



*We are called, here and now, to  
a fullness of life,  
a fullness of joy,  
a fullness of happiness,  
despite the existing difficulties of everyday life.  
It is a big challenge!*

*Yvonne Chami, founder*

## Dear friends,

Mary, Set el Beit, Queen of the impossible has accompanied Anta Akhi for 29 years...

**29 years of challenges**, lived in joy.

**29 years of difficulties**, lived with hope and with a positive attitude towards the future.

It is true that for the past 29 years, we have never lived a year so full of economic, financial and health crises... But what is also true is that our Mother has remained faithful to our side, always holding our hands. She embraced us and placed us in her heart. During all these moments of sorrow and pain, and despite all the surrounding noises, she continued to help us hear her voice, and that of Jesus, her beloved Son: **"Do not be afraid**, we are with you! Don't worry about anything! Keep a straight line with Heaven and, my Son and I will take care of all your needs."

Thank you Mary, because you have never let down anyone who leans on you, and we, we leaned on you.

Thank you because your love and that of your Son were personified in so



many people present at our side and who supported us; they were your manifest, your voice, your touch: "Roula, what are the needs of Anta Akhi? What is lacking for the young adults? We are with you..."

**Thank you Mary, thank you Jesus for the greatness of this love.** Thank you for all the people who stood by us like rocks, for their support and their prayers: it is based on those prayers that Anta Akhi can continue its journey and carry on with its mission.

We ask you, Mother Mary, on the occasion of your birthday, to keep your gaze and that of your Son Jesus turned towards Lebanon, towards each one of us. Above all, help us to be able to fix our gaze on you and on Your Son, so that we can say with confidence: "I am not afraid because you are with me every day."

Roula Najm  
September 8, 2021

# Is it still possible to live in Lebanon?



**Is it still possible to live in Lebanon? “No” would answer the majority of the Lebanese people! “Yes” would answer some dreamers who think that Lebanon is the most beautiful country in the world! Are we one of those dreamers? Well no! Our daily experience shows that it is correct to continue to hope and believe that Lebanon will never die! Below are some beautiful love initiatives that we experienced recently:**

## **Philippe’s doctor**

The regression in the health state of our young people with disabilities is becoming obvious by the day: there is an increased need for respiratory machine usage; the need for life companions is growing, and more frequent consultations/operations are required... Many thanks to all the Lebanese doctors who did not take the decision to leave and work abroad, but decided to stay in Lebanon and help the Lebanese population: Philippe underwent an endoscopy by which cirrhosis was detected. The responsible doctor offered all the fees and expenses of the treatment!

## **Arnaoon village**

Every year, our young adults take a summer vacation. When possible, we try to move out of the “Home of Tenderness” and arrange a vacation elsewhere. But this year, taking into account all the crises that have emerged one after the other, we have decided to take advantage by going out while staying “Home”. Like last year, each unit (the general services team, the communication and projects team, etc.) organized a day. It was the unit of fundraising and donation’s team that called Arnaoon village to spend the day there, in the heart of nature. With a very generous heart, Mr. and Mrs. Hokayem offered all games and lunch for 50 people. It was an unforgettable day!

## **And the electricity problem?**

This summer, we had new records of power outages; the state power was provided only 1h/24h! With the fuel shortage, private generators weren’t able to meet all the needs. So what would Anta Akhi do knowing that the electricity is mandatory in our “Home” for the health of our young adults who depend on their respiratory machines day and night? There was an urgent need to ensure a UPS of good capacity to meet the basic needs, while waiting for a project that would help us finance the installation of a solar system. Georges, a great friend, provided it us with the UPS with a generous heart.

## **The sponsorship, a source of recognition**

The situation in the country has affected the majority of the Lebanese. Our 2334 Lebanese sponsors are not excluded. We were worried that there would be too many sponsorship cancellation, which is understandable. But no, on the contrary!!! We were amazed by the reaction of our sponsors. Faced with the shutdown of 3.5% of our sponsors, there was an 18% increase in the amount collected. Those who could not adapt to the restructuring of the program (minimum amount doubled and collected every 3 months) did not want to stop. It’s a little like “The widow’s offering”, she, who out of her poverty, has offered all she had to live on! And for that we are grateful.

**No, Lebanon will not die! In this country we find the best and the worst! But there will always be more than 10 righteous people that the Lord will look on with mercy. And for them, he will save this blessed land.**



## Therese preceded us to the Father on April 02, 2021.

She was small in size but never went unnoticed; Therese Whaibe, a young lady with disability, was the joy of our “Home of Tenderness”. Very active, smiling, helpful, she spent her days at Anta Akhi, to go back to her mother’s house in the afternoon so she can take care of her and help her with the household responsibilities. Having gone through a rough time when her brother passed away, she went above and beyond to support her mother. She finally joined her brother after both of them suffered from cancer.

