LIFELONG READING

Stories of lifelong reading from WLR ambassadors in Jordan

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IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START READING WITH US!
EMBRACING THE DIFFERENCES

Story of Mariam - Jarash

I am Mariam from Jarash. I have been reading aloud for a while now, and to be honest it is one of the things that I am proud to be doing, because I believe from personal experience that reading aloud can improve and empower children's development and knowledge.

I have a son who is challenged with hearing difficulties. He sometimes feels that he is different from the children around him and feels shy because of that. I used the skill that I have recently learned (reading aloud) to help him feel more confident. I chose a story from the kit that We Love Reading initiative provided that talks about socializing and embracing differences, its name was “Me and My Friends”. This story increased his self-confidence, and he is no longer afraid of his hearing problem while interacting with people.

I will always read aloud to children, because it helps improve their personalities and set their imagination free.
SPREADING THE SMILES
THE HOPE OF BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE..  

Story of Faten - Amman

My sister and I are volunteering at a kindergarten in our neighborhood. One day, I found a flyer on the ground of the class. I read what was written and found that it was about a We Love Reading training. I liked the name of the training and thought this may be the training that my sister and I were looking for! Because one of our concerns in life was how to make children love reading.

My sister and I took the training, and those two days were the greatest days of my life! I finally found children books that are readable with a very nice text and beautiful illustrations.

Fifteen days after the training we opened a library in the Syrian children's club at the kindergarten. We read every Thursday. The kids were thrilled and excited about the Thursdays.

During summer vacation we could not read at the kindergarten, so we opened a library inside our building. We invited the children of the building and the children of the neighborhood. What was really amazing about these reading sessions is that it joined the Jordanian and Syrian kids in one activity together. They now think of their similarities instead of thinking of the differences!

Now I have been reading for more than a year and what kept me reading is the hope of building a better future with a conscious generation who loves to read.

I hope that one day I will meet the great person behind this initiative, Dr. Rana Dajani, and thank her for spreading the smiles and the love of reading to children.
Becoming a We Love Reading ambassador helped me to get more organized and committed to volunteering, and it made me believe that reading can have a great influence on the community around us. Children come to the reading session with huge smiles on their faces! I also noticed that they feel more comfortable with each other. These sessions made it easier for them to become friends!

To reward myself on these achievements, I celebrated the 11th reading session with the children. Nada, a 4-year-old girl, does not know how to read. She memorized one of the stories, “No One Loves Me,” and narrated it to her brothers and sisters. She also looks for stories online to listen to, memorize, and narrate to everyone she knows.

Now children go to the book galleries implemented inside their schools to buy new books. A marvelous step towards a lifelong reader!

A MARVELOUS STEP TOWARDS A LIFELONG READER!

Story of Monira- Zarqa

I have always been an active volunteer at Princess Salma center for Childhood. I heard about We Love Reading training and joined them right away! Because I felt this program must be implemented at the center where I am volunteering.
WE LOVE READING HAS NO AGE LIMITS
"YOUR ROAD TO SUCCESS BEGINS WITH RETIREMENT."

Story of Ahmad Alhwaimel - Al-Karak

I am a 64 year old man from Al-Kark. As you can conclude from my age, I am retired now. Since my retirement, I have always enjoyed learning new skills and joined many community-based organizations to invest my time into something valuable. One of these organizations was about to hold a We Love Reading training. When I heard about the training and what it is going to be about, I signed up. I loved the idea that I was going to learn a new skill: reading aloud for children. During the training, I was the most excited and committed participant. I always came before the time of the session and waited for them to start. And when the training finished I opened a library in my house right away. I trained some of my family members to read for children too. We are now a family of reading ambassadors.

I believe that I will become an example for those who want to change their societies for the better.

Story of Jameela Abumelhem - Jarash

I am Jameela Abumelhem from Jarash. I started reading at my home, but I didn't stop there. When the number of children attending my sessions kept growing, I asked one of the community based organisations (CBOs) nearby to open its doors for the reading sessions to be implemented using their library. They agreed and opened their doors for us. One of the local newspapers wrote an article about me, and the main idea that I wanted to deliver for every women was that “your road to success begins with retirement." Thank you We Love Reading for providing this precious experience.
I LOVED READING BUT DID NOT HAVE THE SKILL
Story of Khitam- Ma'an

I am a principle of a Quran center in Ma'an. I had the place and the children but did not have the skill of reading aloud! Now, I am reading to children at my center. I heard about We Love Reading training, and I was excited to participate, because I love reading aloud to both children and adults, and I love volunteering too. I was a former volunteer in the Kids Club at Prince Hussain Cultural Center and still an active participant in all of the cultural activities. I learned from the training not only the skill of reading aloud but also how to show emotions, fearlessness, and gestures while reading. I started my reading sessions with only 11 kids, and ended up with 55 kids. After the session they go to their houses and narrate what they heard to their parents, sisters and brothers. Sometimes I stop reading because of the work pressure, and parents call me asking why I have stopped reading! This kept me reading to children until this day.
I READ EVERYWHERE AND ANYWHERE! I DO NOT CARE, I READ STANDING, I READ ON THE MOON, ON EARTH, OR IN THE SEA! BECAUSE READING WILL TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU ALWAYS DREAMED TO BE AT. READ BECAUSE READING IS LIMITLESS!

- FADIA ENBEH FROM AMMAN
“At first, I did not understand the concept of a We Love Reading library, I thought it would be more of a physical one, but I had my first real understanding of the model when I went with a guest from the UKAID to attend a reading session. When we got there, the guest and I noticed that there were no kids in the streets, and when we entered the ambassador’s house, we found almost 35 children waiting for the story! The ambassador started by indicating how much she appreciates that she became a reading ambassador. She never had the chance to complete her education and become a teacher as she dreamed to be, so she found that We Love Reading has made her dream come true. We were sitting, waiting for her to start reading aloud but every minute, a new group of children would come in! They listened to the story, and then their turn came to read a story. To be honest, I was amazed to see that they were living the story not only reading it! I think our program promotes two main aspects; leadership in the sense of having a great impact on the society, and conflict resolution in the sense of joining children from different backgrounds in one place, where they will see the similarities instead of the differences between them. What makes our program special and different from any other humanitarian program I have ever worked on is that we build the ownership of the model. We do not offer the ambassadors any commissions or physical support. Instead sometimes some of them pay the transportation fees for the kids attending their sessions. My colleagues sometimes feel overwhelmed from the work, I always advise them to attend a training or a reading session, because I know it will completely rejuvenate their spirits. For me, of course an experience of 14-16 year working in humanitarian sectors will cause boredom but I completely renewed my energy when I got employed at Taghyeer Organization/ We Love Reading Initiative.”

- Yazan Al-hindi
project manager at we love reading
THEY SAY: “WHAT IS A DROP IN THE OCEAN?”
I SAY: “WHAT IS AN OCEAN BUT A MULTITUDE OF DROPS?”

- Dr. Rana Dajani
WE LOVE READING

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