

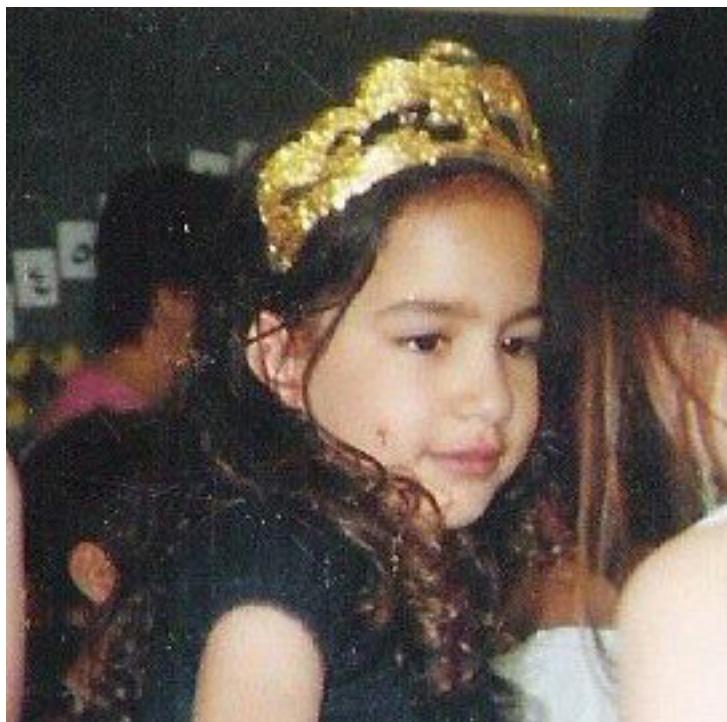


مؤسسة مريم
Mariam Foundation



The Story of Life!

The story of pain that transformed the face of fighting cancer in Palestine.



Mariam Foundation

On September 10, 2004, a little angel called Mariam Hamed from Palestine passed away in Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, following a three-year determined battle of treatment against cancer in Rambam Hospital in Haifa. As a Palestinian cancer patient's family, the Hamed family had to go through a great lot of obstacles and hardships due to the lack of resources available for the Palestinian community, let alone the distorted image the community has regarding cancer and cancer patients. Through the cancer journey, the Hamed family had been witnessing other families facing literal misery and paradoxes: death and life; tears of joy and sorrow; and the

unaffordability and unavailability of treatment. Having to witness and live such an experience, Mariam's eldest brother, Mohammad, who was always by her side, and was only 15 when she rested to eternal peace, by her side all the time, Mohammad decided that something must be changed as from pain arises hope. Mariam's death made him vow to change this situation for no other cancer patient will have to go through what his sister and family had to go through. Until he reached the legal age of 22 at which he can establish a non-profit, he volunteered, individually, in supporting cancer patients, and wrote a booklet about the journey of his sister's

fighting cancer, which he ended with a promise to establish the Mariam Foundation to help cancer patients in their treatment journey, along working on the way the local community perceive and talk about cancer.

In 2012, after reaching the legal age, and after 7 years of extensive planning and studying on how to establish a non-profit, Mariam Foundation was officially established making it the first Arab non-profit for fighting cancer in the country. Since then, Mariam Foundation has been offering its services to every human being regardless of their ethnicity or background. Mariam Foundation offers cancer patients and their families 360-degree support and care of their wellbeing to facilitate their cancer treatment and battle. Mariam Foundation has become more of a second home for cancer patients, and the main address for support. Mariam Foundation offers numerous services to cancer patients including an array of both financial and emotional support; security of medical treatments that are not covered by medical insurances; daily companions for children cancer patients in hospitals; and many more.

