



Salam Medical Center

Fall Newsletter 2017

At Salam Medical Center, inter-religious peace is actively sought, health is restored and personal relationships are developed.

Fall News

Projects in Progress

We are happy to share with you some of our recent accomplishments:

1. **New Extension (2 floors):** The first plan of expansion was to add only one floor, but with your generous support we were able to extend our expansion plan to add two floors instead of only one.. We have been able to make significant progress on our new extension (for operations and maternal care). The budget required to finish this project is US\$241,645. So far, we have received US\$194,145. **The remaining US\$47,500 is already committed and will be received in time.**
2. **Prenatal Care Project:** We are now working on a one-year project to provide free prenatal care for 50 selected women who otherwise could not afford care. Prenatal care is becoming more expensive, and yet it is an essential service, in order to help reduce infant and maternal mortality. Through this project, we aim to provide not only medical care to help detect possible problems earlier, but also prenatal and nutrition education, which will result in healthier mothers as well as healthier babies. *The funds for this project have been raised for 1 year. We hope to continue to expand our prenatal care department in the future.*



Success Stories

The following stories are from women who are receiving prenatal care from SMC. They have been translated and edited for clarity. They demonstrate, in a clear and concrete way, the significant impact that SMC has on the lives of the families in the community that it serves. These stories are just 3 small examples from the over 30,000 patients that SMC works with each year, each of whom has their own impact story that they could also share.

Fatma Ahmad (12 weeks into 2nd pregnancy)

In my first pregnancy, I was not able to visit a doctor for prenatal care or do ultrasound until 2 weeks before delivery. One of the primary obstacles to receiving care was that I was unable to afford the doctor's appointments. I had a lot of problems with my pregnancy - the biggest problem was the confusion about my actual due date. I can't believe that I will be able to receive full antenatal care for free this time at SMC!

Mariam Lotfy (8 weeks into first pregnancy)

I had heard about the superb quality of medical care at SMC from my cousin. However, I still didn't believe that I would be able to get full antenatal care here, including all the ultrasound scans and the lab tests. Some of the ultrasound scans, like the 4D ultrasound, is something I thought I would never be able to afford Cairo, due to the high cost. Now with SMC, I feel really confident [about the care that I am receiving].

Nashwa Abd Raboh: (28 weeks into 2nd pregnancy)

I don't trust any where else [except SMC], especially because, during my previous pregnancy, Dr. Freddy diagnosed a congenital problem on my baby's kidney, and I was able to get it treated after delivery . Prenatal care at SMC is a great gift from God.

Current Plans & Needs

SMC's most critical need at this point is **funds for staff salaries**, a need which has developed as a result of the current economic situation, the recent currency adjustments and SMC's recent expansion. As a result of economic factors, the cost of living has, essentially doubled, resulting in a net loss in purchasing power for our staff, since salaries have not yet risen proportionally.



*Therefore, our staff are working even harder than usual to accommodate increased patient numbers, while struggling to earn enough to feed their families. Staff bonuses and raises for current staff are critically important, in conjunction with the hiring of new staff, to ensure continued high quality care for everyone, including both patients and staff. **With the funds below, we are aiming first to ensure that staff do not take a net loss in their salaries (as a result of currency valuations and/or increased work load). If possible, at some point, we will provide bonuses as well, to thank our staff for their hard work and dedication through very challenging economic times.***

COSTS:

Annual raises for current staff, effective immediately (as soon as funds are raised): US\$193,000 (Approx annual cost for salary raise of staff in total, to restore salaries to their equivalent value before the currency changes.)

Bonuses: US\$40,000 (one-time payment to replace income lost as a result of recent currency changes.)

Minimum of 8 new positions to be filled: Approx US\$ 15,000 annually.

- New positions waiting to be filled (once funding is in place) include an accountant, admin assistant, IT staff, full time nursing head, a part-time doctor for the outpatient clinic and others.

TOTAL: \$250,000

If you would like to help support our staff in their incredible dedication to peacebuilding and health, please join us by becoming a monthly or one-time donor. Already a donor? Even an increase of a few dollars per month will help SMC ensure that staff are paid a fair wage. Follow the link below to contribute - donation receipts available for Canadian and US donors.

Fall Announcements

HEALTH OUTREACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST (HOME) honors Dr Freddy Elbaiady with an Award of Recognition

Dr. Freddy received the award in recognition of his significant efforts over the last 20 years in both health care services in the Middle East, as well as for his significant contributions towards promoting a culture of peace, and building bridges of understanding and tolerance through the volunteer medical services he offers.



Dr. Freddy ElBaiady - Upcoming US Travel Dates (Nov-Dec 2017)

Freddy ElBaiady will be participating in a medical conference in Chicago from Nov. 25th-Dec. 1st, 2017. Following that, he will be in the following locations:

Dec 1-8 Chicago

Dec 8-12 Texas

Dec 13-19 California

If you would like to connect with him during any of these stops, we would love to hear from you! Also, please check future newsletters and the [SMC Facebook page](#) for further details regarding this trip.

How to Support SMC

None of the work that we have done over the last 20 years would have been possible without the efforts of our many supporters, who have provided support in a wide variety of ways, including visits, financial support and countless other ways. As we look to the future, we continue to count on you, as our supporting constituency, to continue on this journey with us.

SMC always welcomes volunteers from different work backgrounds (medical, administrative, IT, education, etc), to join our current team and share our vision in serving the community.

Please click the buttons below to make a direct, online donation. Any amount - large or small, one time or recurring - is greatly appreciated. Donation receipts are available for both Canadian and US donations.



**** Please note that we can issue tax receipts for Canadian and US donors.**

You can always support SMC by sharing our newsletter with your friends, and encourage them to subscribe to our mailing list to stay updated. For regular updates on SMC's work, you are also invited to follow our new [English Facebook page](#).

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