

30<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Beirut

### **LAS News:**

Dear LAS members, parents, Multidisciplinary team members and volunteers,  
I would like to inform you about the news and activities of the Lebanese Autism Society (LAS) during the months of September, October and November 2010.

#### **1. Moving of the CCA-English to Adduha school Chatila roundabout:**

Due to the high demand of parents to develop an integration project in a English speaking school, the LAS started in 2009 Classes for Children with Autism English section in Attaya School, Museum- Beirut. However, due to the lack of space in the hosting school, only one child benefited from the project. For this purpose, in September 2010, CCA-English moved to Adduha school, Chatila roundabout- Beirut. The number of children enrolled in the current program is 5; 4 of them are included totally in the regular classrooms and one partially.

#### **2. Training and Consulting services:**

- a. Midan Association: Mrs. Rima Frangieh approached the LAS for consultancy services ; In fact, due to the need, she is planning to open a center for children with Autism in the Zghorta region. The team has already started working on the project through on-field and consultancy visits.
- b. Kuwait Ministry of Education: The Kuwait Ministry of education requested from the Lebanese Autism Society to schedule and prepare a workshop and hands on training for 13 professionals. After a number of correspondence, the visit of some professionals from the Ministry of Education and the company in charge of the correspondence between the LAS and the Ministry of Education, the team is currently preparing the workshop and training which would take place on November 2010 at the premises of the Lebanese Autism Society- College Sacre Coeur Gemmayze. This workshop will focus on theoretical and practical concepts on how to deal with children with Autism.

#### **3. Arab Network for Autism (ANA):**

- a. The fifth ANA meeting will be held in Egypt on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2010, followed by a workshop on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November, focusing on the medical, scientific areas as well as training and discussion with parents of children with Autism. The ANA will also work on establishing a database of institutions working with children with Autism across the middle east in order to know the following:
  - Number of individuals, intervention techniques and methods, multidisciplinary team members, diagnosis tools used. As a follow up of this study, the translation of a diagnosis tool will be done and a action plan for training will be set.



Memberships to the ANA are divided into two parts:

- Voting members specific to institutions (working not less than 3 years) in the area of Autism. The membership fee of 200\$ is due for the first year and renewable yearly for the cost of 100\$.
- Participating members which could be a professional or a parent, however, these members are not allowed to vote or to present themselves for election. The membership cost is 50\$ per year.

**4. Lions in Lebanon:**

The Lions funded an Autism Committee presided by Mr Fawzi Merhi from the Lions Sea Side; for the purpose of raising Autism awareness and to organize different activities which part of its' funds goes to the Lebanese Autism Society. One of the upcoming activity is a conference about Autism organized by Lions Mid Town on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2010 at 6h30 at the Hotel Rotana-Gefinor, Hamra, Clemenceau.

**5. Your Day away campaign:**

For the third consecutive year, the LAS is organizing "Your day away" campaign addressed to Parents of children with Autism. This activity gives them a chance to drift away from their everyday life pressure and enjoy a dinner for two in a restaurant or a night at the hotel or a SPA treatment. The campaign will be launched for this year at the Hard Rock Café in Ain Mreisseh- Beirut on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 at 4h00 in the afternoon.

**6. ALFA Communication:**

ALFA Communication is organizing in coordination with the Lebanese Autism Society an event end of November 2010 entitled " Chacun sa communication..." during which sculptures of children with Autism will be exposed. ( the date and time will be conveyed on a later date)

A jury committee of well-known personalities from the media and art domain and professionals will choose the best sculpture.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness on Autism and to highlight the capacities of children with Autism.

Best regards,  
President of the Lebanese Autism Society,  
Mrs. Arwa Halawi