Over the years, the foundation has built strong bonds and partnerships with hospitals and healthcare services around the country, becoming the main, most reliable non-profit for these



institutions and the institutional medical system, which contributed to gaining a huge trust and following in the community as reflected in active interaction with the foundation's news, events and activities. At the same time, Mariam Foundation works on raising awareness of cancer and the significance of early detection through medical conferences, festivals, lectures delivered by specialists at the foundation, hospitals, clubs, schools and more, and to tremendous and distinct segments of society. Those objectives are fulfilled by tailored projects designed to meet the exact needs of cancer patients and audience, were carefully planned to make patients feel at home, and not fear cancer. On contrary, our projects are not limited to only support and help cancer patients, but rather to entrench the notion of victory against cancer, which is not less important than the treatment itself, yet a fundamental part of it.



Highlights of few main projects in Mariam Foundation

Mariam Joy

Mariam Joy is one of our flagship projects. It offers children with cancer daily-based companions in hospitals during their stays for chemotherapy, which can extend for weeks, if not months. During these stays, parents cannot be there with their child 24 hours a day; as they have jobs and other social and professional duties to deal with. The companions' main job is to take care of children during their chemotherapy stays. They play with them; fill their hearts with joy and give the parents a chance to take a relax and do their other life responsibilities. Hospitals that have this program



have reported that the program has changed the way children and families deal with cancer. In return, the foundation offers the selected companions out of a highly competitive process, full coverage to their university tuition fees for the academic term they serve. Through Mariam Joy, many children built tight bonds with their companions that get them to ask about their companions whenever they do not see them around.



Mariam Fund

To make all these projects possible, and to offer adequate care and support to our heroes, cancer patients, we created the Mariam Fund project.

Mariam Fund is responsible for covering everything related to financials, including medical bills; treatments that are not covered by health insurance, the many expenses related to dealing with cancer for the marginalised families; and much more. This project makes the backbone of all the foundation and all other projects.



Mariam Fund

We mainly rely on donations and people who believe in our cause and message and are willing to support us.

Therefore, supporting this project ensures the sustainability of our duties to cancer patients.



Mariam Home

Mariam Foundation supports cancer patients in hospitals and homes, during cancer and after it. Thus, and to take this kind of care to the next level, Mariam Foundation is initiating a new and innovative project that will change the face of cancer care. This project takes the process out of the traditional hospital environment to a whole new, more appealing atmosphere, Mariam Home. Mariam Home is the first project of its kind not only in Palestine,

but in the Middle East. Mariam Home is a place where we focus on the patient's well-being, and extensively work on the psychological side of fighting cancer, giving patients a place to relax and focus on their well-being and mental health. Mariam Home will offer cancer patients, for free, many activities such as music therapy, yoga, art therapy, a gaming room, pool, spa, sport rooms, social workers, psychologists and many more. This results in making them feel at ease and give them a mental and physical boost to help him fight cancer. Mariam Home will offer each patient a specific program that suits his/her needs after professional evaluation by social workers to offer the best experience.





MARIAM HOME

from **Mariam Foundation**

We offer many other projects that aim to raise awareness for cancer and early detection, such as the Pink October Project, the worldwide month for raising awareness of breast cancer. Pink October is a wide-scale project which involves medical conferences; lectures; school meetings; flyers and also a pink illumination of notable places across the country to early breast-screen themselves. Nonetheless, we work with the public to change their perception of cancer. For this aim, a whole festival is dedicated, which we called Hayat Festival. Each year, we honour cancer patients who have beaten cancer in front of a crowd and the whole world to draw a clear note: Cancer does not mean death. There is life during and following cancer. The heroes get up on a stage and share their experiences with incredibly inspiring stories and messages that move the crowds and everyone watching. This festival has been having a deep effect on the public's viewpoint of cancer. Mariam Foundation always seeks to thrive and improve for the good of cancer patients, and seeks to find new innovative ways to support our heroes in the best way possible. Supporting us contributes directly to helping more people and spreading the message of hope to more and more people. Be a part of this revolution, the revolution of life!





Mariam Support: Home visits by social workers to cancer patients in homes.



