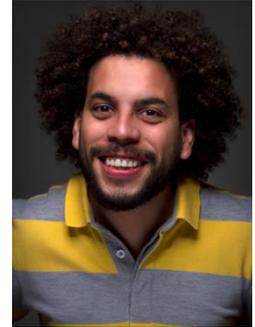


Badr Mabrouk

Freelance Photographer - Forsa Program Graduate

He was an ambitious young man who dreamt of acting someday. He applied for the Theatrical Arts Institution more than once but was rejected each time. He was utterly frustrated.



One day he heard of Wataneya Society's "Forsa" program through the orphanage where he was raised. He was asked to join yet he wasn't sure if it will offer anything different than what he had been offered before: only good intentions. The young man sat there listening rather than speaking; he was listening with the care and keenness of a learner who wants to absorb and understand what he is being taught, looking for what suits him and nothing else.

He joined a photography workshop out of curiosity, not knowing that it will be the first step in finding his true passion, a dream knocking his door hoping to befriend him. He concluded the workshop and continued his training with a professional photographer whom he accompanied to learn from and gain experience.

Badr then started saving from his earnings to buy a camera in installments and started taking simple photography jobs. With time, and with more gained experience, he launched his professional photography career, proving that orphan youths are able to fulfill their dreams with perseverance and patience.

Badr received a grant from Wataneya Society to attend a cinematography course to continue his development, and was chosen by the NGO to shoot 6 short films for one of its important events. The videos were shown to a number of public figures promoting orphans' issues in Egypt. Today he is a freelance photographer and creates professional photography tutorials on social media channels, in addition to giving workshops for young people at Forsa (Youth Development) Program.

Reda Ali

Communication Specialist, Wataneya Society, External Relations, Forsa Program Graduate



We met this young man at the Forsa Youth Development Program, offered by Wataneya Society. He was one of the most adamant young people there, with a clear vision of his future. He used to sit in the training room and look around thinking: Do you really want to help us find a better future?

As days passed the question became a different one, as he wondered how he can help all young people get a chance like this. He started developing a sense of ownership and a deep belief that every person should benefit others as well as himself.

The young man graduated from the program and took his first steps. At the time he was studying pre-vocational education for five years, and then joined the Workers University, after which he managed to successfully conclude his equivalency certificate from Cairo University to graduate as a quality engineer. He joined various summer internship programs in different fields and companies. He also participated in volunteer and community work believing in his ability to help others through different organizations. Reda was awarded the UN Egypt Office Volunteering Award as one of the best three volunteers in 2015.

Reda held a number of jobs, including being a baker, security person, call center agent, store assistant at a famous retail chain, and a sales person at a furniture showroom. He helped as a volunteer in the external relations and awareness campaigns run by Wataneya Society, leading to his appointment as a coordinator of social media channels in the NGO. He also learned a number of personal skills and attended various workshops to enrich his knowledge. Today he is specialized in managing the NGO's website and works as an editor of several short movies raising awareness on the orphans' cause, in addition to being a coordinator of awareness campaigns on Wataneya's social media channels.



Reda pursues a self-taught principle to develop his skills in graphic design and video editing. He produced a number of films and advertisements benefiting the orphans cause through his work at the NGO.

He also participated in the Dragon Boat Race for amateurs and his team won the first prize in the Chinese Spring Festival in 2017, and the first prize of the first Dragon Contest from the Egyptian Rowing Federation in 2018, and now owns a small cookery project “Keda Reda”; as his favorite hobby is cooking delicious meals.

Nahla Al Nemr

Institutional Assessment Team leader and Trainer at Amaan Learning and Development Center, Wataneya Society



When she passed preparatory school, she believed her high grades will let her pursue a different path than her sisters and brothers, and she will be allowed to finish her high school degree. This is where the success journey started. Nahla's request was rejected by the administration. "like your sisters, you'll join the nursing institute." "You'll never be able to finish high school". She then decided to withdraw her file from prep. school and apply to secondary school behind the administration's back.

After a lot of deliberations, she managed to convince the orphanage of her ability to succeed, the dream could at last be realized, and after three years of perseverance she managed to finish the secondary phase and surprise all those who thought she couldn't survive a few months. She concluded her studies at the Higher Institute of Social Services - Cairo University. All she hoped for at the time was to leave the orphanage and forget about the past and start with a clean slate, she wanted nothing to do with the orphanage or the fact that she was an orphan.

One day she received an invitation from a friend of hers to attend a discussion organized by Wataneya NGO to develop quality standards for orphanages. She refused the invitation in the beginning but eventually went. After that she visited the NGO more than once, lending her efforts to a number of round table discussions to come up with effective quality standards for institutional homes. A sense of responsibility grew inside her towards the cause, as she could never forget her past; she had lived through the same circumstances and conditions, and if she doesn't take part in elevating these conditions then who will?

Nahla became a team member at the NGO, and continued her active participation in the discussions, giving important insights and views to decision makers concerning the needs of



children and youth in institutional homes. She only cares for providing a better life to those who go through the same circumstances as she is no longer living at an institutional home and lives independently on her own. Nahla studied at Amaan Learning and Development Center, an affiliate of Wataneya Society and a Pearson accredited training center. She also holds a specialized degree in child development and an institutional assessment professional certification. She continued developing her knowledge until she became the team leader of the NGO's assessment team.

Nahla was invited as a speaker at the Tedx Cairo Women, and Wiki Stage to talk about her journey and raise awareness on the challenges faced by orphaned youth.

