



## SPAFFORD CHILDREN'S CENTER PROGRAMS

EAST JERUSALEM

### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Before children begin tutoring classes in *English, Arabic, and math* at the Spafford Children's Center (SCC), the strengths and needs of each child is assessed. Then children who have similar needs are taught together so that they can learn with and from each other. SCC puts two or three children in a class with one teacher and then the magic begins. In an 11-week semester of one or two sessions a week, the children gain between one and two years of educational content. Soon they are not only doing arithmetic and higher math, but also conjugating verbs in both English and Arabic. Also, students can learn keyboarding skills and programs in the SCC *computer lab*.



### THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

The *Trauma Recovery and Empowerment Program* is helping children who have experienced trauma in the home, going to and from school, or in the wider community. Working with a trained trauma specialist, a social worker, and a psychologist, children and adolescents begin the process of recovering from traumatic events that have interrupted their family lives, education, and relationships with peers. Children participate in the program weekly or more often as indicated by the comprehensive assessment.

Poor impulse control, hyperactivity, or lack of concentration on school work can be indications that *occupational therapy* may be needed. *Speech therapy* helps children who may have swallowing difficulties, articulation issues, or communication challenges. At the SCC there are trained therapists and equipment to help children make progress.



Mothers need the support of other women, inspiration, and knowledge to encourage their children and families to grow and thrive in difficult circumstances. SCC provides *Women's Empowerment Programs* including computer classes, sessions on childhood developmental stages, and activities encouraging women to express their feelings. *Father's Engagement Activities* invite fathers to come to SCC to have fun with their children like building towers with plastic cups and drawing pictures of their families or watching their children perform a play or music.

### **CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES**

In addition to academic sessions there are *art classes* where children express their creativity with paints, pencils, clay, and mosaics. Or maybe they skip down the hall to the dance studio where *ballet or dabke lessons* are underway. Some children gravitate towards the guitars in the *music room* while others plunk on the piano. Every summer there is a *three-week camp* full of field trips, games, and friends. Trying new things that require concentration and practice helps to teach valuable skills....and they are fun. Palestinian culture is rich and vibrant and at SCC it finds expression in literature, art, and music.

