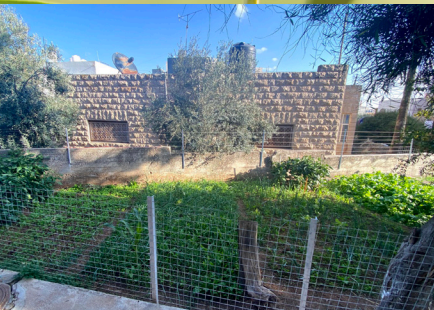




FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



THE Olive Tree Center

Our Strategic Plan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

To our faithful partner investors:

Thank you again for your commitment to our important mission in Iraq and Jordan. We simply cannot do any of this important Kingdom work without your loyal and generous support.

As you know, Iraq and Syria faced the brunt of the ISIS rampage back in 2014. Frightened and confused families witnessed their villages crumble and livelihoods quickly vanish. Just six years later, countless communities faced a second severe and dangerous humanitarian emergency: the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has dramatically worsened the lives of migrants and refugees across the Middle East. These families and communities need help, hope and healing. This is where the mission of American Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East comes in. We work to ensure that our Christian brothers and sisters will not be forgotten. Because of your support, we are making a tremendous impact in some of the most affected regions. And Jordan has become a pillar to help us accomplish our goals.

Opening our first Olive Tree Center in Madaba has revitalized so many as we have empowered these refugees to find direction and gain purpose through this unified community center.

Our current and proposed programs at the Olive Tree Center have turned lives around and lifted many out of a certain darkness. This success has given us a determination to open our second center in Amman. But we need your help to make this happen. We have prepared this OTC Prospectus for your gracious consideration to partner with us once again in this next phase.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact communities across the globe, the refugees American FRRME supports in Jordan remain resilient. They represent the true meaning of strength in hardship and prove that through tough times; faith, perseverance, friendship and hope overcome the fear of the unknown.

Because of your steadfast support our first Olive Tree Center has become a model for these refugee communities who are slowly overcoming their vast share of challenges.

I want to thank you sincerely for taking the time to read our Strategic Plan! I hope to highlight the differences we are making together. I welcome your partnership with us in saving our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ along with the other refugees that we are blessed to serve.

May God bless you and keep you,



F. Maxwell (Max) Wood, COL, USAFR
Chairman





INTRODUCTION

THE OLIVE TREE

Olive trees have symbolic and historic resonance across various communities, including Christians. The Olive tree has deep roots; it is strong and resilient. Olive trees can withstand harsh conditions. New olives grow every year. **The olive tree symbolizes growth and fruitfulness.** When olives are crushed they produce the richness of olive oil, known for its vitality and health giving properties.

When Noah released a dove after the flood, it came back holding an olive branch, indicating that a new land had been discovered. The Olive branch has forever since been a symbol of peace and new beginnings.

MISSION STATEMENT

Like the Olive tree, we aim to establish the Olive Tree Center as a place of resilience, comfort and renewal and where fellowship and empowerment open up opportunities for healing, personal growth, and occupational development.

CORE VALUES:

We Listen: Listening is the first step in the peace-building journey, listening opens our hearts and minds to the experience of others

We Challenge: we challenge prejudice and discrimination and we challenge despair and hopelessness.

We Empower: We help people to move beyond painful memories, we empower people into a fruitful future.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

Currently, Jordan has 2.9 million registered refugees. Sadly the Iraqi Christians who fled from the hate and carnage of ISIS are an overlooked minority. Over 1 million Christians have fled Iraq since 2003. Christian refugees often fall between the cracks of major aid organizations and international support networks and are not allowed to work. And so these refugees rely completely on support from fellow Christians and area churches. Many of them would like to immigrate to more welcoming countries but until their asylum applications are processed Jordan is their temporary place of shelter in this limbo status. In short, they need our help.



AMERICAN FRRME IN JORDAN

The American Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East began by identifying the urgent needs of Iraqi Christians who fled the violence, persecution and destruction of ISIS. American FRRME provides support and humanitarian assistance to these refugees and internally displaced persons. We have been privileged to work alongside partners who share a deep compassion and commitment to those struggling to find aid. **It is our mission to provide hope, help, and healing in the Middle East.** We seek to rebuild families and communities through advocacy and ministerial programs that convey our service as an outgrowth of the love of Christ. In Jordan, American FRRME has stepped in to support nearly 8,000 Iraqi Christian refugees at present with vital necessities, including rent, food and medical care.



