Dear friends,

36 years have passed and we continue to believe that life is worth living as a celebration, in every place and every circumstance, and that hardships are part of life and it is up to us to face and overcome them.

There are many reasons that inspire us and give us hope to continue on our mission, despite the stagnation that engulfs our country and the region. Brilliance, Expertise, Loyalty, Innovation, Consolidation, Development and Recognition have paved our way throughout the 2012-2013 year.

Winning the Takreem Award has underscored the role that SESOBEL has played in the field of philanthropy and charity. We are proud of this national and regional recognition for which we thank Ricardo Karam, the members of the jury, and the entire Takreem Awards team.

The transmission of knowledge is an important element in our endeavors, and constitutes the purpose of our continuing education center. We were able to conduct multiple training sessions for our team, as well as expanding it to include various medico-social professionals. We were honored to have a number of luminaries who conducted the training, such as Dr. Dominique Robert, Dr. Benoit Chevalier, and many others.

Our multidisciplinary work also reinforces and enhances our expertise and offers great challenges and great achievements by our team as they continue their efforts to develop specialized services for our children, youth, and families.

As a testimony to our history, the book “7 days among the angels,” written by David Hury, prefaced by Salah Stetié and narrated by our young people, their parents, our team members, friends, donors and volunteers, attests to the fact that our mission has been a challenge.

New opportunities and prospects for our youth with disabilities were discovered through our art exhibition. Great talent was unveiled from the hidden capabilities of those who suffer from autism. This discovery elevated them to rank among our great artists and opened new avenues for them.

Another great accomplishment was our collaboration with the Phoenicia Hotel to offer training for our youth to enhanced their skills and give them opportunities for social and professional integration.

Moreover, the inauguration of our hostel “3 Hearts Lodge” was the culmination of this training and offered our youth job opportunities, and subsequently gave SESOBEL a self-financing opportunity.

Our partnership with the Ministry of Education has given us the public vocational school of Kfarhouna as a vocational rehabilitation center for our youth who have finished their training at the academic
inclusion program in Jezzine. This is a testimony of the confidence we inspire, and also shows our ongoing effort to consolidate our work with concerned public bodies.

Other plans which are still in the works:

- The start of the construction of the autism center. The foundation stone was laid this year with the blessing of the Maronite Patriarchate who offered us the land. Since our premises cannot accommodate more than 655 children and youth annually in our internal and external services, the construction of the new building has become “a must”.
- The signing of an agreement with the Saint Joseph University. The goal is to educate the university world about the “science of disability” and to encourage a large number of specialized professionals to join in.

Finally, I leave you with our annual activity report for more information about this past year’s labor of love.

Our ongoing focus remains to provide the best for our children, youth and their families. Our desire is to be always up to date with the latest innovations and techniques of learning, and family and social support.

Our organization acknowledges the ongoing support of our friends, consultants, sponsors, donors, suppliers, volunteers, and all other associations. Also, our special thanks go to our founder Yvonne.

To all of you, our journey will continue... for sure.

Fadia Safi
President, General Manager
OUR PROGRAMS

I – The family reception service

The family reception service, or SAF, is the gateway for every family who has a child with problems and needs information, support and guidance for appropriate approaches for diagnosis and management of the condition.

The role of the SAF is to:
- Welcome new families
- Diagnose the condition of the child
- Explore the socio-family situation
- Inform the family on their child’s disability and needs
- Make sure to guide the child towards:
  - SESOBEL’s educational programs if there is enough space and if the child meets SESOBEL’s admission requirements.
  - SESOBEL’s external services program.
  - Specialized and adapted structures that exist in the country.

The program is managed by a social worker in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team, which includes: social worker, nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, psychomotor therapist, respiratory therapist and psychologist in collaboration with a team of doctors of various specializations.

