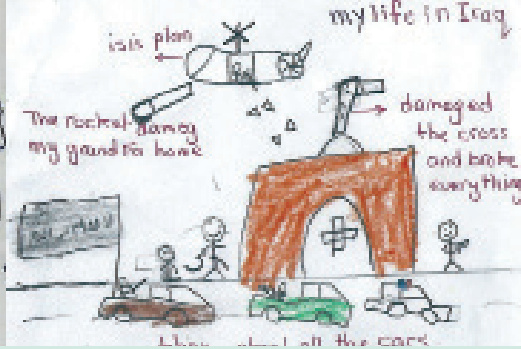


TILMA GETS HER SMILE BACK

One child's encounter with war,
and the school that gave her hope





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 school to help children heal from the trauma they've experienced.

TILMA'S STORY

Tilma's school in the city of Amman, Jordan is a happy place. It is small and painted in blue, green, pink and yellow. Students get to make arts-and-crafts and sing songs. They play on a shaded playground that protects them from the hot sun.

Still, when Tilma first came to her school, she was not happy. She would not smile or 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 her to be happy.

Tilma's teacher and principal visited Tilma's family to find out how they could help her. They learned that Tilma stopped talking because of things that had 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

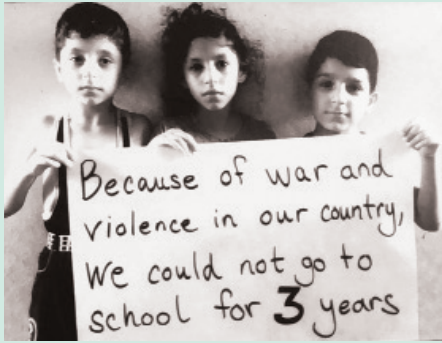
grandmother was killed by a bomb. Her dad was kidnapped by the attackers. Tilma's family had to run to safety in the neighboring country, Jordan.

In Jordan, Tilma's family found her school, a place that helps 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 in her hurting heart. They found chances for her to let out her sadness and fear through sports, stories, music, and art. They surrounded her with love and safety.

Gradually, Tilma began to smile and even laugh again. She began to talk and learn in school. She found joy in drawing. 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, like an earthquake or hurricane. They find shelter in apartments or in tent cities called refugee camps.



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.

Tent Schools International helps children by creating schools for them in the new places where they live. We help kids from Iraq who are living in Jordan, and children from Syria who are living in Lebanon.

Some of the schools look like any other school with normal classrooms, like this classroom at Tilma's school in the photo above. Other schools are located in tent cities where nearly one million displaced Syrian children live with their families. Their schools often meet in shipping containers like the one in the photo below. These 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.



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INTERNATIONAL

629 Ionia Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

P / (616) 531-9102 **W** / tentschoolsint.org **E** / info@tentschoolsint.org

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