

# TILMA gets her SMILE BACK

**ONE CHILD'S ENCOUNTER  
WITH WAR AND THE SCHOOL  
THAT GAVE HER HOPE**

TENT SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL





Children at Tilma's school draw pictures of the attacks they witnessed in their hometowns. While they draw, they tell their teachers about the events depicted in their drawings. The drawings are part of therapies used at her school to help traumatized children heal.



Tilma's school in Amman, Jordan, makes children happy. It is small and painted in blue, red, green, pink and yellow. Students get to make arts and crafts and sing. They play on a shaded playground that protects them from the hot Middle Eastern sun. Still, Tilma was not happy. She would not smile. She would not talk. She would not use the swings or the slide with other children at recess. Tilma's teacher worried about her. She wanted Tilma to love school. She wanted Tilma to be happy.

Her teacher and principal went to the tiny apartment where Tilma's family lived to find out how they could help. They learned that Tilma stopped talking and became sad because of things that happened to her family before she arrived at the new school.

When Tilma was very small, men in black masks came with guns and bombs. They attacked her small town in Iraq. Tilma's grandmother was killed

by a bomb. Her dad was kidnapped by the attackers. Tilma's family had to run to safety in the neighboring country, Jordan.

In Jordan, Tilma's family found a special school that was created to help children who had to run away from their homes to be safe.

Tilma's teacher and principal knew how to help. They sat with Tilma while she drew the terrible events she had locked up tight in her hurting heart. They found chances for her to let out her grief and fear through physical activity, stories, music, and art. They surrounded her with love and safety.

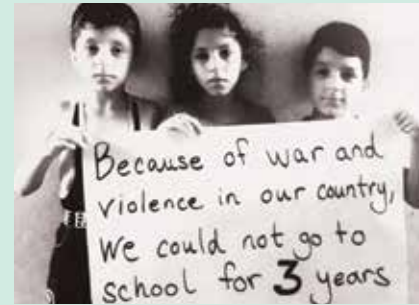
Gradually, Tilma began to smile. She began to talk. She began to learn in school because the clouds of grief weren't filling up her mind. She found joy in drawing. She laughed again.

Tilma and her family do not know when they can go back home to Iraq, but they are safe, and Tilma is happy.

For now, that is enough.

## GROWING UP IN DISPLACEMENT

Millions of children around the world cannot go to school in their hometowns because they are displaced. **Displacement** occurs when families have to run away from home because of war, violence or natural disasters. They find shelter in apartments or in massive tent cities.



Displaced children often miss three or more years of school because there aren't enough schools for them in their temporary homes. In some cases, their host countries have laws that prevent them from attending school.



Many international organizations like Tent Schools International work to help children around the world. The organizations work to create schools for children in the new places where they live. At Tent Schools, we help children from Iraq and Syria who can't go back home. We help them in their temporary homes in Jordan and Lebanon.



Some of the schools look like any other school with normal classrooms like this classroom at Tilma's school.



Other schools are located in large tent cities where nearly one million displaced Syrian children live with their families.

Schools for Syrian children often meet in shipping containers like this. The shipping containers are the same size as the trailers on the back of big semi-trucks we see going down roads here in the United States.



The roots of philanthropy  
begin to grow in childhood.

CONTACT US FOR WAYS YOUR STUDENTS CAN HELP  
DISPLACED CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL.

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

I John 3:18



TENT SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL™  
demonstrates the love of Jesus Christ  
for displaced children by making  
education accessible, exchanging chaos  
and loss for peace and opportunity.

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