Disability categories

Social problems that we have found:
- Lack of information about the disability: 42 families
- Anxiety concerning the future: 36 families
- Couple affected by the disability: 34 families
- Financial problems: 32 families
- Disruption in education system: 27 families

- 290 pre-SAF interviews helped calm the anxiety of parents. The objective of these meetings was to assess the urgency of the medical situation, make a diagnosis, and offer guidance to help select a prime medical care, start the necessary rehabilitation and ensure there is a “listening ear” for parents.
- 2 sessions of family guidance were offered to 14 families: Parents were expressing themselves with ease, and a relationship based on trust was quickly forged. The parents had the chance to share their experience and to meet other parents who were in a similar situation.

II – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The educational programs benefit the children, adolescents and adults, and focus on their overall development. They aim to explain to the learner about his own learning style so that he can improve his cognitive and emotional strategies and develop more self-confidence.

Adopted approaches and workshops

Early stimulation:
Daily life activities, cognitive awareness workshop, basal stimulation workshop, acting workshop, gross motor skills, sensory-motor workshop, body image, and nutritional rehabilitation workshop.

Interdisciplinary activities:
Communication, motor skills graph, body language, integrated education, dance therapy, visual education, and relaxation.

Pre-school program and academic program based on the national curriculum: Arabic, French, sciences, mathematics, civics, geography, general culture, information technology, religious studies, and existential training.

Social program:
Awareness, general culture, news, concepts of time and money. Projects relating to the environment, daily living activities workshop, pre-math, pre-reading, and communication.

Sensorimotor workshops:
Aesthetics, storytelling, movement, art, cooking, relaxation, sensorimotor awareness, horticulture, sensory awareness, music, and cognitive stimulation.

Autonomy in everyday activities:
Nutritional, sphincter, personal and hygiene autonomy; autonomy to dress; and psychological autonomy.

Developmental activities:
Animation, individual and group games, computer games, birthdays, parties, outings, sports, and singing.

The pedagogy of the growth of the child of God:
Prayers, masses, hymns, and spiritual and human animation.
1 – EARLY STIMULATION UNIT

- Tactile sensory stimulation session
- Body image
- Cognitive stimulation session
- Birthday
- Sensory stimulation session (smell)
- Pre-graphics

2 – PHYSICAL DISABILITY PROGRAM

- The culture fans
- The drivers
- The friends of the rainbow
- The three brave
- The distinguished
- The perseveres
- The researchers
3 - CHOUCHOUS PROGRAM
(poly-handicapped and severe intellectual deficiency)

Thérèse, a young member of the VRP, helps with lunch

Culinary activity

Arts activity

Interdisciplinary activity
Sensorimotor stimulation

Group photo

4 - PROGRAMME HANDICAP MENTAL

The group of clowns

The group of painters

The group of hairdressers

The group of musicians

The group of sculptors

The group of actors

The group of athletes
5 - TED* PROGRAM (AUTISM)  
* Pervasive Developmental Disorders

III – LIVING ENVIRONMENT

The center receives autistic youth with the objective of creating a temporary home adapted to their disability, in which they can learn and discover how to live in a group outside of their home.

The youth are received at the center in rotation for a total of 4 to 8 days per month, and are supervised by qualified staff.

IV - VRP* – AIN EL-RIHANI

The vocational rehabilitation program welcomes the youth of SESOBEL who possess the capabilities and skills to help with production at the workshop. The starting age is 20 years old. The goal is to lead them towards personal and social autonomy.

Distribution of youth in the workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-press</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help during class</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beading</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existential training</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The same youth could work in more than one workshop.

In addition to professional activities, the VRP youth benefit of the following various programs: educational and continuous education support, recreational and leisure activities, and a medical and rehabilitation treatment.
V – THE SOUTH LEBANON PROGRAM

1 – Academic Inclusion

Jezzine
Living together in the same school!

Education is a basic need that every society must guarantee to each of its children. Today, more than ever, the education of children with disabilities is a priority. Their integration is a formidable challenge for our society! Therefore, SESOBEL, in 2006 collaborated with the National Education Ministry, and launched its academic inclusion project at the Jezzine public school.