THE OLIVE TREE CENTER SOLUTION

Having lost everything; family, friends, homes, and livelihoods, these refugees are dependent on the generosity and goodwill of fellow Christians. For many, their situations seemed hopeless. As we listened to their needs, they were asking for a simple place to call their own; a place where they could be a community, embrace their culture, and also break down barriers alongside their Jordanian Christian brothers and sisters. **This is what the Olive Tree Center in Madaba has become: a beacon of hope and place of refuge.**

Many have been traumatized from the wave of destruction that ISIS left in Iraq. But they now have a place to call home at the Olive Tree Center! It is a center for the community. A center of fellowship. Here these refugees in a foreign land receive therapeutic benefits and a range of programs where adults and children are blessed through art, play, and music programs. It is a gathering of cooking and sewing classes, gardening and therapeutic support groups. The youth are blessed through a range of activities. This is just the beginning. But it has confirmed this need and our justification to move forward with our plans for our next Olive Tree Center near Amman. **We hope you will join us in this next phase of our strategic plan to lift up and help these dear souls.**



OUR IMPACT IN MADABA



THE HOPE, A SUPPORT GROUP

The Hope is a support, prayer, and English language conversation practice group.

It was founded at the Olive Tree Center by four remarkable Iraqi women: Riveen, Raneen, Fada, and Karmen. Members of the group range from 16 to 32 years-old. It is a space meant to encourage, support, listen, and pray during challenging times. While the Olive Tree Center was physically closed

due to COVID-19, members of the Hope still found other safe, social distancing ways to support each other.

Mental health struggles and the need for extra support is more than apparent. Faced with adapting to severely limited and reduced freedoms, individuals who struggle with fear, anxiety, panic, claustrophobia, and depression have had these conditions

surface and intensify. As the future remains unknown, the need for encouragement and affirmation grows.

The women in the Hope have developed a bond that will last a lifetime. And the best part is that this was all their own idea. But it likely would not have happened without their first meeting at the Olive Tree Center.



HEALING THROUGH THE JOY OF MUSIC



One of the most beneficial programs that the refugees started at the Olive Tree Center was the music therapy program. In Iraq, people with mental health problems are often stigmatized. Many have witnessed horrific events or lost loved ones. Art, music, and dance have proven to be wonderful tools for healing.

Andi is an 18-year-old and is beyond grateful for this opportunity! **“Music helps take my stress away, when I am here and able to play, I feel very happy.”** When ISIS destroyed Christians' homes and businesses there in 2014, Andi fled to Jordan with his parents where they received support through the Olive Tree Center in Madaba.

“I love the Olive Tree Center,” says Andi. **“I love music and I have always dreamed of learning to play the piano. I get the chance to learn music here.”**

Before music lessons began at the center, Andi did not know how to read music and would learn new songs by listening and memorizing them. Now that there are music lessons available, Andi has learned how to read music and is thriving! Andi is one of many children that are benefiting from music lessons at the Olive Tree Center.

The music lessons are taught by Daniel, a 23-year-old Jordanian. “There are so many healing benefits to music,” explains Daniel. **“At the Olive Tree Center, we can see that impact directly. So many of the students have gone through a lot of tough times as refugees, and music helps them process that, and get release from it – it brings them peace.”**



AZAD'S GARDEN



Starting over in a new country, with no employment opportunities is beyond challenging. Christian refugees in Jordan are not permitted to have paid employment and are totally dependent on the generosity of others. Many of the men in the refugee community were used to owning their own businesses in Iraq and have struggled with not being able to provide for their families. Through generous donations, American FRRME has been able to give these men a sense of purpose again!

The Garden Project is just one source of inspiration at the Olive Tree Center and has become a fountainhead of life for Azad. He is one of the Iraqi Christian refugees that we are blessed to come alongside and assist.