Tony likes to remember her in “her simplicity and her joy of living”, he also didn’t forget to mention her cute appearance when she wore the beautiful jewelry she made and that she wanted to sell in order to gain an income so she could support the expenses of her house.

It’s just a goodbye, dear Therese; we will see each other again one day with Barbara, Kiki, Gharib, Madona, and all those who preceded us in the bosom of the Father...



## Nicolas Breidy

### From suffering, a deep joy arose

**Young man with disability, Nicolas, only child, has been living permanently in Anta Akhi since 2018. This decision arose after the death of his mother. His grieving elderly father could not take care of him. And this year, after a fall that broke his hip, Nicolas’s father was transferred to a nursing house. How did Nicolas experience this period? He briefs us:**

“My mother meant the world to me. Not seeing her again made me so miserable! My life was meaningless without her and I felt like no one cared about me. My father came to see me every day at Anta Akhi but did not fill the void left by my mother’s departure.

Gradually, I started to feel that I was surrounded by love. It was the presence of all my friends by my side that helped me overcome my sadness. I was accompanied; I started to discover the meaning of my life and after a difficult year I regained my smile and understood that my life has a meaning. And this is how I discovered my mission: to be happy and to restore joy to those who have lost it at some point.

### **My greatest achievement in Life? I haven’t given up! I continued to fight!**

Today, I testify to school and university students, face to face or online, about the past difficulties that I had to endure. I want to tell them that, like many people, I went through periods where my physical appearance was a huge limit for me. But I understood that I had skills that needed to be discovered and developed and that my appearance should never limit those abilities and talents. It was up to me to overcome my obsessions and change how I look at myself.

Today, I testify that I am happy! I love life just the way it is. I am an important person despite the disability that I have. I am loved by God as I am! “



# They came from abroad to support us

Ever since the coronavirus crisis arose, the “Home of Tenderness” has been forced to close its doors, friends and volunteers weren’t able to visit us anymore. However, we were pleased to welcome those who came to stay for a long period of time, exceeding few months. This was the case for 9 great French volunteers sent by the “Œuvre d’Orient”, the Catholic Delegation for Cooperation (CDC) and the Raoul Follereau Foundation. The support of these organizations and the young volunteers is invaluable! We acknowledge their commitment, their loyalty and above all, their love!

This year, we have said goodbye to Lionel, a CDC volunteer, who completed his one year assignment as a project and communications officer early March. He put

all his skills and resources at the service of our young people with disabilities. It was him, with a great concern to support our home, who launched the Giving Tuesday, a generosity event that takes place in more than 70 countries. Also, it was him who initiated the support of the French journal “La Croix” at Christmas. We have learned a lot from the generosity of his heart.

Lionel has left but we have welcomed 6 new volunteers to accompany our young people with disabilities: Louis-Marie, Edith, Jean-Cassien, Maxime, Baudoin, and Aurore. We have also welcomed a physiotherapist volunteer: Blanche and lastly, Louis-Omer as a project and communications officer. At the end of his one year stay Louis-Marie said:

“My year at Anta Akhi is coming to an end. I will try to summarize in few words the profound moment of my life that I spent in Lebanon.

When I arrived in December, Lebanon was not in its best shape, and it just got worse over the 10 months I spent in the Cedars Land. However, I was fortunate enough to experience brotherhood in the midst of the difficulties.

For me, Anta Akhi is a place of light, even when there is no electricity! A place where no matter what, joy and hope remain. Here, we listen, we share and we live by the words of Jesus.

I would like to share with you a smile that deeply touched and brightened up my experience as a volunteer: when I accompanied Christopher (Kiko), for the long anticipated bedtime moment, he was showing me his joy. Finally lying down, he gave me that smile, a smile mingled with joy, with comfort, with well-being and I also believe, with gratitude. This smile is that of an angel; it literally fills your heart with joy. I believe it is for such experiences that Anta Akhi exists. Our “Home of Tenderness” is there to illuminate the heart of each one who lives there or who pass by.”



Dear friends, during these complicated and uncertain times, Anta Akhi must be able to provide electricity for its house regardless of the state production capacity; therefore, we need you to help us cover the fuel needs for our generators. Electricity is essential for the functioning of the house and especially for the respiratory machines of our young adults with disabilities. Thank you for your support !

## For your donations in Lebanon or elsewhere

Online payment : [www.antaakhi.org](http://www.antaakhi.org)

**BANK AUDI SAL**

Swift code : AUDBLBBX

- Account number in \$: 165208 -0030

IBAN : LB86 0056 0000 0000 0016 5208 0030

- Account number in €: 165208 -0035

IBAN : LB48 0056 0000 0000 0016 5208 0035

Thank you

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