



## SCC Builds Strong, Resilient Families to Support Vulnerable Children

The Spafford Children's Center offers services focused on the whole family based on the recognition that healthy and knowledgeable parents are critical to the well-being and development of children. Recently a letter of appreciation arrived at SCC from a mother who received services and support for herself and her children through the Spafford Children's Center. Translated from the original Arabic, she shares her feelings and journey of personal growth.

Busaina, one of the mothers who has attended classes at the Spafford Children's Center, shares how experiences at SCC changed her life which in turn improved the lives of her husband and children. *"I was blessed with three sons who filled my life with love and joy. I supported my husband to further his studies which enabled him to become the general manager of a car repair shop."*

*"In 2007, I started taking classes at the Spafford Children's Center, as the children were older and attending school. I took different courses on women's issues, self-expression, stress relief, alternatives to violence, nurturing children, first aid, psychodrama, and much more."* In addition to the courses, Busaina also participated in cultural activities and field trips for women sponsored by the SCC.



*"Once I started working on self-development and developing my personal skills, my feelings and thoughts started to change. My way of life changed: I started feeling more confident in myself and I was able to express myself better."* Busaina felt a growing hope that she, as a woman and mother, could play a larger role in her community.

*"My relationship with my family changed as well. I was better able to run my household and interact with my sons in a calm manner, searching for solutions that kept everyone happy."* Busaina's sons also took part in SCC psychodrama classes and play therapy with her, which enabled her to know more about what was going on in their lives. To help her children gain competence in school she enrolled them in the small tutoring classes offered by SCC. *"Academic classes in Arabic and English language and mathematics have greatly contributed to my sons' feelings of self-esteem and responsibility."* They improved their school performance and gained a love of learning through SCC's individualized curriculum and attention.



*“I have grown to love my world and to love my life in my community. All my thanks and gratitude goes to the Spafford Center for helping me over many years to develop myself.”*

Busaina’s story illustrates how the services provided at the Spafford Children’s Center support improved family life and encourage participation in building strong, resilient local communities. While Busaina paid fees

to contribute to the cost of the courses, many SCC families cannot afford to make these payments. Your generous donation to the Spafford Children’s Center has a ripple effect, extending beyond the mothers and children served, into the larger communities where they live.

### **A Message from AFSCC’s New Chairperson**

It was 1873 when Horatio Spafford, confronted with the loss of his children in a shipwreck, penned that hallmark hymn, with its refrain, “It is well with my soul.” Spafford faced the most dire of human experiences, and yet he found hope and sought out a more promising future, in Jerusalem. That pattern of hope amidst despair repeats itself each day at the Spafford Children’s Center as families, faced with circumstances most of us in the United States will never know firsthand, find their hope. Through its tailored educational programs and support to caregivers, SCC affirms for children and their families that today’s struggles need not be tomorrow’s.

I am an Episcopal priest now, but several years ago I was a diplomat assigned to the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. I came to Jerusalem believing in a peace forged between governments. I still hope for that, but I am more convinced that peace will come through the lifting up of individual children and families, that their hope for the future might bring about meaningful change.



Your financial support is critical to the well-being of the children SCC serves. On behalf of the AFSCC Board of Directors, thank you.

Please contribute through our **Generosity page** at [bit.ly/sccgenerosity](http://bit.ly/sccgenerosity) OR use **PayPal** to make a tax-deductible donation at [www.spaffordcenter.org](http://www.spaffordcenter.org) AND sign up for Amazon Smile at [bit.ly/sccsmile](http://bit.ly/sccsmile) and designate AFSCCF as your charity—0.5% of all future purchases will be donated to AFSCCF!

**We welcome your check mailed to:**  
**American Friends of the Spafford Children’s Center Fund**  
**c/o The Very Rev. David duPlantier, Vice Chairman**  
2037 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

With gratitude,

The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, Chair

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer