Alleviating the Refugee Crisis in Lebanon through Medical Clinics in Mount Lebanon
Randolph-Macon College
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Project Location: Lebanon
- Name of town: Kfarselwan
Project Dates: August 5 – August 10, 2018

Introduction
I plan on completing a 5-day program in which free pediatric medical and pediatric dental stations will be set up at a convention center in my home country of Lebanon. It will be specifically geared towards Syrian refugee children. The $10,000 will cover all the costs as well as the medicine and vitamins provided to the families. In my 2017 Davis Project in Aley and Kfarselwan, I spent a great deal of time working through logistics struggles. In this 2018 summer project, I would be starting out with those important logistical connections already having been made. The doctors will be board-certified medical doctors that will help provide the equipment to set up the convention center and they will be volunteering! I think this promotes peace because it raises awareness to the harsh situations of the Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. It will promote the coexistence between the Lebanon people (who are already aiding these refugees) and the Syrian refugees, rather than classifying them as outcasts or homeless people that have no say in anything. It breaks my heart seeing the situations that they live in. Most of these kids haven’t even used a toothbrush and don’t know what it looks like. If I can at least reach out and educate them on the simple hygienic things, then I feel like I would be making a difference—even if it’s just partly contributing to the alleviation of the refugee crisis.

Background and Project Description
As of October 2016, approximately 1 in 4 people, in the country of Lebanon, is a Syrian refugee, and as of December 2017, there were 997,552 registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon — almost more than actual Lebanese citizens in the country. Many of these Syrians are on the run and have been forced to leave their country to protect themselves and their family members. Refugees all over the world are classified as “refugees”—not just normal people. In many countries, they are unwanted and treated improperly. The goal of this summer 2018 project is to bring awareness to the situation of the Syrian refugee children in the area of Mount Lebanon, both educationally and medically. Syrian refugee children are not provided with opportunities for health treatments and are not educated enough about the basic hygienic skills, such as brushing teeth. In bringing pro-bono medical consultations, medications, vitamins, and educating the children, it is my hope that I will help raise awareness for the harsh situations that these children are living in, in order to help the Syrian refugees coexist with the people of Lebanon: one step towards sustainable peace. Children are the future of the world that we live in. If we show these children that they are not alone and we educate them on personal hygiene and health-awareness, they will grow up and pass on what they have learned. One little action can cause a chain reaction.

To understand this project more clearly, it is important to provide background information on the reason behind my passion for helping the Syrian refugees. In the summer of 2014, I was driving to my house in Aley, Lebanon, from a town nearby. At the corner of the intersection, right before my house, I encountered a little Syrian girl who was selling gum on the street. I parked and opened
my window. The green-eyed little girl asked me to buy gum so that she could help pay for her little sister’s medicine. At that very moment, with tears in my eyes, I realized that I wanted do everything possible to make sure little girls are not selling products to get medical treatment. I was able to successfully provide aid through the Davis Project for Peace grant in the summer of 2017. I would like to expand these efforts and provide help to more refugees in the summer of 2018.

**Project location: Kfarselwan, Lebanon**
My goal this summer is to complete the project predominately in Kfarselwan, in the area of Mount Lebanon, because of the Syrian refugee population there. In my 2017 Davis Project for Peace, the one clinic day in Kfarselwan (the other four being held in Aley) proved to be the most successful, and therefore has the most potential for expansion of sustainable efforts to help alleviate the refugee crisis. Kfarselwan, like Aley, is one of the safest places in Lebanon and as in most areas, it is underprivileged. There are many refugees that are living in Kfarselwan because it is classified as being safe. There will be no need for translators because I speak Arabic fluently and all the volunteers, doctors and personnel speak both Arabic and English.

**Implementation**
In the summer of 2018, over a period of 5 days, 2 mobile clinics will be set up at the free clinic center in Kfarselwan, Lebanon, to provide free medical consultations to Syrian refugee children. On site, there will be 2 board certified pediatricians providing the consultations. Two stations for in-take triage (vital signs and background medical information), for each patient, will be set up at the entrance of the clinic. The vital signs stations will be run by rescue squad volunteers who have Emergency Medical Technician certifications. There will be a pharmacy station in which the patients, if prescribed a medication, can pick up what they were prescribed. Each parent will be given a bag with necessary vitamins for the children to take. If a patient is determined to need blood work, they will be given a slip of paper to take to a medical laboratory in the area and will be provided with discounted blood work exams.

While patients are waiting, there will be a station where the children will be taught the importance of basic hygiene (washing hands, etc.) and dental hygiene. Once the children have finished the fun-filled education station, they will be given a bag with a toothbrush and a small toothpaste container. A group of 6 scout members will be running this station. I will prepare the posters and “teaching” material.

**Timeline**
**Before the trip:** In the months prior to the trip (April through July), I will be working closely with the doctors and pharmacists to make sure that everything is set in place and that donation requests are sent out to pharmacies. We will be coming up with a detailed list about what medications and products to purchase with the grant money. Since I am originally from Lebanon, I will be there for the entire summer—one month before the project date(s). This will allow me to prepare for the project. I will be meeting with the scouts, the doctors, and volunteers once a week prior to the project start date to make sure that everything is organized.

**August 5-10:** The actual implementation of the project will begin August 5 and end on August 10. Four weeks prior to the start date, I will hold a meeting one night every week to make sure that everything is set in place and ready for the project.