Our action

SESOBEL provides two types of school integration that aim to raise awareness and recognize the rights of children with special needs:

1st type: Partial inclusion.
Children are cared for in a specialized class within the public school. They receive instruction that is appropriate to their potential and performance. They are integrated in a regular class upon request and according to their educational level.

2nd type: Full integration.
Children are integrated into a regular class with the assistance and guidance of a specialized teacher.

Beneficiaries:
All children with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, Down syndrome, autism and hyperactivity, attention deficit or trouble with academic learning.

2 – The Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VRP) Kfarhouna

Something to do for everybody!

In collaboration with the Development and Reconstruction Council, SESOBEL started a VRP in the Kfarhouna Public School for the production of local produce under the name of “Gê”, meaning “the motherland” (Gê or Gaea is the name of the Phoenician goddess of the earth).

This project is a continuation of the mission of SESOBEL: to provide a professional learning opportunity and a protected workshop to young people with disabilities in order to lead them towards economic and social autonomy.

Beneficiaries:
All children with mental retardation, Down syndrome, or cerebral palsy.

All products are handcrafted with passion and creativity: jams, syrup, rose water, vegetables, dry herbs, to name a few.

Products are of high quality with no added preservatives.

OUR CHILDREN DURING ACTIVITIES

Summer camp – July/August 2012

Back to school! October 1st, 2012

Independence Day feast
Easter

The “Tournesol” group-Lebanese Girl Scouts

Music workshop

The Musical Learning workshop serves 61 children and youth who, by playing musical instruments, learn: rhythm, pauses, silence, to take turns, various melodies, verbal or gestural expression, and an individual’s role in group participation, sharing, and especially teamwork. The first sessions were intended to help children experience the free manipulation of various percussion and melodic musical instruments. In doing so, an assessment of the capabilities of each child could be done, and then an initiation of some practical exercises with their designated instrument. Our first concert was held at SESOBEL during Christmas and was an unexpected success. Following this, efforts were increased and the music events continued to succeed. This surprising success has given us new hopes of being able to share our unique and remarkable experience with the world.

Sports, an activity that our youth appreciate

Saint Barbara feast

Christmas

Bravo to our basketball champions

Valentine’s Day at SESOBEL

Mother’s Day

Father’s Day
Our recreational and informative activities

Going to the movies

A visit to the park

A visit to a television station

Kermess, carnival

Snow outing

Water games

VI – MEDICAL AND REHABILITATIVE SUPPORT

Providing medical and rehabilitative support for children with mental or physical disability or those suffering from pervasive developmental disorder, will help them attain maximum autonomy capacity on the motor, cognitive and affective levels. This, in turn, fosters their development and integration within their family and social environment.

SESOBEL has over the years been able to develop its rehabilitation techniques through the help of various specialized centers, as well as Lebanese and foreign doctors and professionals.

- 58 doctors
- 10 hospitals
- 29 paramedical centers
- 5 universities

Number of children who benefited from SESOBEL’S rehabilitation program in its different units. (Note: the same child can benefit from several services)

- Medical unit: 424 children and youth
- Physiotherapy unit: 333 children and youth
- Respiratory unit: 101 children and youth
- Psychology unit: 55 children and youth
- Psychomotor unit: 223 children and youth
- Speech therapy unit: 242 children and youth
- Occupational therapy unit: 156 children and youth
- Technical aids unit: 286 children and youth
- Gait Lab: 35 people + 2 researches
This service welcomes any person who needs short-term, temporary care outside of the SESOBEL programs, in collaboration with a network of re-educators in all regions of Lebanon.

**BENEFICIARIES**
- Children whose age and disability meet the admission requirements set by SESOBEL, but:
  - who have poor health
  - who don’t have a clear diagnosis
  - who are awaiting integration into a learning environment
  - who live in remote areas
- Children over 6 years of age with problems or a disability.
- Children integrated in SESOBEL but who require additional care.
- Any person who needs one or more short-term, temporary care service outside of SESOBEL.

