



A New Start in Lebanon

Fighting Malnutrition in Children

For more than 20 years, IOCC has responded to humanitarian needs in Lebanon, working closely with the Lebanese community to improve access to health services, nutritious food, and education.

When conflict broke out in Syria in 2010, IOCC was well positioned to expand its programming to help the hundreds of thousands of Syrian families seeking safety in Lebanon. Among them are Yazan and his family. At just 10 months old, Yazan was diagnosed with malnutrition. He was too small, inactive, and underweight for his age.

Yazan was admitted to IOCC's child malnutrition treatment program in South Lebanon. A partnership between IOCC, UNICEF, and the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund, the initiative aims to improve access to services that prevent and treat malnutrition.

During his visits, Yazan received treatment through supplementary food. IOCC also covered the pediatrician's fees and transportation costs for each visit.

After 12 consecutive follow-up visits, Yazan is now at a normal weight for his age. His father, Khalaf, is grateful. He said that if it wasn't for the help he received from IOCC, Yazan would not have recovered—and he couldn't have afforded the treatment his son needed.

The IOCC malnutrition monitor who followed Yazan described his improvement as tremendous. She shared, "Because of IOCC's support for



After being diagnosed with malnutrition at just 10 months old, Yazan received treatment through an IOCC program. Today he has recovered and is healthy, happy, and active.

Yazan's treatment, he is now in good health... and can enjoy being active, running, and smiling."

As Lebanon faces a deepening socioeconomic crisis, IOCC continues helping both Lebanese people in need and Syrian refugees improve their health and well-being.

FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

In September, we marked the arrival of a new ecclesiastical year. It's a time when I reflect on the past year with deep gratitude for your faithful support, love, and prayers.

This issue of *News & Needs* highlights IOCC's nutrition program in Lebanon, a Serv-X-Treme alumnus, and our ecumenical partnerships. Over the years, these strong partnerships built with faith-based organizations across traditions have been tremendously valuable for us and – most importantly – to those we help.

I am also pleased to announce that our new prayer journal is now available. Designed especially for children in grades 3–8, this booklet features stories of your faith in action around the world. IOCC offers print copies at no charge for your group or Sunday school class. Order at ioccc.org/orderprayerjournal.

Looking ahead, IOCC Sunday is coming up in November. This is a special opportunity for your parish to share examples of some of IOCC's work. Learn how you can participate at ioccsunday.org.

As always, we are happy to share stories of the impact of your generous support, both here at home and far away. Thank you, and we wish you a blessed ecclesiastical new year.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. M. Triantafilou'.

Constantine M. Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO

The Power of Partnership

How IOCC Works with Other Organizations

As an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the US, IOCC operates first and foremost by working with the Church and its humanitarian and development structures around the world. IOCC's success and growth have also been amplified through strong relationships with ecumenical partners and humanitarian agencies across faith traditions—all working together to bring God's love to those who are struggling.

Ecumenical cooperation takes various forms. It may be a grant, startup funding, an in-kind donation, or pooling resources with IOCC on the ground. In other contexts, IOCC provides program funding while our partners implement. The goal of these partnerships is always the same—to make the most of collective resources and expertise to help as many people as possible.



Olena and her young child, refugees from Ukraine, found safety and support in Poland, where IOCC is serving alongside ecumenical partners, including UMCOR.



Ecumenical partner support was critical to IOCC's very first aid distribution in 1992, when Brother's Brother Foundation provided emergency medical supplies following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In addition to close collaboration with the Orthodox Church and Church partners, ecumenical partners like this remain key.

For example, IOCC's programs across the Middle East have grown because of strong relationships with ecumenical partners from all over Europe.

Another powerful partnership is IOCC's work with Church World Service to provide school kits, hygiene kits, and cleanup buckets to people in need. This collaboration gives IOCC supporters a way to reach neighbors who need help near and far, and IOCC can ship tens of thousands of kits at once.

IOCC's Ukraine response continues through partnerships with the Orthodox Church, the Church

of the Brethren, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Week of Compassion. Together, we're caring for internally displaced Ukrainians, plus supporting refugees and host families in neighboring countries.

The value of these partnerships goes beyond money and supplies. Each organization contributes expertise and experience — and that means together, we can better serve people in need.

IOCC's approach has always been to maximize resources and relationships to responsibly and effectively help as many people as possible. Productive partnerships are key, with each organization contributing expertise and experience. Highlighted here are just a few examples from IOCC's work through the decades. We are thankful to serve alongside committed partners with the same goal: serving Christ by serving others.

International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC), is the official humanitarian relief and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

ioccc.org



Tim, pictured here at the local food bank he is helping his home parish support, is one of many Serv-X-Treme alumni putting his experience into action through community service projects.



Energizing Youth for Service

Going Forth to Serve after Serv-X-Treme

IOCC's youth leadership conference, Serv-X-Treme, gives young adults new skills and knowledge that they can use to serve Christ in their daily lives. After their experience, conference alumni put what they've learned into action by completing a service project in their parish or community.

Tim C., of Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Southbury, Connecticut, is an alumnus of

Serv-X-Treme. He shared his hometown service work with IOCC.

"Since returning from Serv," Tim said, "I have been supplying Fr. Moses, my priest, with a list of needs for the local food bank. We have posted those needs in our church hallway, listed them in our bulletins, and handed them out on paper to parishioners at the end of Liturgy."

"I make the list each week, [and] over the past couple of months, people have donated hundreds of food items that were needed and specifically requested by the administrators at the food bank."

"We are also involved in our annual 'Snack Pack for Backpack' drive at church, collecting and packing bags of nonperishable 'school snacks' for kids whose families visit our food bank. We are currently collecting snacks, and we will enlist the help of our church schoolkids to help sort and pack. Last year we packed 100 snack packages; this year, we are hoping to exceed that."

Tim's project is just one example of how Serv-X-Treme alumni are finding ways to help others in their communities. IOCC is honored to be part of their journey, helping equip this next generation of leaders for service.

