

P O R T R A I T S O F
PROMISE

FEBRUARY 2024



**at-risk
to thriving**

orphan'spromise

Soccer and Sandwiches



These are the stories.

These are the souls.

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

A sandwich, a soccer ball, and a new friend—these small things can have a huge impact on a child in a refugee camp. Come with us around the world to meet 8-year-old Ahmad in Lebanon, who has faced more hardship than many of us will ever know.

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EIGHT YEARS OF STRUGGLE

Ahmad is only 8, but he's about the size and height of your average 4-year-old. This is a result of the many medical complications he has endured in his young life.

"When he was a baby, he became very sick due to the extreme cold," said his mother. "In Syria, doctors gave him antibiotics, causing further damage to his stomach. He used to cry from excruciating pain until it was discovered that he was suffering from a hernia. He had to undergo an operation at 6 months old."

But Ahmad had other medical issues. Over the next few years, he was given many different medications, which stunted his growth. For most of his childhood, he had such severe migraines that he would claw his own scalp. He had a difficult time breathing, and doctors finally figured out he had swollen adenoids. He went through another operation and managed to find a level of stability in his health.

"As of 2022, there were over 12 million Syrians who remain forcibly displaced from their homes, 5.4 million of whom are in neighboring countries, including an estimated 1.5 million in Lebanon."¹



FORCED TO LEAVE HOME

His family was forced to flee Syria due to violence, so they crossed the border to Lebanon. There, Ahmad lives with his parents and four siblings in the middle of a dump. Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon face extreme multidimensional poverty, deprived of basic needs like clean water, medical care, and education. And for Ahmad, it's hard to even breathe. His mother explained, "The smell of garbage and the smoke of burning waste are not helping him recover properly."

Ahmad would help feed his family by collecting tin at the dump and selling it to a nearby factory. He was often bullied by older children who would steal from him. Ahmad's parents worried about his safety and future, but they did not have the time or resources to make Ahmad's education a priority. So, when the couple heard about Heart for Lebanon's HOPE Educational Center, it opened a whole new world for them.

HOPE FOR AHMAD

When Ahmad started going to classes at the HOPE Educational Center, his life began to change. He met other kids his own age, and his teachers were actively involved. He receives nutritious food at school every day. The center also provides interactive educational opportunities that are empowering and enjoyable for these precious kids who have suffered so much. Because you offered Ahmad a safe, stable environment, this young boy is now thriving!

Research also shows that "the majority of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in extreme poverty, are food insecure, and are deprived of basic needs, including clean water, sanitation, health, and education. Thirty percent of school-aged refugee children have never attended school."



“I really enjoy my time at the center,” Ahmad shared. “I love English the most. I enjoy playing with my friends and eating the sandwiches that the teachers provide for us. I like sports. My favorite is soccer. I learned it at the center, and now I really enjoy playing it. I also like to run. I think that I am the fastest in my class!”

Instead of worrying about being beaten by bullies or where his next meal is going to come from, Ahmad thinks about soccer and sandwiches—like a kid should.

“Ahmad loves going to the center! He is in an environment where he is cared for and kept from bullies,” his mom said, relieved.

Ahmad is thankful for the opportunity he has been given and is thrilled to be a student at the center. His mother attends Bible studies at Heart for Lebanon, and she encourages Ahmad to focus on the Bible lessons that are taught at the center. As a result, her son has a desire to become more like Jesus.