*This program provides:*
1. An interdisciplinary approach to meet the vital needs of the child at the center, at home, or direct him to other appropriate professionals or facilities.
2. Inform the family on the disability and provide them with advice and guidance.
3. Assist, accompany and support the family while respecting their pace of “acceptance of the disability”.

**VIII - FAMILY SOCIAL SERVICES**

Since its founding, SESOBEL supports families of children with disabilities, and not allowing the disability to being a reason to remove the child from his environment.

We work to support the family so that it can find harmony and safeguard its unity.

**Types of problems experienced by families:**
- **Overstrained mother**
  - (The only one in charge of her home, personal discontent, need to feel productive, marital problems, unexpected death of her sick child, or a mother affected by disability).
- **Disruption of parents’ education system**
  - (Lack of knowledge among parents, couple withdrawal from their parental roles, family affected by disability).
- **Imbalance in the marital relationship**
  - (Father shrinks back from responsibilities, couple communication problems - do not confront the problem, one of the parents has a psychiatric illness, father living in denial of the disability of his child, or external interference by the extended family members).
- **Bad economic situation**
  - (Father’s illness, father’s death, limited income, unemployed father).
- **Weakened fathers**
  - (Following the disability of their children, unexpected death of the child).
- **Problems with siblings**
  - (Cognitive and learning problems, psychological problems, behavioral problems).

**Action:**
1. **Social group intervention with 38 families divided up based on problematic case:**
   - Free expression for new mothers I
   - Free expression for new mothers II
   - My experience with autism

The sessions touched on the personal, social, and psychological state of the mothers. They had the chance to make the acquaintance of other mothers who share the same daily experiences. It provided the opportunity for mutual assistance which helped to increase their self-confidence and taught them how to deal with disability.

2. **New track of intervention: Mediation**
   - Inform and educate families about mediation through group meetings.
   - Conduct pre-mediation interviews with target families.

**The Siblings Action**

4 meetings and one “boom” day at SESOBEL Beneficiaries: 45 brothers and sisters

A group of 18 brothers and sisters of our children took advantage of a five-day camp. They lived unforgettable moments and shared in several activities such as: expression and exchange sessions, karaoke, country dinner, and a day at the beach.
The Continuing Education Center at SESOBEL aims to:

1. Raising awareness about cases and rights of a person with disability.
2. Promoting quality care and support for people with disabilities.
3. Enhancing response capabilities and the expertise of professionals working with people with disabilities.
4. Involving parents in the implementation of the life projects of their child, and to promote his integration into the socio-economic life.

During the 2012-2013 year, the Continuing Education Centre’s activities have focused on two pillars: 1) intramural teaching and 2) creating internship opportunities at SESOBEL for professionals from Syrian NGOs.

1- Intramural teaching

- 11 intramural training modules for 224 professionals working in 12 Lebanese medical-social establishments.
- 3 intramural practical teaching courses for 7 professionals working in Syrian medical-social establishments (by request from IECD).

The training modules and lessons were conducted by 5 professionals from SESOBEL, 2 professionals from the St. Joseph University and 3 foreign experts.

2 – Professional internships

3 internships periods for 7 professionals working in Syrian medical-social establishments (project is in collaboration with IECD).

Each internship period lasted from one to two weeks for each professional.

**RESOURCES THAT SERVE OUR ACTIONS**

We aim to educate as many people as possible about our mission and thus enlarge the SESOBEL family, to ensure that we cover part of the costs of care for our children. The request for public donations aims to fulfill these objectives through the following sectors:

**Sponsorships and local donations**

While sponsorship is a long-term commitment and helps to forge relationships and to follow closely the growth of the child or the group, donations are a one-time occurrence and/or occasional. They are set according to the donor’s intentions. During the year 2012-2013, SESOBEL collaborated with 1013 sponsors and donors. In order to support sponsorship and encourage donations, we have relied upon advertising through the media, e-mail and text messages, and the points of sale at our exhibition for our various products. Sponsorships and local donations made up 18% of SESOBEL’s resources for the year 2012-2013.

