



## The Ayla Project International May 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters of the **Ayla Project**,

**Thank you** for your past and current support of the Ayla Project and its work with war refugee critically-ill children and families. While many world headlines continue to disappoint, API has positive news and stories to report for your encouragement:

**Lara:** API onboarded 4-year old heart patient Lara and her family in late 2024, after learning that the family was sharing an apartment with 5 other families in the Egyptian capital. Lara contracted an upper respiratory infection and turned blue. API's Dr. Kamil took quick action, arranged her entrance to a hospital with a cardiac specialist, paid the bill from API's medical fund, and saved Lara's life. API moved the family into their own apartment. An Irish Foundation gave **24,000 Euros** and an individual Seattle donor gave **\$5,000** toward Lara's



Milan. The API team worked hard to prepare mother and daughter for their medical trip to Milan, their

heart surgery at a hospital in

visas were approved, and mother

and daughter traveled to Italy. On May 5th, **Italian doctors were able to complete a *full repair* of**



**Lara's heart!** The post surgery recovery phase remains critical. Please keep Lara in prayer.

**Lulu:** 4-year-old heart patient Lulu has come a long way since API evacuated her from the war zone in January of 2024.

Her oxygen and health were stabilized after a month at Al Nas hospital in Cairo. Lulu loves life and her family. Thanks to a generous UK donor, Lulu's siblings, Mona and Ezz, are thriving at an international private school in Cairo, having received



multiple awards in Math and good behavior.

by the Vatican, which has now approved Lulu as a patient for



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The API team wrote a letter which was hand-carried to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, asking him to intercede with the Vatican on Lulu's behalf. The next day, our team woke up to messages from both the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and a hospital owned

**Muhammed Adam:** Bed-ridden 11-year old Muhammed Adam was born with hip dysplasia which prevented him from walking. In the war zone, a bomb fell on the building next to him, causing a concrete pillar to fall and crush his hips. API evacuated Muhammed Adam and his family to Egypt. In late 2024, Dr. Kamil arranged for Muhammed Adam's transfer from

a remote hospital to a hospital in the capital where he underwent a complex surgery. API partner Beloved Son donated a wheelchair and walker for Muhammed Adam. **Weeks after he began physical therapy, Muhammed Adam began to walk on his own for the first time in his life!** His mother called API and said joyfully, “Can we give the wheelchair and walker back to Beloved Son now? Muhammed Adam doesn’t need it anymore!” Beloved Son is now serving Adam’s brothers Karim (who has down syndrome), and Jude (who has ADHD) through special needs education services. Older brother Medhat is also receiving Math and English tutoring.



**Adam Lulu:** 7-year old heart-patient Adam Lulu is significantly disabled. He was deprived of oxygen during a heart surgery before the war, and is now non-verbal and unable to walk or hold up his head. API put Adam Lulu, his mother and siblings into an apartment in the capital, and is covering delivery costs for his mother, who is due in the next month. API volunteer Judith will be part of her delivery team. API arranged for Adam Lulu’s big sister Sarah to receive tutoring in Math and English.

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### **API Team Thank Yous and Welcomes**

- We are **grateful** for **Dr. Kamil**’s one year of service so far with API Egypt. We celebrate his invaluable continued contribution to the project and his love for the families as his own.
- We **welcome Judith**, with a background in midwifery, to the API Egypt Team. Already, she has positive and supportive relationships with the families. Both Judith and Dr. Kamil have proven invaluable to API in Egypt.

- We are **grateful** to **Rania** for her skilled coordination of the project in Egypt, for securing safe housing, preparing monthly food packages, and organizing special holiday celebrations.
- We **welcome** **Manya** and **Toby** to API-USA's **Communications Committee** (CommComm), and **Cari** to the **US Board**.
- We are grateful to an anonymous UK donor for giving a **\$20,000** gift toward educational costs for all **11 children** in API's holistic program. The children are studying for private school entrance exams (considered stateless, they cannot attend Egyptian state schools).

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

API's **Confidential Briefing and Summer Fundraiser** will be on **July 19th, 2025** at a waterfront location in Edmonds, implemented in partnership with *Maje Gallery*. Be prepared to enjoy pictures, stories, Saffron Grill, art, jewelry, gift baskets, Turkish scarves, and Tatriz embroidery which you can bid on to take home. **Email [tara@theaylaproject.org](mailto:tara@theaylaproject.org) ASAP to reserve your space.** Space is limited.

**Trauma-Informed Care Initiative:** The war refugee families in API's holistic program have seen and experienced traumatic events that would make anyone's heart heavy. The API team has worked hard to vet and secure qualified trauma-informed care counselors for 22 individuals (adults and children) in API's holistic program, in addition to transportation to and from weekly counseling sessions over the next year. The total cost of this project is **\$6,279**. Would you like to support this initiative? **Thank you!**

**Donation Link:** [www.horizonsinternational.org/ayla-project](http://www.horizonsinternational.org/ayla-project)

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