We Love Life: Support groups for cancer patients



Mariam Superheroes: Fun days in hospitals for children's patients with costumes, makeup and lots of fun



Hayat Festival: Honoring cancer patients who beat cancer to send a message to the world that there is life with and after cancer.



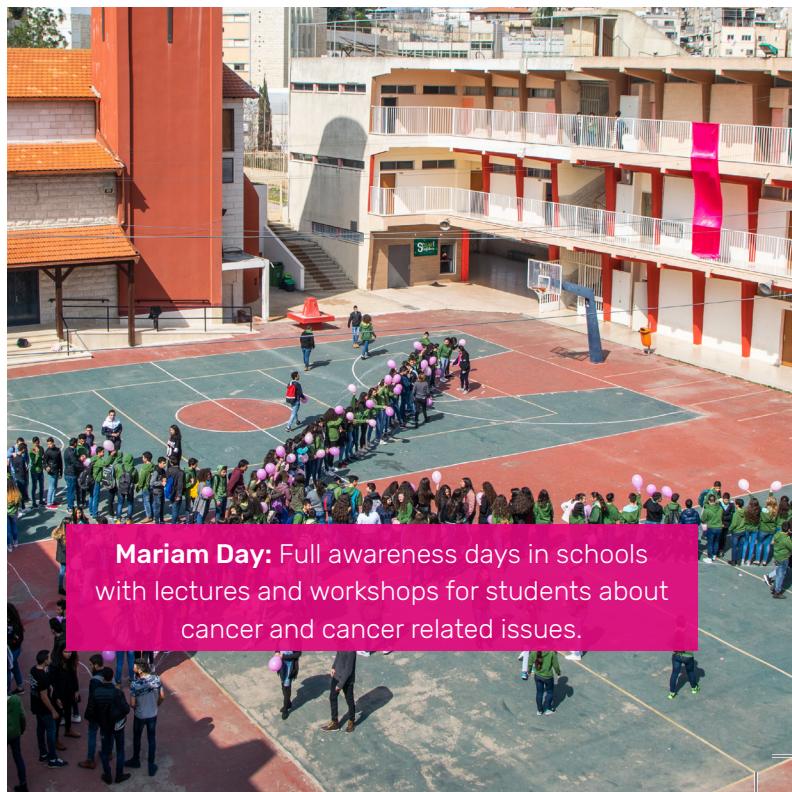
Mariam Library: Creating children's stories and translating medical literature into Arabic



Mariam Doctors: Professional doctors form Mariam Foundation that offer the public awareness lectures in schools, clubs, hospitals and more.