Azad and his wife, Yvonne, and their three children fled Qaraqosh when ISIS invaded in 2014, by way of Kurdistan, and arrived in Jordan in 2017. In Iraq, Azad worked as a wooden template designer in the construction industry. His life wasn't easy but it was stable. Then ISIS destroyed everything.

“When ISIS entered our area, my family and I left the house in the evening,” he told Helena. **“I took my widowed sister with me. She had four children. All ten of us together in just one car.”** The congestion was so bad on the road to Erbil, the main city in the area, that the journey which usually took just an hour took over twelve hours to complete. Azad explains: **“A miracle happened to us. The car we used had only 30 litres of petrol left in the tank. However, the car did not turn off the road for 12 hours continuously, and despite this the petrol did not run out in the car. I thank the Lord for having safely arrived, my family, and my sister.”**

ISIS destroyed his and many other Christians' homes and livelihoods. He is one of over 7,800 Christian Iraqi refugees supported by American FRRME. Despite all his losses, Azad's faith is strong. He told us, **“God has never forgotten**



The garden of hope has allowed me to provide not only for my family but also for the larger Iraqi refugee community.”

us. His grace has never stopped in our lives because we are His children. We thank Him for everything.” Azad recalls: **“The situation was very difficult, both economically and morally.”**

They were provided shelter by the pastor of the local evangelical church, sharing just one room between all of them. **“Despite all the conditions, the Lord did not forget us, as we did not pay the rent in all these areas where we lived. We have certainly faced difficulties in Jordan, but all the difficulties are lessened when the Lord comes and answers our prayers. His grace has never stopped in our lives because we are children of the Lord. Thanks be to the Lord for everything.”**

Through the garden project at the Olive Tree Center, Azad has found a new sense of purpose as the head gardener! **“Life as refugees in Jordan was very difficult even before the pandemic,”** Azad said.



“This project has been a huge blessing on our lives. I hope we can continue to make it the best garden ever and expand it more and more. I already have plans to add three clementine trees. I have many hopes for this garden and for what it can continue to do for the community.”

When asked what he thinks about a future garden of hope for other refugees throughout Jordan, Azad says, “I am so happy to hear there will be other gardens of hope. Food is so expensive here and it is very difficult to find ways to buy it without being able to legally work. Thank you American FRRME for this opportunity! I am teaching my son how to garden as well. It has been very special to be outside together doing something I love and sharing that with him.”

“Helping others makes me forget a lot of my frustration, being able to provide physically again for the community motivates me not to lose hope for a better future.”

PHASE II



BUILDING THE SECOND OLIVE TREE CENTER

Q&A with Helena Scott,
Jordan Country Director



Q: Now that we have a functioning model in Madaba, where are we in process for the second Olive Tree Center?

Helena: The next OTC will be in Hashem Al Shamali a very poor neighborhood in Amman where we support roughly 300 families. This neighborhood was selected in that refugees from another poor area (Marka) nearby will also be able to benefit from the Center's programs and due to the immense need. The refugees in this community are some of the most struggling and in need of support services.

Q: What are some other steps in the process?

Helena: Next steps include obtaining the right landlord (we need an open-minded landlord who is not prejudiced against Christians) and land (we would like space to offer sports programs as well as the Garden, this will ideally be a component of every OTC ideally).

Q: What are some start-up costs?

Helena: We need funding to furnish the building with desks, whiteboards, tables, kitchen equipment (stove, refrigerator, cabinets), music equipment, guitars, piano, art supplies, play therapy, etc. woodworking equipment, garden set-up costs. And we would also like to hire teachers and support infrastructure.

Q: Any programs that are currently being organized and run in Amman will then be moved to new Olive Tree Center?

Helena: Yes, I currently teach English and will move that program to the new OTC to reach more people (while continuing to teach in Madaba as well). Family support and advocacy support will also be moved to the OTC in Hashimi. By having a physical center, it will give us a safe space to provide immigration and support services.

Q: How else will this new OTC be helpful for the Iraqi Christian refugees?

Helena: In Jordan, we also conduct home visits. We will continue home visits, but the new OTC will enable us to reach more families in a more streamlined manner by providing a central hub. It will also enable us to hopefully provide medical support where volunteer doctors would come in and meet in private with refugees and conduct welfare checks as many are abused and it's not safe for them to talk about it at their homes during home visits.





