



**Fall 2013: Founded in 1925, the Spafford Children's Center (SCC) has continuously adapted its services to meet the needs of East Jerusalem and West Bank families. Despite the enduring turbulence in the surrounding area, the SCC is recognized as a center of excellence. Families know the Spafford Children's Center to be both a refuge and a place of hope; their trust in this storied place is passed through generations.**

Some 40 years ago, a very thin woman climbed the hill to the medical clinic of the Spafford Children's Center. Bringing four of her eight children with her, Ghadir had tears in her eyes as she sought help for her severely developmentally delayed children. The disabled children had difficulty walking and had to be carried to the Center, which became more and more challenging as they got older. Ghadir brought the children to the SCC clinic for treatment of childhood ailments. Realizing the family had virtually no resources, the SCC provided services without charge. Staff also supplied the family with food, clothing and household necessities to supplement what the father was able to provide through his meager earnings. SCC social workers visited the family's dilapidated home to offer services and support.



The next generation, Ghadir's eldest daughter and one of her sons, brought their children to the Spafford Children's Center for services. However, once the Separation Wall was constructed, it became

very difficult for them to reach SCC, despite its close proximity, as they lived on the other side of the wall in the West Bank.



As Ghadir grew older, she came alone to SCC, where the staff provided food and clothes, meeting the tangible needs of her family. Sometimes Ghadir just wanted to sit in the quiet space of SCC, conversing with staff. For Ghadir, whose original relationship with the Spafford Children's Center focused on her children, SCC had become a place where she felt accepted and safe and obtained much needed emotional comfort. Over

the past year, SCC staff noticed that Ghadir did not come as often. Recently, her younger daughter, who still cares for the disabled siblings, told the SCC staff that her brother died of cancer leaving five small children. Ghadir has now reappeared at the Center, seeking services for her grandchildren.

Ghadir's eldest daughter now has two grandsons enrolled at the Spafford Children's Center. These boys, the fourth generation served by SCC, participate in special education and other therapeutic activities. Their parents cannot afford to pay the modest fee that covers only a quarter of the actual cost of the services.

Four generations of Ghadir's family have made their way to the Spafford Children's Center and found an oasis of learning, healing, and generosity—a refuge which has sustained this struggling family for decades.



Tragically, Ghadir's story is not unique. For more than 85 years, the Spafford Children's Center has served many similar families. Your donations will immediately translate into direct services to families much like Ghadir's. A donation of \$25 will pay for a child's medical examination and treatment. A donation of \$45 will sponsor a child in art, music, or drama class. A donation of \$150 will ensure a full course of immunizations during the first two years of a baby's life. Your generosity will bring hope and healing to families like Ghadir's.

***From The Very Rev. David duPlantier, Chair, AFSCCF***

*It is with great sadness that I share with you the death of AFSCCF board member The Rev. Dr. David L. Johnson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Rev. Johnson devoted much of his pastoral career to international service through Lutheran World Federation spending over 10 years in Jerusalem where he came to know the work of the Spafford Children's Center and served on the SCC local Executive Board. In retirement, Rev. Johnson was active in the Leadership Council of Churches for Middle East Peace, an ecumenical advocacy agency in Washington, D.C. and frequently addressed audiences on Middle East concerns and interests. His commitment to justice and peace will be missed, as will his myriad contributions to the AFSCCF and SCC. Donations in honor of Rev. Johnson may be made to AFSCCF.*

Please make a tax-deductible donation on our website: [www.spaffordcenter.org](http://www.spaffordcenter.org) or by sending a check to:

**American Friends of the Spafford Children's Center Fund**

c/o The Very Rev. David duPlantier  
2037 South Carrollton Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

You can also follow the activities of the Spafford Children's Center on facebook. With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David duPlantier".

The Very Rev. David duPlantier, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Whiting Blome".

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer