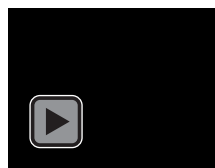
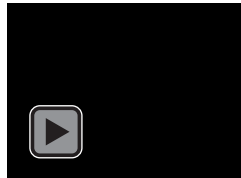


## Hermel School

### Providing Hope and Light

The school entered its fifth month of providing basic education to the refugee and marginalized community in Hermel. The number of students increased to 90 girls and boys. The increase resulted from opening a kindergarten class for kids that wanted to accompany their older siblings coming to school.

Students continue to make progress in learning new skills and behaviors. Click on the adjacent icon to play a video of a young boy practicing his reading in English and writing alphabet.



STAYING WARM IN ONE OF THE FOUR CLASSES IN SESSION

SNOWMAN IN THE MAKING



REFUGEE TENT UNDER SNOW



## Snow in Hermel

February brought snow to Hermel and surrounding areas in Northeast Lebanon. Winter has been more severe and unpredictable compared to earlier years.

Thanks to our partners' donations, we raised sufficient funds to cover the cost of heating oil through the end of March.

## Earthquake Region

The recent earthquake in Southern Turkey and Northwest Syria was felt throughout the Hermel region and rest of Lebanon. While no damage occurred in Hermel, the people were fearful of staying in their homes in the early hours of the incident not knowing what occurred. Many spent the night in the streets due to the frequent aftershocks. The earthquake reminded the people in Lebanon of the Port explosion that occurred 2.5 years ago.



## Lebanon's Economic News

Financial crisis in Lebanon continues to worsen with the exchange rate reaching 85K Lira to a Dollar. The World Bank said food price inflation reached 332 percent year on year in June 2022. The middle class has been eliminated and most people are living on a few hours of electricity from time to time.

## Future Opportunities

We hope to expand our humanitarian support into an outreach for women, water filtration, and basic medical needs

In addition, we are researching recruiting and retention of educators in the community to ensure success of the school.

## Trip to Lebanon

2<sup>nd</sup> half of March 2023

At our own expense, Susan and I will be traveling to Lebanon to visit and check the progress of the school.

We invite anyone interested to join us on this journey which will include UNESCO historic site visits as well as volunteer opportunities.