2013/14
ANNUAL REPORT
What do you do when you feel like you are without hope, in a situation that looks hopeless?

As the Syrian war enters its fourth year, it is hard to find a reason for hope. Violence is escalating. The numbers of people affected are staggering. Looking at the conflict from the outside, it is impossible to comprehend the millions of lives that have been devastated by the conflict.

But what if we consider just one life?

Think about a young girl—a Syrian fourth-grader who is now an out-of-school refugee in Jordan. She used to play in a park near her school with her classmates. Now, she is surrounded by a plot of desert speckled by tents and caravans. No school, no park, no buddies.

Hopeless. What does she do?

Her survival depends on a strong friend—someone who understands her, someone who relates to her experience, someone who can help restore her hope.

Left with nothing to stand on, she needs someone to lean on. She needs a champion.

The story of this one young girl represents the reality for millions of young Syrians. As their hope fades, we are faced with the growing realization that something must be done. Something can be done.

Throughout urban areas of Jordan in 2013, more than 800 children found a champion in the safety of our alternative education classes. In Za’atari refugee camp alone, 100 Syrian mentors empowered a generation of more than 500 refugees to have choices other than alienation and violence. These children now have a reason to hope.
More than 500 volunteers inside Syria committed to rebuilding their communities in 2013. They assisted 34,000 Syrians in obtaining shelter and water, providing trauma support and securing education. In the rubble of destroyed cities, they are discovering a starting point for the future—hope for every person.

Hopeless? Not at all!

When it feels overwhelming to think about the million, consider the one. What if he were your grandson? What if she were your daughter?

If my daughter were that one, I would move heaven and earth to help her. Hope is possible because people in the Middle East will do the same for their children, for their neighbors, and for their community.

Hope is possible because you share with us in this commitment to the one. We move forward because you moved forward with us to provide resources to the millions of young Syrians who need a reason to hope.

Hope is the light when all other lights go out. 2013 was a year of living hopefully. Thank you for being a vital partner with us. Please join us in 2014!

Dr. Curt Rhodes,
Founder & International Director
April 2014

Our work in the Middle East continues. At the same time, we meet youth everyday in the United States that also need a reason to hope.

Our One2One initiative for school-based mentoring in a low-income community in Minneapolis, Minnesota doubled its impact in 2013. Each week, individual mentors support 82 students as they make choices that set them up for success. Every hour spent with a champion rekindles hope in these young people.
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