



Newsletter July to September 2013

Dear Friends

Greetings from EpiscoCare

The months of July to September were very busy for all of Egypt and security concerns made our work difficult. Thankfully the curfew is almost over and our work has now been able to return to normal. The future of Egypt is yet again uncertain and we ask you to pray with us and help us to best serve our communities in this time of uncertainty.

July 2013

Iftar and EAHRD Opening



On the 17th of July Anglican Diocese of Egypt held an Iftar for continuing building bridges for interfaith dialouge in the same time EpiscoCare along with EAHRD held the opening ceremony for our project entitled Empowering Women Economically. The Iftar brought together Bishop Mouneer, the current Grand Mufti, Shawky Allam, the former Grand Mufti, Dr. Ali Gomaa, the Minister of Industry, Mouneer Fakhry Abd el Nour, delegates from the Swiss and British embassies and the spokesman for Al

Azhar, Mahmoud Azzab.

The event was also attended by Imams and Priests from the 'Together for a New Egypt' [Imam-Priest Exchange](#) initiative, young Muslims and Christians from the [Arkan Culture Centre](#) in Alexandria, NGOs' representatives and governemental representatives. During the event, contracts for 5 micro-loans were signed with people served by our centres. The first phase of the partnership with EAHRD will train 150 women on the skills that they need in order to start a successful small business.



All of those who came have one common goal of improving Egypt's future.

August 2013

New Vocational Trainings

EpiscoCare is interested in creating new vocational training courses based on studies on market needs to offer in our Community Development Centres. In August we held for the first time a vocational training in El Ras El Soda on making household cleaning products at home. This training was attended by 33 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries also hope to be able to produce soap for their homes to help with rising costs. This training was a success and our hope is to run this training in other centres in the future.



Success Story

I'm Liedora, I am 29 and I am the mother of a son who is in first primary. When my son was in the nursery at the El Ras El Soda Community Development Centre, I was invited to attend a vocational training on soap making. I participated the training and was so happy to learn a new skill. I decided to start a business selling the soaps that I made. It's going very well so far, as I was taught to make a good quality product and I sell them at a reasonable price to my clients.

Health Partnerships with Governmental Organizations

EpiscoCare believes that working with stockholders is the best way to develop our targeted communities, thus in cooperation with the National Council for Population (NCP), Episcocare held several seminars funded by NCP. These seminars focused on FGM and were attended by Muslims and Christian religious leaders, local leaders, key persons from governmental sectors, as well as doctors to discuss this issue of FGM from all the sides. The seminars had a very good effect on the community and the discussions were very useful for the beneficiaries.





Governmental Literacy Exam

In cooperation with governmental Adult Education Organization, the EpiscoCare education program team held a final exam on Aug. 25. This exam was for the literacy classes’ beneficiaries to get their certificate which is the equivalent of completing middle school. This exam was attended by 17 participants.

Graduation party for nursery children

EpiscoCare celebrated with the children who graduated from our nurseries and joined primary school. All the parents attended the celebration and were proud of what their children had learned. EpiscoCare wishes them all the best and will continue to provide support for many of them in primary school through our tutoring classes or My Dear Daughter program.



September 2013

EpiscoCare Trip to the Beach

Each year EpiscoCare takes the staff of all of our centres for a day at the beach during the summer. The goal of this outing is to create a family atmosphere among the staff and build their self esteem. For many of them this is the first time that they have visited a beach. This year there were 85 staff members, volunteers and their families who attended. We provided lunch and drinks as thanks for all of their work through the year. This trip also offers an opportunity for the staff from the centres to spend time getting to know each other, which will lead to great communication between the centres and allow staff members to exchange their knowledge and experiences.



Child Rights Campaign



In September the Community Organization and Motherhood and Childhood programs worked together at Ain Shams Community Development Centre held a four day campaign on child rights. This campaign was attended by 30 mothers of the children in the nursery. The first day they held a seminar on child rights. They discussed the right of a child to have a good name and to live in a clean and safe environment. On the second day they explained the theory behind the Montessori Program that is used in the nursery. Then for the last two days the mothers were taught activities that they could do in their home to help to continue their child's education. These activities will help to improve the children's motor and development skills. At

the end of the course they provided the 38 children from the nursery with a new outfit and the mothers with a small gift and a book on child rights.

Media skills training with Media House

In partnership with Media House and Tear Fund EpiscoCare held trainings to build the capacity of young people in Suez, Zamalik and El Ras El Soda. This project is focused on teaching young people the skills necessary to video events that happen in their communities and create news clips which they can upload onto Facebook and other social media sites. The young people received lessons on shooting video, creating montages and directing. As a part of the training each of the participants from five centres involved are working on a 5 minute video clip which will a part of a contest. In December Media House will judge the projects and pick a 1st and 2nd place winner in each centre who will win a prize.





Building staff capacity

Episcocare believes that building the staff capacity is essential to improving the level of performance. Five members of its staff doing 5 capacity building trainings focusing on communication, quality control, leadership, strategic planning, improving performance, project management, writing reports, Microsoft Office, financial issues, communication and leading change, management systems and fundraising in cooperation with the Professional Development Foundation. Another 5 staff members will start next month and 5 others will start the courses in January 2014.

Community Organization Program Partnership

The Community Organization Program cooperated with General Administration of Cultural Palaces. This administration is a part of the Ministry of Culture which focuses on building the capacity of young people in soft and vocational skills according to the needs of the market. In this partnership EpiscoCare conducted a great public meeting in El Salam Community Development Centre attended by 60 participants. The meeting focused on “Egyptian identity and political concepts”.

Also the General Administration of Cultural Palaces will be conducting a vocational training on leather products for our beneficiaries.



Prayer Requests

Pray for Egypt as we are yet again in a time of transition, that God's will, would be done in our beloved country.

Pray for the directors of each of our centres as they do exceptional work and work long hours.

Pray for the EpiscoCare centres around Egypt, that they would be able to continue to meet people in their needs.

Thank you

For more information about EpiscoCare and our work please contact:

Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim/Executive Director, EpiscoCare

episcocare@gmail.com

www.episcocare.org

tel. +20 (2) 2738 0821/3.