



The Ayla Project International (API)

April 2026 Newsletter



Dear Friends of the Ayla Project:

Thank you for your continued support of the Ayla Project and our work with critically-ill war refugee children and families. While global news headlines often disappoint, Ayla has encouraging news to share.

501(c)(3) Nonprofit Status

Ayla Project International (API) is now officially a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All direct donations are now tax deductible. If you support Ayla via Horizons, we continue to receive your contributions—thank you!

Lara

As shared in our last newsletter, 4-year-old heart patient Lara joined API in late 2024 and underwent successful heart surgery in Milan on May 5th, 2025 thanks to the support of an Irish Foundation and individual donors. Post-surgical complications led to a second successful procedure to implant a pacemaker. While in Milan, Lara's mother applied for asylum. In a remarkable moment, little Lara addressed the committee in Italian, expressing her wish to live and grow up in Italy. The family was granted asylum on the spot. API has since relocated the entire family to Italy, where they are now stable and supported through a government refugee program.





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Lulu

Thanks to Pope Francis, Lulu and her mother traveled to Rome for Lulu's treatment at Bambino Gesù Hospital. Lulu required ventricular repair and is also receiving treatment for lung damage caused by toxins from explosions prior to her long-awaited open heart surgery. Please keep Lulu in your prayers.

Lulu and her mother were mother granted asylum. API is awaiting approval to relocate the rest of the family to Rome. API International Director Tara Britton, Board Secretary, Manya Vee and Dr. Kamil visited with the family in Egypt. Lulu's siblings, Mona and Ezz, continue to thrive in school. Their father, grandfather, and grandmother care for them, and Grandma Mona creates beautiful tatreez, some of which will be featured at API's gala this September.



Muhammed Adam

Tara, Manya and Dr. Kamil visited Muhammed Adam and his family and witnessed him walking independently at age 12—a joyful post-surgery milestone. He is now active and enjoys playing with his brothers. His older brother Medhat is excelling in school, especially in languages, and hopes to see the world one day. His siblings Jude and Karim are also doing well.



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Adam Lulu

Adam Lulu's family was granted asylum in the Netherlands. API purchased airline tickets for the family and provided a custom wheelchair for Adam, who is nonverbal and unable to walk. The family is now settling into their new life in Holland.



Ayla Adopts a New Family: Mohammed Tayssir

With three families graduating from the program, API has welcomed a new child and family. Eleven-year-old Mohammed Tayssir has atrophy on the right side of his heart, has already undergone three open-heart surgeries and requires further testing and care. He is joined by his mother Zahra and three older sisters. Muhammed is truly an old soul in a small body.

API moved the family to a safe apartment in the Egyptian capital, and is providing medical treatment for Muhammed and educational support for the children.



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AYLA TEAM UPDATES AND GRATITUDE

- **We warmly welcome Marian** as our new Egypt Coordinator and family liaison. Her strong project management, accounting, and organizational skills, along with her compassion, heart and dedication, make her an invaluable asset to the API team.
- **We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Kamil** for his medical support and expertise. Dr. Kamil is much loved by our families, volunteers and staff.
- **We extend our thanks to Kasr el Dobara** for serving as our fiscal sponsor in Egypt.
- **We are grateful to expand our partnerships** with both VERA Egypt and Meerah Center. With VERA, API will provide women's health training to at least 80 Gazan women and girls in 2026. Through Meerah, API distributed 50 aid boxes and identified Muhammed Tayssir's family for onboarding to API's holistic program.
- **We are grateful to you—our supporters—for helping us raise nearly \$60,000 during our Fall 2025 gala**, and for supporting our work with critically ill and injured war refugee children throughout the year.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for the 2026 Ayla Gala on **September 27th, 2026**. The location is to be announced.



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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK

Please consider becoming a sustaining supporter of API by giving a monthly donation. Undesignated support enables API to apply it where it is needed most, whether that is on emergency housing or medical care for a child. All contributions to API are tax-deductible as API is now a 501c3 nonprofit charitable organization under U.S. law, **EIN: 99-4838653**. Thank you!

DONATION LINK:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-help-critically-ill-children-in-crisis-zones>

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