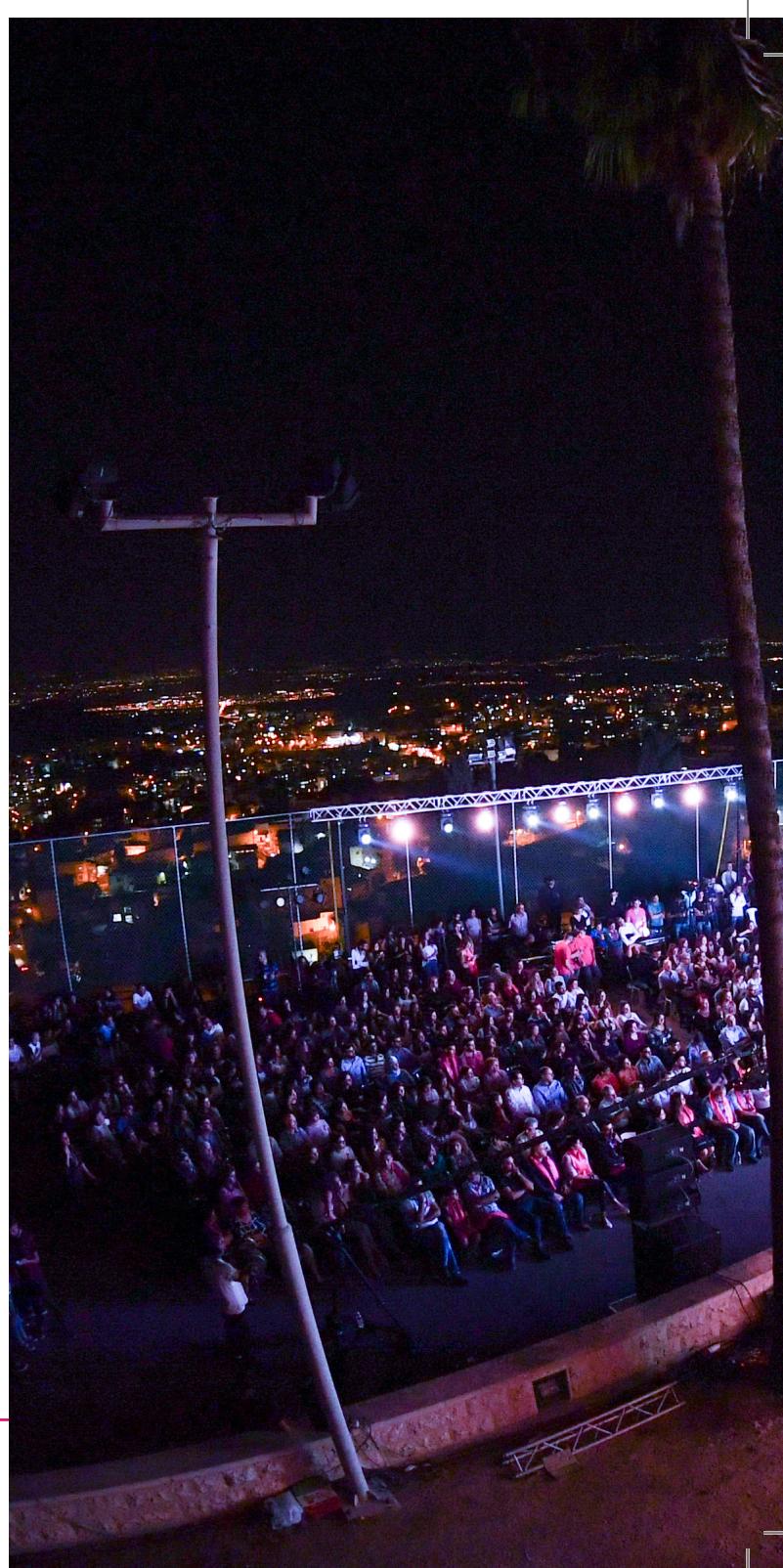
October Pink: Raising awarness for breast cancer



Mariam Day: Full awareness days in schools with lectures and workshops for students about cancer and cancer related issues.

Worldwide vision

Today, after years of extensive work and efforts, we can say that Palestine has gained a professional main address to fighting cancer, Mariam Foundation. Yet, and no matter how much work and effort we put into this cause, there is still a lot of work to be done. Therefore, we want to take this cause on an international scale, to educate the world about the fight against cancer we have in Palestine; as every Palestinian deserves to have sufficient care and medical treatment served in any other privileged country in the world. As a professional non-profit, Mariam Foundation took the responsibility to be the home of this humane mattering cause and life-saving mission. A vision that drove us to establish a non-profit in the United States: Friends of Mariam.





USA
Friends of Mariam

Friends Of Mariam

To widen our services and offer cancer patients the best and the most innovative services, and to maintain sustainable services and projects, we founded Friends of Mariam Inc. in the United States, a non-profit composed to support Mariam Foundation's work and initiatives. It is true that Mariam Hamed died in the United States, but today, Mariam is coming alive again, from the same place, through Mariam Foundation. She is raising anew to make a change and help every fellow cancer patient. Friends of Mariam is run by a trustworthy Board of Directors with rich experience in non-profits, and it aims to educate the American people about our work and projects in Palestine, as to gather as much support as possible and have more and more people back to such a humane cause: **Fighting cancer!**



Believe. Become a Partner. Take Action.



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