



In 2017 a lovely lady with a beautiful face yet burdened with life's challenges knocked the doors of Alhadaf Institute's door, in a shy voice she asked if she could join our programs. Ivonne is an Iraq refugee from Mosel who escaped ISIS and came to Jordan on July 27th, 2017 with her spouse and three children where they were welcomed by the Jordanian community and settled down in a simple house and turned into a home with hope, prayers and much love.

Ivonne is a young lady in her forties who suffered a lot through her journey from Iraq to Jordan whereas usual were threatened to be killed or pay a ransom and not least to change their religion, as they believed in God and Jesus words the family decided to leave everything behind their home, belongings, toys, memories and beloved ones as they trusted their faith in God and trusted his choice.

The family lived ordinary happy life where Ivonne was a normal housewife who took care of her family with love and care, the father owned a store and worked in farming.

The moment the family arrived in Jordan faced many challenges first the father couldn't work cause he had no work permit, they started receiving support from different churches in Jordan, Ivonne was depressed and worries for the unknown future of her family, she felt sad for her three boys as they didn't attend school and socially disabled due to the transition and difference in culture and language.

“One day, I heard about Alhadaf from my friend and decided to go and ask for help, I was welcomed with smiles and warm hearts at that moment I knew that Alhadaf institute is a safe place for me and my children. “Ivonne Said, I joined the trauma workshops and received art therapy and directly moved to English course, makeup and sewing course. the courses helped me a lot and encouraged me to keep going to pursue the future of my family.

My three children Sedar (15 years old), Savvan (13 years old), and Serant (11 years old) joined Alhadaf Institute programs and I noticed a change in their behaviors and achievements academic, my children were coming back, I saw smiles on their faces, I saw hope in their eyes. Serant my youngest didn't join the school and he had some development and academic delays, “I wait for the weekend to end to go to Alhadaf Institute and enjoy the art therapy and activities, I love the team and teachers as they are kind to me and give me attention”, said by Serant.



Ivonne's family applied to Australia as asylum seekers but received a rejection couple of times, Ivonne dreams of joining her family, to celebrate Christmas with them, or simply to share a cup of tea with her parents and sibling.

One day I discovered that I am pregnant and I thought of Alhadaf team my second family to tell them the happy news, I rushed to the premises and as usual, I was welcomed with love, smiles, and hugs I had mixed feelings of happiness and confusion and fear of the future of the expected baby of the unknown identity as refugees, I always dreamt of having a girl with ribbons, curls and bows, pink everywhere. I lived this experience with my second family Alhadaf where they supported me emotionally and guided me to prepare myself for the delivery even they helped me to choose names, Hence when the happy day arrived unfortunately I faced some medical complications since the doctor didn't come to the delivery because of my status as a refugee and the baby had lack of oxygen through the delivery, and there was no doctor to save her, my baby angle lived only five hours and she passed away.

The whole family was in shock, depressed, and had complex feelings uncertain what to do. we buried our angle and are visiting her every month as we talk to her and express our love.

As a start I had severe depression, crying all the time and my health was in bad condition, I didn't take care of my family and children, moreover I blamed myself and believed that god is punishing me for doubting his choices for me. One day I received a call from Alhadaf Team where they provided me with food to support my weak body and one to one session to get me out of the depression.

After a few baby steps, I was able to get out of my home and started going back to Alhadaf Institute where I felt love, support, and care being provided to me.

I took many workshops to overcome depression and trauma, Sedar my eldest son kept his feelings inside and was in an extremely bad emotional case, but thankfully I had Alhadaf beside me to help him as they took his



hand and guided him through how to talk about his feelings and to express his emotions through arts and one to one sessions, self-defense, and sports, they helped him believe in dreaming for the future and making plans to be a huge football player .

To this day I thank god for helping me through my journey to overcome the daily challenges, I pray to God to guide me through these hard times and protect my family.

