Francois-Rene Pignier, invited a man named Charles Barbier to speak to a classroom of young blind students at the National Institute for Blind Youth in Paris. Barbier had developed a "night writing" system for the military using raised dots after Napoleon requested a system of communication that soldiers could use even in darkness without making any sound in the process.

Barbier's system was too complex for the military and was rejected. However, it was thought that it might be useful for the blind, which led Dr. Pignier to invite Barbier to come demonstrate it. As it stood, the Barbier invention wasn't quite up to functioning as a system of



touch-based reading and writing, being overly complex (using a 6x6 dot matrix to represent letters and certain phonemes). Further, this large dot matrix made it so unless you had very large fingertips, you couldn't feel all the dots in a single matrix without moving your finger. Still, Braille was inspired and, as a young teenager, he began experimenting. In 1825, Braille was just barely sixteen, but he thought he had hit upon something that was functional and superior to the existing embossed letter system. His original code consisted of six dots arranged in two parallel rows, each set of rows representing a letter. This configuration was simpler than Barbier's system, but still versatile enough to allow for up to 64 variations, enough for all the letters of the alphabet and punctuation. It was also easily adapted to languages other than French. Nonetheless, Braille himself became a teacher at the Institute and taught his code to the students who passed through, spreading the knowledge.

In 1834, he was invited to demonstrate the uses of Braille at the Exposition of Industry, which was being held in Paris that year, further spurring its popularity. Ever since, Braille has been used by the visually impaired around the world, and also for printing their books and publications.

Palestinian girl wins million dollar prize for developing a "smart feet"

Yara Najdi, a young student from Jerusalem, spends most of her time inside the laboratories of a prestigious university in the United States to develop "smart structure" that helps persons with physical disabilities to walk. In an interview with Jerusalem.com, Yara said that her significant efforts culminated in inventing an "external artificial structure" which is a sort of "robot". This structure enables persons who suffer from hemiplegia to walk without a need for a wheelchair. She explained that this invention has been achieved in cooperation between university of Berkeley, UC in the United States and SuitX company with the participation of 12 researchers.

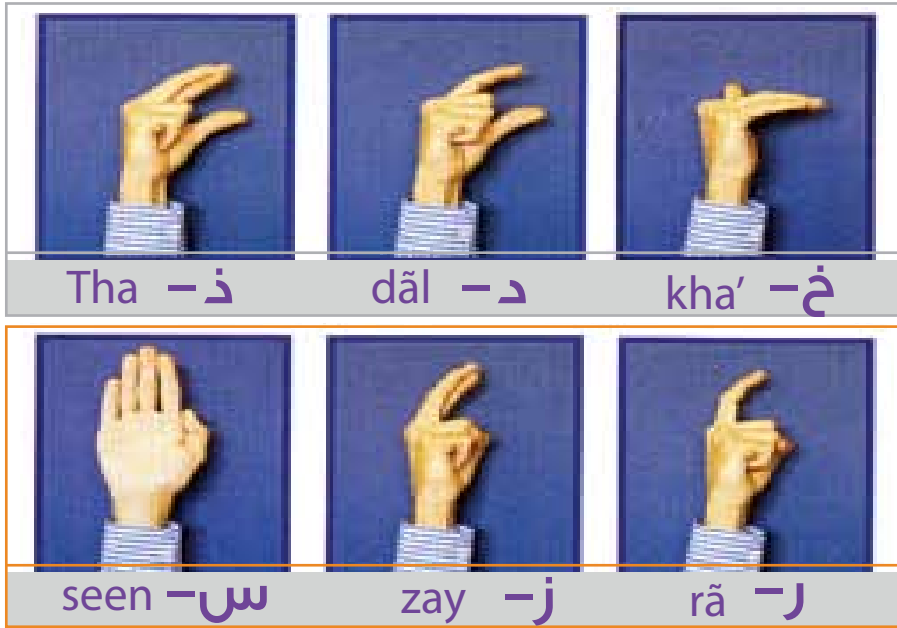
Engineer Najdi along with her team presented their candidacy for a UAE-based prize granted for projects that support humanity. They then won the First international prize, worth 1 million dollars-(The UAE AI & Robotics Award for Good) to support the project of producing the " smart structure" designed for children with cerebral palsy, outperforming projects from different countries of the world.

Najdi said that she is devoted to design robots to help children who lack capacity to control the lower part of their bodies to walk without crutches or wheelchairs which can cause them health problems in the future. Her project is attained through the use of innovative technology to install artificial limbs over the natural ones so that patients will control their motion through a tiny computer connected to their waists. Yara added that The tragedies of wars, fallen victims among the youth, the elderly and children who lost the ability to walk, including those afflicted by the recent war on Gaza as well as the support of her parents prompted her to participate in the project to alleviate the suffering of those victims.