Q: How many will benefit from this second Olive Tree Center?

Helena: This really depends on COVID but at least 1,000 depending on the size of the building we are able to secure. But once this is up and running, we anticipate the word spreading and especially with the programs.

Q: Are there any refugees that will lead this new OTC?

Helena: There are several family members of families we support in Madaba in Hashem Al Shamali. For example, Feda and Karmeen have cousins who live in Hashemi and will help set it up. Also, one of the original families AFRRME has supported from St. Georges Church in Baghdad live in Hashemi and will be actively involved. And The Hope group from Madaba has also volunteered to help set up a new The Hope group at this new OTC.

These programs are conceived and led by the refugees and are vital to helping them regain a sense of belonging and self-esteem. By our estimates, these programs have or will benefit:



MADABA

25

HASHEM AL SHAMALI

50

The Garden Project helps provide food for the community as well as providing work for refugees to feel productive and supported.



MADABA

80

HASHEM AL SHAMALI

200

Music classes are both fun and therapeutic. Guitar and piano lessons are available for children and adults.



MADABA

90

HASHEM AL SHAMALI

400

Art therapy and a space to create is an important part of the healing process. The Olive Tree Center provides a maker space for art, sewing and more.



MADABA

350

HASHEM AL SHAMALI

400

English lessons are sought after by most refugees. The doors that the English language open are innumerable.



MADABA

100

HASHEM AL SHAMALI

500

Individual and group therapy is an integral part of the Olive Tree Center's mission. Healing begins with inward reflection.



PHASE II

THE SECOND OLIVE TREE CENTER

A place for hope, health and healing in Hashem Al Shamali

Once again, we have been blessed at American FRRME to have your support and trust. The first Olive Tree Center was our pilot and we now have established a model that we can replicate across Jordan and perhaps in other areas of the Middle East. That is our ultimate goal. Our plans include opening four more Olive Tree Centers in Jordan within the next five years. But we simply cannot do this without our faithful partner investors in our shared mission.

Our funding opportunity for Jordan includes this Phase II and the start-up of our second Olive Tree Center. We have noted our budget and what it will take to make this new OTC a reality for this depressed community in Amman. This new Olive Tree Center is not only needed, it is critical for them.

“The center helps take the pain of our pasts away and makes us realize we can help each other and be a community together.” - Ashwak



FIRST YEAR OBJECTIVES:

Like the first Olive Tree Center in Madaba, our second in Hashem al Shamali will be ambitious.

Among our objectives, we will:

Establish a management team to oversee the implementation of the mission, develop projects, monitor the budget, coordinate the work of the center.

Establish an English language curriculum with a team of qualified teachers.

Recruit and develop a team of counselors to provide mental health support services

Commission clinical supervision for the team of trauma counselors.

Provide training for all volunteers and staff at the center including training in safeguarding policy and practice.

BUDGET ESTIMATES

Start Up Costs Year One	Madaba 2019	Hashemi 2021
Rent	\$5,500	\$8,500
Renovations	\$2000	\$3,500
Utilities	\$1300	\$1,600
Maintenance	\$2,600	\$4,800
Educational Materials	\$1,000	\$2,400
Youth Activities	\$1,200	\$3,600
Counselors	\$6,000	\$9,600
Staff Salaries	\$8,000	\$20,000
Furnishings	\$1,500	\$2,500
Gardening Supplies	\$1,500	\$2,000
Musical Instruments	\$2,500	\$2,500
Sewing Project	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$38,100	\$66,000



The second Olive Tree Center, like the first, will become a place of refuge and help to address many challenges within the community.

Please consider a special contribution to help start-up and sustain this second Olive Tree Center and for our Madaba location.

Having you stand with us and on behalf of these dear souls will continue to confirm our mission and commitment.

We are blessed to have this opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ in such an impactful way. And we are once again blessed to have you as our partner in this mission.





**“I love the
Olive Tree
Center – it is
like our home”**



AMERICAN
FOUNDATION
FOR RELIEF AND
RECONCILIATION
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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