



## **Plan and Funding Proposal for Operation Hope, Australia Board of Directors**

C/O Mrs. Erica Henley

Project Name: The Garden at Shariya Camp Organization: USA Springs of Hope Foundation, Inc. Contact Name: Lisa Miara, Founder and President

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### **Summary and Purpose:**

The purpose of this document is to invite the Board of Directors of Operation Hope, Australia to provide financial support and participate in ongoing support of The Garden at Shariya Camp (The Garden) through the Springs of Hope Foundation, Inc during 2022.

### **Overview:**

The Springs of Hope Foundation, Inc. (SOHF) is a United States-based 501(C)3 nonprofit organization, formed and incorporated in the State of Texas, with service provision based in Northern Iraq. SOHF is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Erbil, Iraq, within the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and in Baghdad, Iraq. The SOHF functions under governance from both the US and Iraqi Boards of Directors. The SOHF has two primary operational locations in the Kurdistan region of Northern Iraq. The Hope Center is located inside the Shariya Camp, in Duhok. The Rainbow Zone community center is located in a tenement town (called War City), for refugees escaping the war in Syria, particularly the city of Aleppo and the region of Rojava. Both The Hope Center and The Rainbow Zone provide safe and peaceful spaces for women, youth and child survivors of genocide, slavery and war. They can begin rebuilding their lives through learning, creativity, beauty and play which encourages healing, community development and wholeness.

### **Mission:**

The larger mission of the SOHF is to see victims of genocide and crimes against humanity restored, rehabilitated, and empowered; taking their place as the future leaders of their community and region.

The mission of The Garden at Shariya Camp project/program is still to create a lasting and sustainable organic garden and place of healing natural beauty, which nourishes the bodies, minds and emotions of the 210 children, youth and women rescuees and 200 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) being served at The Hope Center at the Shariya Camp.

### **Who is Being Served:**

The SOHF, through The Hope Center, has received and become home to women, children and youth, from the Yezedi ethno-religious minority people group. These survivors were rescued from captivity as sexual slaves and child soldiers in the Islamic state and have been brought to safety to the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Most of the child and adolescent rescuees have no

parents; some are sole survivors of their tribal family. They are alone, with no possessions, requiring the most basic necessities- food, clothing, shelter, medical care and a place to find peace and rebuild their lives. The women, youth and child rescuees have lost years of their lives; their childhoods, education, employment, original languages, and cultural practices were stolen. Many have been raped, sold, abused, tortured, starved, and dehumanized in the caliphate of ISIS. Their identities have been stripped and their physical, spiritual and emotional health tyrannized.

### **The Vision for the Garden at Shariya Camp:**

During the summer months of 2021 The Garden I provided over a ton of fresh vegetables, and fruit , grown and tended by the women, children and youth of The Hope Center. The garden project has become vital during the various ongoing stages of the COVID pandemic as national and regional borders have closed and food insecurity has increased in the region and in the camp and prices have risen by 25%. The Garden will continue to serve in The Hope Center and act as an outreach to the community promoting healthy eating for both students and community. . In addition to providing needed food, the volunteers and paid gardeners gain an increase in motor and cognitive skills, receive the tangible benefits of hard work, and learn new agricultural skills. At the beginning of 2022 SOHF began to hire young men who were former Child Soldiers taken captive by ISIS ,as its day workers in The Garden.

Gardening itself provides a quiet place to work and Horticulture Therapy has been recognized as an evidence-based trauma therapy modality. The Garden is designed as a therapeutic garden. The plant-dominated environment of the Garden has been specifically designed to serve as a therapeutic garden to facilitate interaction with the healing elements of nature.

### **Goal of The Garden at Shariya Camp:**

The SOHF seeks to continue to develop this beautiful and productive garden thus maintaining a sustainable food supply of organically grown and raised fruits, vegetables for the children, youth and women being served by the Hope Center and the larger community of the Shariya Camp.

### **Goal for this phase of the project:**

To establish a covered gathering space and an orchard of fruit trees for the community. Building our shared space and expanding our agricultural capacities will allow us to keep providing the community with gardening activities and food, along with educational, cultural and social events. SOHF currently hosts two formal community events per month in the Fountain area of the Garden, in addition to which a minimum of three classes per day are hosted there. It is a source of relaxation after Trauma counseling sessions, the patients and seminar attendees are encouraged to conclude their sessions in the Garden, where the water of the fountain, plus the aroma of lavender, lemongrass, thyme and jasmin encourage relaxation.

