



From a Banker to an Asylum Seeker



Basma an Iraqi refugee aged 42 arrived in Jordan on April 5th, 2017 as an asylum seeker when her husband decided to leave everything behind and escape ISIS to guarantee a better life for their two boys Fahed (aged 17 years old) Steven (aged 13 years old).

Basma used to work in a private bank in Iraq as a teller where her husband was a Mechanical Engineer and living happily and peacefully in Iraq, her children had family ordinary days routine going to school, spending time with friends and family.

Once the family arrived in Jordan and settled down in the Fuehis area, Basma attended Alhadaf Institute programs starting with trauma workshops and art therapy then moved to makeup and sewing, while opening up to our team we found out that “The uniqueness of this family mainly in their wide range of thinking and strong relationship within their family, Basma said and continued my children were devastated, depressed, but my husband and his love for searching started looking for ways to help my children get over their challenges and follow their dreams, he learned to do handcrafts and bracelets then he taught Fahed & Steven which helped them a lot to overcome some of the obstacles they face daily .” after a while the two boys joined the art therapy sessions and shined in their way, Steven is dreaming to be an architect while Fahed is detailed oriented and dreams of having a success full job.

Both boys were enrolled in youth programs at Alhadaf where we enhanced their life skills and sensory programs, sports programs, and self-defense.

I fell into a deep circle of depression, I hated how I look as I gained weight, I have acne on my face, I hate to look at the mirror said Basma. I feel I am in a very long dark dream that is never-ending.

First, when I came to Jordan I dreamt of having a life in Australia till know we were rejected twice, other families arriving after us to Jordan received their immigration and we are still waiting I wish this dream ends and we get a better life soon.

I started to work in cleaning homes to try to support my family at least to provide food, my husband started selling the items he created from threads and beads but it is not enough, I had to remove my children from school and let them study with evening schools as I feel bad for their educational level and to what we ended up here.

Till this day when Look at my boys' innocent faces I blame myself for the tears and sorrow, I blame myself for depriving them of their basic needs and rights, but I always remember God is kind and he keeps an eye on us.