Yara, who recently graduated, indicated that she will work on transferring this technology to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians in particular, explaining that her company will provide this device at very affordable prices for the poor of the world as a part of serving humanity. It's worth mentioning that Yara Najdi graduated from the school of nuns Rosier in Jerusalem, and joined the engineering department at the reputable University of UC Berkeley in the United States, She specialized in mechanical engineering and robotics. Najdi concluded saying: "Palestinians are living a daily life full of challenges and obstacles due to the occupation, but they work hard to turn these challenges into humanitarian inventions and achievements that serve mankind," adding that "the will and determination of young Palestinians should not stop upon the completion of their desired goals."



Entrance to Sign language



No Comment



Contact Us:

info@alamal-dsc.org

[Facebook.com/alamal.dsc](https://www.facebook.com/alamal.dsc)

www.alamal-dsc.org

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Al Amal For Development & Social Care

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Al-Amal's 1st Charity Iftar

إفطار الأمل
2016

Al-Amal Society for Development and Social Care held its first annual Iftar banquet under the title of "There is hope". The Iftar was remarkably attended by the representative of his Excellency Sheikh Saad Al-Hariri MP Dr. Ammar Houry, his Excellency Fouad Siniora represented by MP Dr. Ammar Houry, His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Lebanon Sheikh Abdul Latif Durian represented by his eminence sheikh Mohammad Al-Khanji, Justice Sheikh Ahmad Al-Kurdi, director general of the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs Professor Randa Bu Hamdan, the and representatives of political forces, religious bodies, mayors, charities, and economic forces and the media. The Iftar was held at the emerald hall, Ramada Hotel in Beirut on Wednesday, 22 June 2016.



بلسمة

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وعلاج فيزيائي



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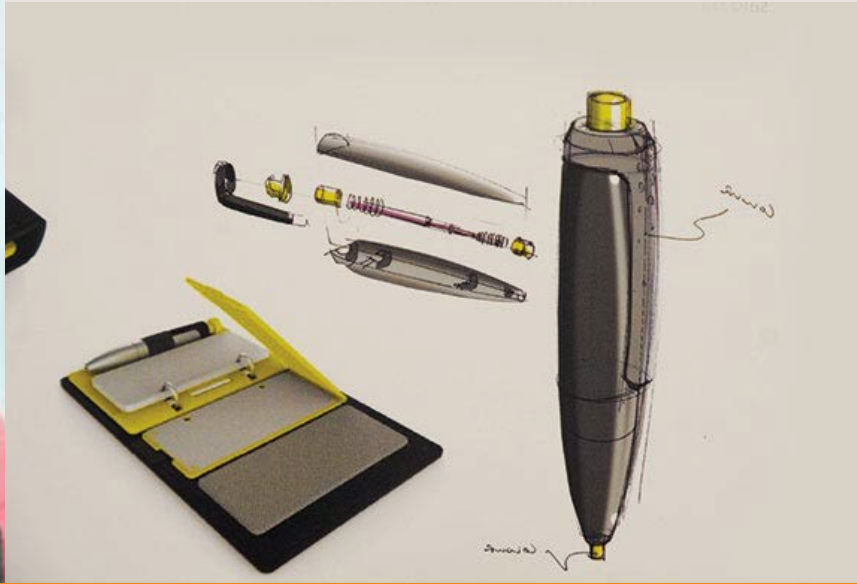
صيدا - الهلالية - خلف صيدلية عسيان
بريد الكتروني: info@balsamcenter.com

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تلفاكس: 07 72 76 23



A Kuwaiti girl invents an electronic pen for persons with visual disabilities



This novel invention is added to the achievements of Arab and particularly Gulf girls for the benefit of humanity. A Kuwaiti girl invented a new and unique device, mainly a pen that writes Braille characters that the visually impaired read and write. Sheikah Al Magid, a Kuwaiti youth, worked hard to devise this pen to help one of her visually impaired relatives throughout his educational path. The first sample of this innovative pen was manufactured in the Netherlands, and was tested on a number of visually impaired people at a center there. The pen was also recommended to use at all schools and centers of the visually impaired.

Because this pen is the first of its kind, it was largely applauded by a group of interested experts. Although the pen is still in the experimental stage, its manufacturers decided to develop a work plan to make it known, and push for it to be used at all centers and schools of the visually impaired in the State of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti inventor said that she decided to design this pen after she witnessed the suffering of one of her relatives who was visually impaired. "He even hated studying, as with the traditional Braille pen, the road of education was quite thorny and complicated," she added.

Al-Majid clarified that she has worked to add new innovative touches and specifications on the traditional pen so that to use anywhere, and to make sure there will be no difference between any visually impaired student and their sighted counterparts.

She also added that the pen's size is suitable for all ages, and easy-to-use. The pen works once you touch it with your thumb, and will be ready to write in Braille which is read and written by the visually impaired. Moreover, Al-Majid said she won a patent from the Office of Patents of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in 2018. She also mentioned that the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity adopted the idea, and turned it into an electronic diary of Easy use.