**Foreign Sponsorships**

Foreign sponsorships allow us to cover part of the needs of children with disability. Our main partners are the Partage and Terre de Vie organizations.

Foreign donations and sponsorships made up 11% of SESOBEL’s resources for the year 2012-2013.

**Service Projects**

**Thanks to the generosity of SESOBEL’s friends in Lebanon and abroad, SESOBEL was able to develop projects to cover the needs of our children with disability as well as our operating costs.**

**The cookies and chocolate protected workshop**

The CMA CGM foundation has supported SESOBEL to restore the cookies and chocolate workshop which provides access to 60 people (young people with disability and mothers of children with disability) to vocational training and a paid job.

**The purchase of therapeutic supplies**

Thanks to the contribution of Porticus, SESOBEL was able to provide the necessary equipment for the rehabilitation and equipment of the various departments of speech, psychomotor, occupational and physical therapy, as well as the technical aids unit. This contribution has helped to prevent complications and to overcome communication difficulties. It was also useful for medical rehabilitation and support.

**The photography workshop**

Edu’Arts gave a boost to our end-of-year artistic workshop with its generous participation. It is thanks to them that we were able to start the photography workshop and purchase 4 cameras! The workshop is led by Mr. Suheil Semaan, international photographer, who with the help of two other specialized photographers is working on developing the capabilities of our young people with disabilities. Thus, in time, our young people will themselves become the photographers of SESOBEL and have the exclusive right to take pictures of our events.

**The sports workshop and the music workshop**

The students at Our Lady of Jamhour school provided funds to cover the costs of purchasing sports equipment and musical instruments for our children.

**Repair and renovation of elevators**

The organization “Partage” in Nantes and the Kindermissionwerk Organization in Germany, participated in the repair and renovation of elevators to ensure a secure and faster travel for our children and youth with mental, or physical disability and autism.
Seating and positioning wheelchair - SSPW
Home Mobility is raising funds to provide 28 SESOBEL children a personalized seating system, adapted to their physical disability, and mounted on a made-to-measure growing-wheelchair, that can be adjusted as the child grows.

La Libanaise des Jeux and an anonymous donor have provided, through the SSPW Home Mobility project page, the first three growing-wheelchairs to three of our youth!

Information Technology
The 10th grade students at Our Lady of Jamhour school were able to provide 21 computers for the classes of our young people with disabilities!

Training
The 12th grade students at Our Lady of Jamhour school – class of 2013 - covered the cost of the plane ticket of a foreign expert from the CHRU in Tours. The expert will moderate sessions with the SESOBEL team, during which they will deepen their knowledge, question practices, exchange experiences and discuss a better coordination of care in order to develop the exchange and development therapy provided to autistic children at SESOBEL.

Microsoft Office gift
We thank Microsoft Office for having offered us the licenses for the Microsoft software.

Akhtar Badshah
Senior Director
Microsoft Citizenship & Public Affairs
Microsoft Corporation

Self-financing Activities

TOGETHER HAND IN HAND WE MOVE ALONG THE PATH !!!

A BIG THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts to all the dear ladies, members of our different support committees: ladies’ committee, volunteers’ committee, youth committee and parents’ committee. Thanks to their involvement, commitment and efforts, we were able to conduct self-financing activities that contributed to cover the operating costs of our programs.

- Gala dinner at the Casino du Liban
- Field trip to the Mzaar – Kfardebian gardens
- Brunch in the SESOBEL gardens
- “Reasons to be Pretty” play at the Al Madina theater
- Christmas Exhibition at the Le Royal hotel in Dbayeh
- Christmas cake sale at the Le Royal hotel in Dbayeh
- Santa Claus piggy bank
- Brunch Kuwait - Kuwait
- Easter exhibition and brunch at BIEL
- Easter cake sale at BIEL
- Brunch in the SESOBEL gardens
- “Les Copines” play at the Monot theater
- Painting exhibition for the works of our children and youth with autism at the Phoenicia hotel in Beirut.

