



PORTRAITS OF
PROMISE

ORPHAN'S PROMISE NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2023

Wind Under Your Wings

Cairo, Egypt, is one of the most populated cities in the world. It's loud and busy, yet there is also a lot of opportunity. But for many impoverished families who live on the outskirts, those opportunities are limited. One major hurdle is accessing quality education. Moving to Cairo was a difficult transition for Joseph and his family. See how your compassion is making a difference in Joseph's family and future.

These are the stories.
These are the souls.
These are the portraits of the lives we're changing.





MEET JOSEPH'S FAMILY

Joseph is in the seventh grade. He has a wide, gentle smile and big brown eyes. He loves to tinker with things—recycling old things and turning them into something new. He is outgoing and enjoys singing in the choir at his church. He wants to be a computer programmer when he grows up.

But he wasn't always like this.

In Egypt, according to UNICEF, “the quality of education remains a major challenge preventing children from developing their full potential.” For certain grades, “Egypt ranks at the bottom of the participating countries” in subjects like math, reading, and science. Also, many of the schools do not have proper sanitation facilities and lack running water.¹

Joseph grew up in a quiet area of Upper Egypt with his parents and younger sister, Karin. His dad is a carpenter, and his mom takes care of their home. His dad suffered from a lot of health issues related to his heart, which required multiple treatments. In 2021, their family moved to Cairo so that Joseph's dad could get the heart surgery and ongoing medical care he needed. Joseph's father works very hard, but he doesn't make much as a carpenter, so the medical bills and recovery time have weighed heavily on the family. A local church stepped up to help with some of the medical costs, but it has been difficult, especially for Joseph and Karin.

Ever since Joseph moved from a quiet town to a big city, he has struggled to find his footing. Because he was nervous, he had a hard time making friends in his neighborhood and at school. He did not trust people easily and did not know how to process his emotions. Karin also isolated herself and did not want to interact with other kids at school. Both of them were struggling socially and academically, and their parents were concerned. They wanted their children to thrive in the classroom and outside of it. They knew that keeping their kids in school was essential to unlocking their potential and giving them a good foundation for the future. That's when a friend told Joseph's mom about Wings of Freedom.

Wings of Freedom offers a holistic approach beyond just academics. The program pairs academic tutoring with spiritual development through Superbook and biblical studies for kids. It also helps to equip their parents.



INCREASE YOUR GENEROSITY!

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please fill out the enclosed "You Pledge, We Pledge" form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

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**Thanks for your generosity.
We look forward to making a difference together.**





WINGS OF FREEDOM

Orphan's Promise partner Wings of Freedom exists to provide children ages 9 through 14 in Egypt with resources and one-on-one mentorship. Most children stop going to school as they move from elementary school to middle school.² Wings of Freedom offers critical support during those transitional grades to help kids continue getting the education they need to stay in school. Wings of Freedom helps kids, particularly girls, by pairing them with tutors to help them in areas like English, Arabic, math, science, and social studies. The goal is to help them pass the annual national government exam so they can continue learning.

One of the reasons why this program is so successful is because Wings of Freedom offers a holistic approach beyond just academics. The program pairs academic tutoring with spiritual development through Superbook and biblical studies for kids. It also helps equip their parents. Wings of Freedom provides an opportunity for vocational training for mothers so that more than 30 percent can start or expand their small business.

This helps with the long-term sustainability of the program by elevating the families' economic level and providing more stability for the kids. Wings of Freedom also has a team of active social workers who partner with children and their families to help create a safe, healthy home life. Offering support academically, spiritually, and vocationally creates an environment where these kids can thrive.

“Wings of Freedom is an incredible program that serves the whole family and not just the educational achievements of children. While high-quality tutoring is core to the program, the heart of it is the social workers who meet with both the children and their mothers to discuss the various challenges they are each facing. They provide some outside perspective, ideas for solutions, and spiritual encouragement.” –Wings of Freedom program director

When Joseph and Karin's parents heard about Wings of Freedom, they were a little skeptical. Was it too good to be true? Would their children really get the help they needed? They talked with the social workers and tutors and were delighted that they had room for Joseph and Karin to join the program!

WATCHING JOSEPH AND KARIN SOAR

After conversations with his social worker, Joseph began to open up. He started to experience how the center really cared about him as an individual. The faithful attention and investment from his social worker helped Joseph come out of his shell. He started to make new friends at the center, work on his time management, and become very dedicated to his classes. He is above average in his academics and doing very well in school! He's also learning how to process and manage his emotions. In the beginning, Karin was also quiet and did not trust anyone. But with support and care from the social workers, she is slowly learning to trust people as she gets to know her classmates and is starting to feel like part of the group. She was struggling in school but is now making progress with help from her social worker. She's also creative like Joseph and loves to draw!

“I want to thank them for the gifts they provide, especially the T-shirt, and the attention from my social workers and teachers,” Joseph shared.

Being part of helping both of these kids reach their full potential is such an honor. With consistent care from others in a safe, loving environment, Joseph and Karin are starting to thrive.



Concerning children in Egypt, UNICEF reports that “approximately 2.1 million children remain out of school.”³

1. “Education,” UNICEF Egypt, accessed July 3, 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/education>.

2. Middle East and North Africa Out-of-School Children Initiative, *Summary Egypt Country Report on Out-of-School Children*, October 2014, https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/6351/file/Egypt%20Country%20Report%20on%20OOSC%20Summary_EN.pdf%20.pdf.

3. UNICEF, *Country Office Annual Report 2022*, <https://www.unicef.org/media/136746/file/Egypt-2022-COAR.pdf>.



give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

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