### **Objectives and Timelines:**

Our current projects include planting an orchard of fruit trees, and establishing an outdoor gathering space for the community.

By April 1st, 2022, we plan to plant fruit trees for the orchard, since it is optimal for the trees to be planted in the spring and fall seasons.

By May 1st, we plan to establish the shading and seating arrangements for the outdoor space in order to use it during the summer months.



"One who cares for days- sows wheat  
One who cares for years- plants trees  
One who cares for generations- educates people"  
(Janusz Korczak)

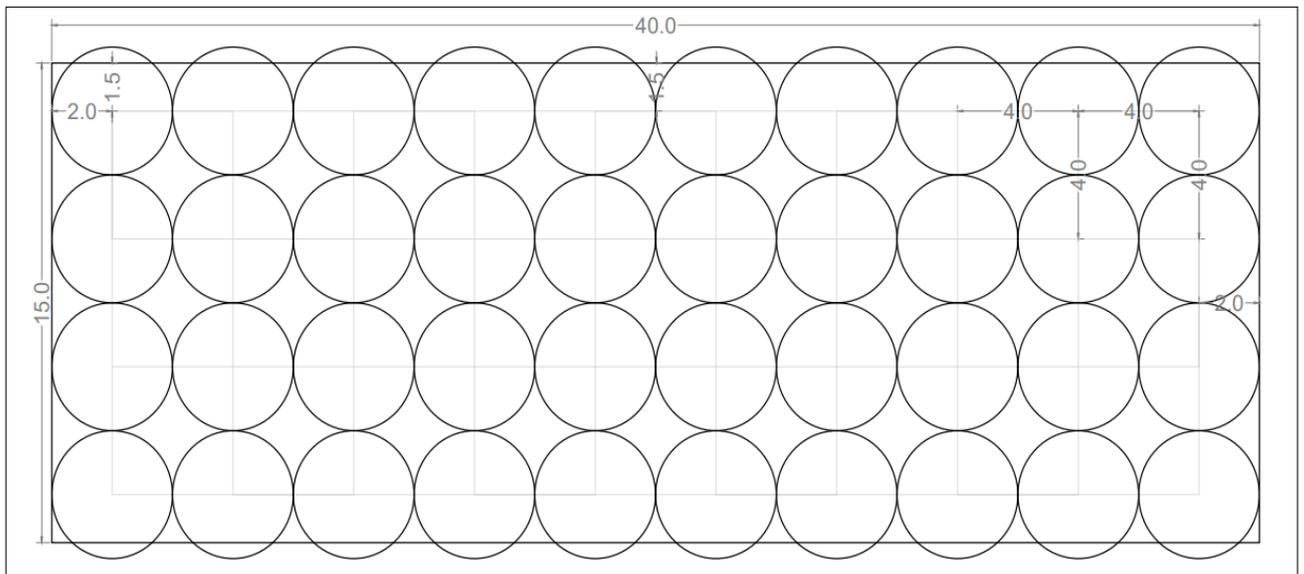
## Orchard



The area for the orchard is 15X40 meters.

Two trucks of soil are required to prepare the area ready for the trees, and we plan to plant about 40 trees. We have the irrigation equipment needed to support the new trees for no additional cost.

## Trees setup plan-



Cost breakdown :

Two soil trucks- \$200

7 olive trees

7 cherry trees

7 fig trees

7 peach trees

7 pear trees

7 apricot trees

7 chestnuts trees

Total of 49 trees (additional 9 trees in case of an unsuccessful roots striking/integration)

5 vines

The cost is \$5 per tree and vine, so for a total of 54 plants the total cost is \$270

## Community Gathering Space



This is our community gathering space. It has a paved area of 22x20 meters, SOHF will create a wooden pergola for shade, so that it can be utilized to the maximum during the excessive heat between June - October. According to the manufacturer's recommendation, the pergola must be extended an additional meter each side, giving a total of 23X21 meters. The estimated total cost for the structure from Ayad Factory, Duhok is \$3,800.

We will also include 4 picnic tables (a table with attached benches) at a cost of \$220 per table, for a total of \$880. The supplier is Duhok Gol who imports from Turkey.

### **Total project cost breakdown**

Two soil trucks- \$200

54 fruit trees and vines- \$270

Pergola - \$3800

4 wooden picnic tables with benches- \$880

Total cost- \$5150

Thank you for your consideration.

Please see contact details on the bottom for your convenience.



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