The chocolate workshop
The National Employment Office (NEO) regularly supports the work of the chocolate workshop, a vocational rehabilitation workshop in which 17 youth with disabilities and 6 mothers work. This year, the NEO helped SESOBEL acquire two new machines to improve operations at the workshop.

Mrs. May Mikati, wife of the prime minister, inaugurates the Christmas exhibition

Gala dinner at the Casino du Liban
Field trip to the Mzaar – Kfardebian gardens
Brunch at BIEL
Brunch Kuwait - Kuwait
Easter exhibition and brunch at BIEL
Easter cake sale at BIEL
Brunch in the SESOBEL gardens
“Les Copines” play at the Monot theater
Painting exhibition for the works of our children and youth with autism at the Phoenicia hotel in Beirut.
SESOBEL was honored to receive the Takreem Award for Philanthropy and Charitable Services for its work with children with physical or mental disability. The award was granted by a special jury, which notably included Queen Noor Al-Hussein of Jordan, Mohamed El Baradei, Nobel Prize for Peace in 2005, Lakhdar Brahimi, Algerian diplomat and politician who was also Joint Arab League-United Nations Secretary General, and Amin Maalouf, Franco-Lebanese writer, elected to join the French Academy in 2011.

The ceremony was held in Manama, Bahrain on November 30, 2012, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain Sheikh Hamad Ibn Issa Al Khalifa and head of the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain. The event aims to make the winning laureates an example in the Arab world and throughout the world, to incite today’s and tomorrow’s generations to contribute towards advancing society in all areas.

Special events

Laying the foundation stone
On October 3, 2012, we laid the foundation stone for the new center for our children and youth with autism. Present at the event was the representative of the Maronite Patriarchate which has given us the land on which the center will be built. The beginning of the realization of this dream project was possible thanks to the generosity of several donors. A fundraising campaign was launched with the hope of raising awareness for other donors to also help fund this project.
Signing of the book “7 jours parmi les anges”

Under the patronage of his Excellency Mr. Patrice Paoli, the ambassador of France in Lebanon, SESOBEL launched David Hur’s book, “7 jours parmi les anges” (7 days among the angels), which recounts the 35 years of SESOBEL’s mission in a humane, personal and fictionalized style. The event was held on the 12th of December, 2012 at the French Institute in Lebanon in conjunction with a photography exhibit for the students of ALBA (Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts).

A Double Date with SESOBEL on May 23rd

Under the patronage of His Excellency Wael Abou Faour, Minister of Social Affairs, and in collaboration with the Phoenicia Hotel, SESOBEL organized on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at the Phoenicia Hotel Ballroom, a graduation ceremony for SESOBEL’s youth in hotel management. Additionally, the “Inspirations” exhibition: free-style paintings were exhibited. These “masterpieces” were inspired by the works of famous painters (like Monet, Van Gogh, and Matisse) and painted by SESOBEL’s children with autism.

1st date : Degree in hotel management

In February 2012, the “3 Hearts Lodge” was inaugurated to welcome visitors for a business stay, vacation or a weekend in a family friendly atmosphere. The 3 Hearts Lodge advances the mission of SESOBEL by promoting the professional and social integration of our youth with disabilities. The Phoenicia Hotel management provided 9 of our youth with disabilities, continuing theoretical and practical education in all areas of hotel management and hospitality. They were presented with a diploma on May 23, 2013.

2nd date : “Inspirations” painting exhibition

Our talented children and youth with autism presented us with 100 free-style paintings and others that were inspired by the works of famous painters like Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Gauguin. The children and youth were accompanied by painter Joan Barraj. Proceeds from the sale of the paintings will go towards the building of the new center for autism.