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 check out the information below. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT TO ORPHAN'S PROMISE,
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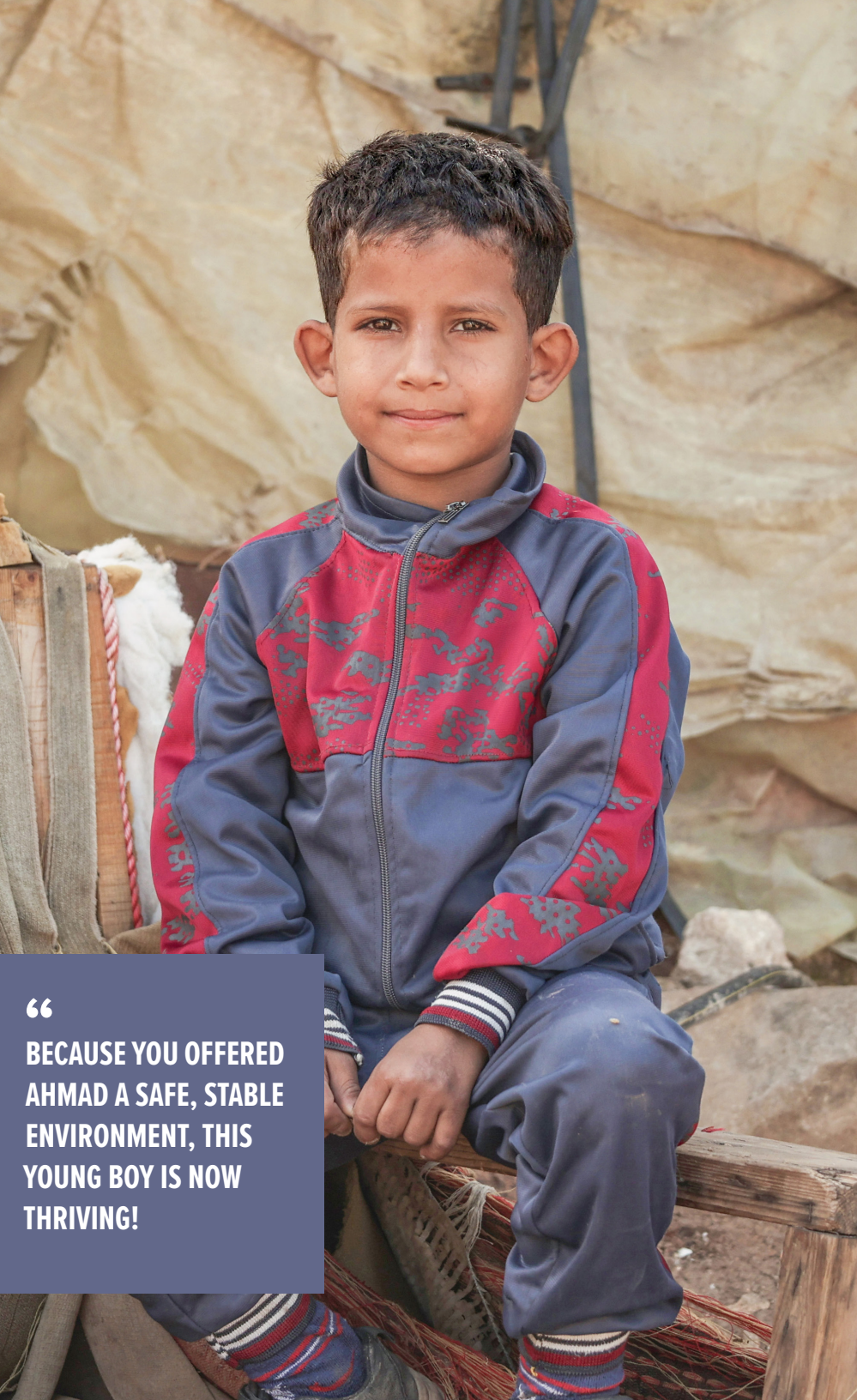


Mail a check made out to Orphan's Promise to:
Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

Thanks for your generosity.

We look forward to making a difference together.

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“
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Ahmad loves the people who donate to Heart for Lebanon. Although he cannot see their faces, he is grateful that he was able to receive an education because of them. He prays that God would keep the donors healthy and that they would see how their funds are changing his life as well as others.

Thank you for partnering with Orphan's Promise to provide educational opportunities for kids like Ahmad who have been uprooted by violence. You are transforming lives around the world—one child at a time.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for provision and protection for Ahmad, his family, and other Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Pray for Ahmad's teachers as they continue to help the students.

Pray that Ahmad's family finds a better place to live since the smoke from the dump is so thick it makes it difficult for Ahmad to breathe.

1. Patricia Karam, "The Plight and Politics of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon," Arab Center Washington DC, August 8, 2023, <https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-plight-and-politics-of-syrian-refugees-in-lebanon/>.
2. Ibid.




SCAN TO GIVE



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Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry may be tax-deductible.