2021 - 2022 VOLUME 1

# Newsletter

#### November Edition



# EGATHA HAS NEVER BEEN MORE ESSENTIAL THAN RIGHT NOW

Lebanon is facing nothing short of a national deterioration to its healthcare sector. From expansive drug shortages to an exodus of Lebanon's doctors and nurses, the Lebanese people are left to fend for themselves.

The country's worsening economic crisis, coupled with increasing devastation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut explosion, have made it extremely difficult for people to find over-the-counter medications, let alone disease-specific treatment. Moreover, as of this year, the World Health Organization reported that over 30% of Lebanon's nurses departed from their work, as well as 40% of the country's doctors.

As of this month, Lebanon's currency has hit an all time low; protestors are leaving the streets ablaze, angry at the increasingly expensive costs of living. This has led Lebanon to lift drug subsidies, and Beirut's Rafik Hariri University Hospital predicts that there will be a surge of deaths because the treatment is too expensive to acquire. The people of Lebanon depend upon organizations like Egatha that raise funds and provide free and/or discounted treatment. One's life should not be dictated by any degree of cost!



DA 43 YEARS OLD November 2021

#### Egatha's Patient

The patient was suffering from invasive cancer, further complicated by severe infection. Her chemotherapy was interrupted until a CT scan showed an unresolved infection that the patient could not afford to treat. With 850000 LBP (50 USD) her scan was covered so as to help her decide about continuing plans of treatment.



## Highlights

### Lebanon's Current Crisis Status

- What's at stake?
- · What's happening?

### Our Success Stories

 See who we have helped in just the last month!

# Medically Fragile Families

 Families depending on Egatha to support their medical expenses.



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TΜ 66 YEARS OLD November 2021



#### Egatha's Patient

The patient was readmitted with complicated bacteremia due to an infected prosthetic valve a few days after leaving the hospital AMA. To ensure appropriate inpatient medical care, EGATHA covered a part of her hospitalization bill.

### WE CAN'T FORGET OUR MISSION

Mrs. H. Feghali and her siblings are currently suffering from various serious illnesses: one sister is in remission for breast cancer; another sister suffers from cancer and multiple sclerosis, and the brother is on hemodialysis for chronic kidney disease. Mrs. Feghali is the one responsible for taking care of her sick sisters and brother.

Because of the current state of Lebanon's economy, Mrs. Feghali is unable to support her family, as well as her siblings; she is a registered nurse in the oncology department at Sacreecoeur Hospital. She is at risk of losing those closest to her, in addition to losing the house in which they live. The debt on their home is over \$25,000.

It is becoming impossible for Mrs. Feghali to do this on her own, and she is asking Egatha for help.



### **Big News!**

the distance from Tyr to the capital has not made it any easier.

Since September, Egatha has provided medications on a monthly and consistent basis for 12 patients living with chronic diseases, all of whom are unemployed and are uninsured. These monthly donations regularly require our Lebanon team to search and visit seven different pharmacies in the surrounding areas due to the absence of drug suppliers' support to humanitarian groups.

In the old city of Tyr, mainly inhabited by indigent (poor) families, the access As surveyed by our team and other reporters, there are at least 50 patients to medications for both chronic and acute diseases has become a nightmare; with Diabetes seeking uninterrupted treatment. Diabetes Mellitus, a chronic disease, if not controlled can lead to multiple organ damage, and, ultimately,

> Egatha is planning to open a diabetic clinic to ensure that these patients receive their drugs on time! Your contributions to this initiative are greatly appreciated!