The “3 Hearts Lodge” opens its doors

After a discovery in Belgium, three years ago, via a hospitality workshop for youth with disabilities, Fadia Safi, president and general manager of SESOBEL, decides to take the concept which she considered to be rich in services to Lebanon. Based on the assumption that hospitality is not very demanding, and very likely to enhance the value and ability of the youth to easily find a job, she meets with them. They have a long discussion, after which it turns out that nine out of ten youth actually fit the profile required for such a profession. But in order to have them acquire the skills needed for the hospitality industry, Safi reached out to the Phoenicia Hotel, which did not hesitate to agree to provide training for the youth of SESOBEL.

The training program took place in several stages, and covered the topics of room maintenance, room service, preparing breakfast and lunch buffets, and finally reception and hospitality. To complete the training of these young people in the hospitality field, SESOBEL turned the fifth and final floor of its building in Ain el-Rihani into a family-friendly lodge. “We are already receiving some customers,” says Safi. Thus, the purpose of such an initiative would be twofold: the lodge is an activity that helps with its own financing and also with the advancement of the organization’s mission. This initiative will undoubtedly open the door to the creation of jobs for young people with disabilities and their integration into society and into the professional world.

With its 12 beds divided among five rooms, the 3 Hearts Lodge charges a fee of 55 USD per night. The fee includes breakfast, along with many amenities such as Wi-Fi, a safe in each room, a parking, a conference room, and transportation provided from the Beirut International Airport.

Natasha Metni - Hebdo Magazine
OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS

During the year 2012 – 2013, SESOBEL received 655 children and youth who came from 613 families:

- Family reception service: 44 children
- Early stimulation unit: 37 children
- Physical disability program: 48 children and youth
- Mental disability program: 78 children and youth
- PDD* Program (Autism): 41 children and youth
- Vocational rehabilitation center – Ain El Rihani: 37 youth
- Anta-Akhi* youth: 50 youth
- Academic inclusion – Jezzine: 37 youth
- Vocational rehabilitation center – Kfarhouna: 5 youth
- External care program: 301 people

*PDD : Pervasive Developmental Disorders
* Anta-Akhi youth: SESOBEL provides the youth of Anta-Akhi (an independent association of SESOBEL) with medical and rehabilitative care, as well as technical and positioning aids.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability category of the beneficiaries</th>
<th>Number of children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical (202 children) 31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral Motor Infirmity</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degenerative disease</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic syndrome</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking for diagnostic</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undefined</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idiopathic cause</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental (201 children) 30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromosomal aberration</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral malformation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic syndrome</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Looking for diagnostic</td>
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<td>Undefined</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idiopathic cause</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pervasive developmental disorder (63 children) 10%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified pervasive developmental disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genetic syndrome</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking for diagnostic</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (189 children) 29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic difficulties</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undiagnosed disability</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking for diagnostic</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 USD = 1.500 L.L.
### RESSOURCES

**Budget:**
SESOBEL’s overall budget on 6/30/2012 is 5,700,000 USD. 75% of the resources are of private origin.

**Expenses**

- Educational and Social Programs: 51%
- Medical and Rehabilitation Programs: 28%
- VRP and Products Workshops: 19%

**Income**

- Foreign Donations and sponsorships: 27%
- Local Donations and Sponsorships: 18%
- Lebanese Government’s Contribution: 18%
- Donations in Kind: 11%
- Emergency Donations: 10%
- Self-sustaining Activities: 11%
- Families Contribution: 1%

### TRANSPARENCY

SESOBEL does not depend on any religious or political entity, in order to preserve its moral and financial freedom. Additionally, more than 80% of SESOBEL’s funds come from fundraising activities and private resources, which allow the association to maintain its autonomy.

For complete transparency towards its donors, SESOBEL’s accounts are subject every year to the control of 2 statutory auditors designated by the general assembly and the board of directors. Accounts are audited by the Lebanese firm “Antoine J. Haddad”, and the French firm “Ernst & Young”.

