TAKE A LOOK AT HOW WE CHANGED CHILDREN’S LIVES THIS MONTH

Donate here to help us protect children from all types of abuse

The recent increase of cyber-crime rates has made it essential for parents and caregivers to educate children on cyber-safety. With more time being spent at home, children are more exposed to the risks presented by the online world; for this reason, we referred to online platforms and mobilized our media to be able to spread more awareness about internet safety.

From tips for parents to tips for teens, we made sure to utilize our social media pages, to create massive content to cover all grounds related to cybercrime, cyber-bullying and cyber-safety.

As a continuation of our previous Internet Safety initiatives, we collaborated once again with Rita Lamah, influencer and mother of three. The latter conducted an Instagram Live Session with one of himaya’s professionals, and shared her thoughts regarding children’s online safety.

The session helped parents and caregivers know more about how to monitor their child’s screen time, take the right protective online measures, and understand how to deal with cyber-bullying. As a result, the session was able to reach over 5,000 people, who interacted along the discussion and shared their questions and concerns as well.

We also conducted TV interviews on Tele Lumiere and Zahle TV, in addition to an online Facebook live session with Jadeedouna News on internet safety, cyber-bullying and cyber-crime.

To checkout our Cyber-Safety tips, click here.
himaya celebrates 12 years of fighting and preventing child abuse

While our previous anniversaries gathered us all in one room, this year we’ve decided to celebrate differently. For our 12th birthday, we decided to launch a series of initiatives, to support the Lebanese community during these challenging times.

We distributed food boxes, vouchers and games to around 1,200 families all over Lebanon. We also distributed over 1,000 seed packs, to encourage children to start planting along with their parents, as this activity can be highly beneficial for their personal development. Due to the financial crisis that Lebanon is currently facing, this initiative will help families get their basic needs and cope with these difficult times to limit the risk factors that could lead to an increased risk of violence.

Following the seed distribution, we hosted an open Zoom session led by one of himaya’s professionals to teach parents and caregivers about the benefits planting can have on their child’s growth. Engaging with nature and observing a seed’s growth cycle can increase children’s sense of discovery and reasoning. Children can also become more responsible and discover the value of their plant as they care for it and watch it grow!

Checkout himaya’s birthday initiatives: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4-bAepa0Fg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YdA0lWufuA
himaya develops a self-care curriculum for parents and caregivers

During the month of May, our prevention program finalized the self-care curriculum for parents, which has been in the works for the past 3 months. The current COVID-19 pandemic has left parents and caregivers struggling with tremendous challenges. During this uncertain situation, many parents have lost their jobs or are working remotely, which has created a stressful environment at home. For this reason, we developed a curriculum on self-care for parents and caregivers, to address topics such as: managing emotions, self-improvement tips, and stress-management techniques.

Through this curriculum, parents will be able to improve their productivity, and maintain their focus, which will lead to a healthier environment at home and better relationship with their children.

himaya continues to train designated Child Protection Officers in different schools in Lebanon

With the support of Worldvision, we have been working towards developing and implementing Child Protection Policies (CPP) within 15 schools in Lebanon. The CPP aims to create a safe environment for children, raise awareness on child wellbeing and trains members on the detection and referral of child abuse. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have shifted our on-ground training sessions to online activities, while continuing to train school staff members remotely. As part of this program, we’ve been training the designated Child Protection Officers in 4 schools located in Mount Lebanon on safe identification and referral of potential child abuse cases.

During this training, we discuss topics such as: child protection, types of abuse, how to detect child abuse in a school setting, how to manage allegations of child abuse, how to communicate with children and families, as well as when and who to refer the cases to. So far, and despite the situation, schools are being very cooperative and participants are very engaged.

At this stage, we are building the capacity of child protection officers so that when schools start again they are able to fulfill their roles of managing child abuse allegations and safely identifying and referring child abuse cases. Even with the current lockdown, children could still be disclosing abuse to their teachers and they need to be prepared to deal with it.
Every year the New Humanity international releases the “United World Project” that aims to spread peace and unity among people through fun activities, to help make the world a better place. This year the event took place through online platforms, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was titled: “United World Week”. All the conferences, the games, the celebrations were streamed live on social media.

Our animators of our safe park in Aajaltoun got the chance to be part of this beautiful project and collaborated with other organizations such as: Living Peace International and Focolare Movement.

Our team created a game called “Mission: Peace” that took place on the 8th of May. We wrote questions for the game, which were related to human and child rights. After 10 days of preparation and team effort, we were able to create 6 levels for the game, which included general knowledge questions, handmade workshops, singing and dancing.

The game was conducted through Zoom with 25 teams from all around the world. Each team was assigned a specific role, and ours was to conduct the presentation and be the jury in the games, and choose the winner at the end of the different activities.

The event turned out to be a fun experience, as people from different age groups and backgrounds gathered together. It was a pleasure for the team of the Ajaltoun Safe Park to be part of such an experience.
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