

Dear Friends of OpenMinds,

The Executive Committee of OpenMinds met on November 20, 2019, ahead of the General Assembly. The overriding emphasis was on OpenMinds' ability to tread the difficult waters our beloved country is currently experiencing, and its ability to manage the potential reverberations in the foreseeable future. During such times of acute need, our foremost concern is ensuring that OpenMinds' charitable contributions to needy families by way of medical therapies and scholarship packages remain intact. This is in line with our contingency planning and with our efforts to ensure sustainability with limited or no "fresh funds".

Thanks to your unwavering generosity throughout the years, coupled with our extremely prudent financial policies, we would like to communicate with you how we plan on ensuring continuity of services as per the following decisions taken and approved by the General Assembly:

1. **Financial Packages awarded to needy families at the AUBMC Special Kids Clinic-** These packages shall remain unchanged, as more families will inevitably struggle with finances.
2. **Schools and Awareness-** The Scholarship budget shall in fact be increased by 20%, to reflect the extreme and dire demand we are experiencing from students with Special Needs in schools throughout Lebanon. Moreover, while integration commitments made to schools prior to 2020 will be honored, any new substantial undertakings will be halted for now.
3. **Neurodevelopmental Research at AUBMC-** OpenMinds will only continue to support the research projects that were previously entered into, and their publication.
4. Operational expenses shall remain limited to the already extremely low overhead levels we currently incur (under 9%). Communication shall be restricted to the basic needs of OpenMinds, and all media campaigns that were planned will be reduced to a strict minimum so that funds can be better allocated in line with the above.
5. There was discussion about the possibility of fundraising internationally, should local annual galas remain unfeasible. The PQASSO quality accreditation process that OpenMinds is currently undergoing should strengthen the success of such endeavors.

Disbursements	2020 Budget	2019 Budget
Packages	\$500,000	\$500,000
Scholarships	\$150,000	\$125,000
Integration	\$100,000	\$300,000
Research	\$100,000	\$250,000
Communication	\$50,000	\$250,000
Operational	\$85,000	\$100,000
Total	\$985,000	\$1,475,000

Our full donors report will be sent once our annual audited financial reports are published. We hope to continue our services to our communities, as they are needed now more than at any other time. **Your support is, as always, greatly appreciated and acknowledged.** We will be contacting you to follow up on any new strategic decisions we make, and on our partnership once the environment is more conducive to such a conversation. Going forward, it will clearly become increasingly and prohibitively more challenging to sustain our services without further funding. In the meantime, we wish you an enjoyable holiday season, and hope and pray for a more prosperous Lebanon in which all individuals can enjoy their basic human rights in dignity.

Ghida Rabbat
 President, OpenMinds
 On behalf of all OpenMinds Board Members