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### THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

**Mrs. Yvonne Chami**
Founder of SESOBEL and Anta-Akhi.

**General Assembly**
A general assembly comprising 33 members, meets every year. The assembly approves the major strategic and budgetary decisions.

**Board of Directors**
It comprises 10 members elected for four years. The board meets once every two months to decide on the strategic and budgetary planning and make sure the values of SESOBEL are being respected.

- Mrs. Fadia Safi, President
- Mrs. Mireille Frem, Vice-President
- Ms. May Khreich, Secretary
- Mr. Ziad Khadji, Treasurer
- Dr. Kamal Kallab
- Dr. Mansour Hojeily
- Mr. Sélim Khoury
- Mr. Labib Akiki
- Dr. Selim Catafago
- Mrs. Frida Chammas

**Counselors**
- Mr. Jean-Marie Miramon
- Ms. Alya Wardé
- Mr. Alain Brenas
- Mr. Najj Boulos
- Father Michel Sheuer
- Mr. David Hurly
- Ms. Christian Lujan
- Dr. Ismat Ghanem
- Mr. Jean Dupré
- Mediapak
- Indevco
- Mr. Chekri Khoury
- M. Toni Kalaani
- Mrs. Denise Fouqué
- Mr. Clarck Khadij
- Dr. Sami Richa

**General Director**
Mrs. Fadia Safi

**Volunteers:**
207 people

**Interns:**
106 people

**Support committees**
- Ladies committee: 15 people
- Youth committee: 17 people
- Volunteers’ committee: 16 people
- Parents’ committee: 12 people

**Work team**
A multidisciplinary team comprising 223 people of various specializations: specialized educators, animators, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychomotor therapists, psychologists, social workers, accountants, administrative personnel... and 18 remunerated youth with disabilities.
In 1987 piercing the darkness of disability, a candle was lit for the disabled children and their families in Lebanon. The Australian Lebanese community is better for having known SESOBEL and the tremendous love it emanates throughout the world. Many of us have travelled to Lebanon and have visited SESOBEL, only to leave feeling uplifted and much richer, taking with us a humility-filled Ziwadeh that will last for years.

**Ina RIHANI**

SESOBEL had humble beginnings, and was a pioneer organization in this field. Today, it is a leading institution with a distinguished reputation. The good work and integrity of SESOBEL are commendable. The American Friends of SESOBEL are honored and pleased to serve as a support organization to SESOBEL.

Founder of the American Friends of SESOBEL

**Erik JORGENSEN**

When we fully accept the other, with a look that transgresses all our differences, it leads to this extraordinary human experience that is SESOBEL. It is with you that I could see, very neatly, what the joy of giving is.

Director of Partage

**Pascal PONTY**

On a family visit to SESOBEL, the hospitality and warmth were fantastic. The professionals, children and youth present, helped me realize that life and joy can be stronger than the most severe disabilities, that love and true compassion can free us. By working with people with disabilities, you carry the honor of humanity!

Board Chair of Partage

**Michel and Dominique DURET**

What fascinates us at SESOBEL is the comprehensive service that is provided: the mindfulness, but also the great skill combined with this incessant desire to seek, form, and find new ways to treat or rehabilitate without ever reducing the service to medicalization.

What elevates us at SESOBEL is this hope that is stronger than anything, that even at the worst times that Lebanon went through, “the impossible is possible.”

Founders of Terre de Vie

**Toni and Mary KHAYCI**

In 1987 piercing the darkness of disability, a candle was lit for the disabled children and their families in Lebanon. The Australian Lebanese community is better for having known SESOBEL and the tremendous love it emanates throughout the world. Many of us have travelled to Lebanon and have visited SESOBEL, only to leave feeling uplifted and much richer, taking with us a humility-filled Ziwadeh that will last for years.

Founders of the Australia SESOBEL committee