



# TENT SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2024



## Annual Impact Report

A launch into 2024 for Lebanon, Jordan, Ukraine, and Tanzania

# Annual Report 2023:

## *Light the Fire* CAMPAIGN RESULTS:

**\$125,134**

**COUNTRIES IMPACTED: 4**

Lebanon, Jordan, Ukraine, United States

**REFUGEE NATIONALITIES: 14**

Syrian, Iraqi, Ukrainian, and  
11 resettled groups in the U.S.

**SCHOOLS: 3**

- A mobile school serving Syrian refugees in the camps of Bekaa Valley, Lebanon
  - A neighborhood school serving displaced Iraqis in Amman, Jordan
- A Ukrainian school serving internally displaced children in Bucha

**EDUCATIONAL DEVICES GRANTED: 375**

to-date for instruction, language courses, and job training for people served by 23 refugee organizations.

**STUDENTS SERVED: 533**

Lebanon—225, Jordan—130, Ukraine—178

*Thank you for your support in 2023!*

## ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT IMPACTS LEBANON

As we sat in a recent staff meeting to discuss the latest Middle Eastern conflict, Scott Vander Kooy, TSI President, said, “It may sometimes feel as if we’re pouring into a bottomless bucket with the refugee crisis. But rather than checking out, now is the time to lean in. It may seem like the need is endless, but there’s a different way to view it: each child is his or her own bucket we can fill.”

As the news from the Middle East seems to worsen the outlook of refugees in the area, we are encouraged by the continued work of our partners in this region as, together, we pour into each child.

In Lebanon, the war between Israel and Hamas is causing clashes along the southern Lebanese border shared with Israel, culminating most recently with the January 2 explosion in Beirut that killed Hamas leader Saleh al-Arouri.

Our partner at Warm Heart School reports there is increased fear among Syrian refugee families in the Bekaa Valley camps as they relive memories of war in their homeland of Syria.

“We are focusing on the spiritual aspect [with the children] more and more,” said Pastor Joseph of Warm Heart. “They are afraid they will lose everything again, including their lives or those of their loved ones. We talk to them about God’s love for them and the gift of eternal life.”

In 2024, Warm Heart School will continue to serve over 200 Syrian children with spiritual enrichment, basic instruction and vocational training through its mobile classrooms, supported by TSI donors. •

**Your support makes a difference. Together, we are helping children feel safe, loved, and ready to learn in Lebanon.**

*Pictured: Warm Heart’s vocational sewing class in Lebanon*





## JORDAN: A SAFE HAVEN



Despite protests in Jordanian streets over the Israel-Hamas conflict, Jordan remains a relatively safe location in the Middle East. Marka Education Center (formerly Good Shepherd Center) continues to serve 130 Iraqi children in Amman with quality schooling centered around the teachings of Jesus.

A major need continues to be transportation for Iraqi children from the distant neighborhood, Al-Hashemi. TSI began raising funds for a school bus in 2022, but when more urgent needs arose, funding was redirected to ensure the school could thrive through 2023. Now, Marka Education Center will continue to serve students into 2024, equipped with textbooks and a special education classroom. A bus may be on the horizon, but for now the focus remains on quality instruction for students who are able to travel to the center on foot, with their parents, or in the school's van, which takes multiple trips to Al-Hashemi each day. •

**Together, we are delivering compassionate education to Iraqi students in Jordan. Thank you for showing them God's love!**



## NEW PROGRAMS LAUNCH IN UKRAINE

This year, Academy of Wisdom in Bucha, Ukraine continued to operate with students attending in person. Today, 178 children study there, many of whom are internally displaced due to the Russian invasion in the spring of 2022.

Alongside academics, the Academy teaches students to model Jesus' love through service to others. Students volunteer at animal shelters and support Ukrainian soldiers with their artwork, warm clothes they've collected, and other comfort items they gather and send to the troops. Students recently made their own candles and sent them along with the packages. "We want them to feel children's care and gratitude for protecting us," said former director Alina Tolbas, who was displaced to Germany in 2022.

Psychological fallout from the invasion among the student body compelled the staff to begin providing trauma support through both art therapy and one-on-one meetings with students and parents. Air raid alerts in and around Bucha are broadcast on older students' phones, so staff have also introduced an after-school class in media literacy to teach students how to use smartphones and navigate the internet in ways that protect mental health. •

**You are an integral part of helping displaced students heal from trauma and achieve their potential, in Jesus' name.  
Thank you for your support in Ukraine!**

## DESTINATION TANZANIA



Since 1972, refugees from Burundi have poured into Tanzania and other neighboring countries to escape poverty and civil war. Now, an estimated 35,000 people live in Katumba, the oldest refugee camp in the

world. Norbert and Friends Ministries provides basic instruction and psychological support to primary and secondary schools in the camp. TSI supporters can help establish sustainable educational programs through these schools in 2024 with the goal of serving 1500 children ages six to 13. Stay up-to-date on this project at [TentSchoolsInt.org/newsroom](https://TentSchoolsInt.org/newsroom).



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INTERNATIONAL

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**INSIDE:** *annual impact report*

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**THANK YOU.**

Together, we are the hands and feet  
of Christ in a hurting world, extending his  
love to those who are often forgotten.

[www.TentSchoolsInt.org](http://www.TentSchoolsInt.org)

COVER PHOTOS, FRONT AND BACK: WARM HEART SCHOOL IN BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON



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**OUR MISSION**

TENT SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL demonstrates the love of Jesus for displaced children through safe, compassionate schools.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a proud member of ECFA, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