The journey continues, and Nahla is still walking the path to achieve her goal of playing a role in enhancing the living standards for every orphan.

Taghreed Ahmed

Freelance Painter and Maritime Facilities Institute Graduate

She lived and was raised at an orphanage but never had a problem being an orphan. She lived her life normally, studying and doing her best to develop her talent in painting, she also helped her sisters peacefully until she grew up and started interacting with society; to face a lot of questions such as: What does an institutional home mean? So you are not actually sisters? How can you be sisters if you don't hold the same name? How do you live? Do you eat and drink as we do? What do you mean by "an orphan"? So if you have children, their mother would be labeled an orphan? Sometimes she answered and at others simply ignored the question. She was frustrated and anxious, but most of the time she didn't want to talk about this issue and wished no one knew she was an orphan, who was brought up in an orphanage to avoid these questions that she had no satisfying answers to.



Taghreed continued her education and joined the Maritime Facilities Institute, studying, painting, and developing her talent with the encouragement of the orphanage's head, Mama Reem whom she loves and respects.

When the Minister of Social Solidarity visited the orphanage where Taghreed stayed, the minister was impressed by her paintings and bought one of them, she then approved a grant to help Taghreed study at the Faculty of Fine Arts, to further enrich her talent.

Taghreed successfully finished her painting grant and held her first art exhibition, where many of her paintings were sold among the admiration of visitors.

She came to know about the Youth forum organized by Wataneya Society, when her orphanage won the "Dream Home" prize in 2017. She attended the first session and realized that there are other young people who went through the same circumstances as she did and managed to succeed in life, she also was impressed when she found out that some of them talk openly about being orphans, facing society with strength and fearlessness, showcasing their lives and giving excuses to others' ignorance while carrying on with their success. By then, Taghreed became stronger and broke the barrier of fear, and started to talk openly about being an orphan and how it pushed her to achieve a lot, not giving much care about what people say around her. She was only proud of her success and naturally-born talent.

Ibrahim Salama

Media Student at Misr University for Science and Technology

He showed a special talent early in his life in painting and singing, and under the guidance of the orphanage's management, he studied at the free studies department at the Faculty of Fine Arts for 3 years, participating in a number of amateur exhibitions and launching his career at a rather early age. Ibrahim enjoys going through new experiences and facing challenges



believing they are his personal battles that he needs to conquer. He also decided to join Maestro Selim Sehab's choir in pursuit of his musical sensibilities. He attended a number of rehearsals and participated as a backing vocal to a number of star singers, and started having his own solo segments where his captivating voice won audiences hearts. In appreciation of his talents, he was awarded a grant to study at Misr University for Sciences and Technology.

During his study he was interested in sound engineering, and with the help of some friends he started participating in some filmmaking projects, and became the youngest sound engineer in the field, with time and accumulated experience he worked on some of his university friends' graduation projects.

Ibrahim is now in his final year in university and works as an assistant sound engineer in a number of famous series and films. Ibrahim is a role model of young ambitious and persevering youth.

Ms. Nahed Hegazy

Head of Resala Orphanage – Heliopolis branch

Her story started when she was a student at the Social Service Institute. Early on, she fell in love with community service, deciding to work in the field no matter what. In the beginning she was a volunteer in an orphanage and visited constantly to look after the children and provide care, support and advice to its team; who asked her to join them when they felt her keenness and sincerity, which she did. Her stay at the orphanage lasted for ten years giving it all her heart and effort to support those young children.



Through her career she gained a lot of experience and went on to become the head of a large orphanage, responsible for 54 children from different ages and 20 caregivers ranging from surrogate mothers, childcare specialists, and administration staff. She collaborates with her staff providing them with constant guidance, and listens carefully to their challenges and works closely with them

For one aim only: providing the best care to children. This passion helped her become an extraordinary, flexible, and understanding leader.

She came to know Wataneya Society since it was just an idea, yet she believed it will be a successful initiative that can help develop the alternative care system in Egypt. She always participated in Wataneya's Workshops as they benefited her work with children, she always encouraged her staff to participate to have a positive effect on the orphanage, creating better workflow and more security to the children.

She also helped the orphanage join the "Sanad Project" launched by Wataneya Society, whereby it received technical support to apply quality standards within its premises. Her management style is distinguished by her ability to create a stable environment whereby employees and workers stay for extended periods with a low turnover, this reflects greatly on



the children's psychological stability and wellbeing. She aims at helping the children launch their careers after finishing their studies and to have a life goal to achieve.

Ms. Maha Allam

Founder and Head of Bashaer Al Fagr Orphanage

She used to visit orphanages as a donor, and always thought of adopting a child “Kafala” but certain circumstances prevented this from happening. She kept wondering how she can provide more care to those children, until one day she decided to establish an orphanage with some friends, wishing to keep the residents to a minimum of 6 or 7 children to give them better care. She started her journey and the orphanage became a reality. From day one it was a conscious decision to bring the best capabilities to provide care to the children, believing that their wellbeing is her main responsibility.



It was hard to find the right calibers, also there was a need for a manager to stay on top of things and make sure that everything is running smoothly, and it made sense that only someone with her keenness and position as a founder and board member can run the orphanage.

One day she read about Wataneya’s efforts in developing orphanages, and started attending child alternative care courses, she also worked on developing her surrogate mothers. She joined the childcare professional certificate - an internationally accredited certification by Wataneya Society, and concluded it successfully. This was a turning point in her alternative care career, helping her take better care of the children and take note of their health and education conditions.

She also trained the children to follow scientific research, self-directed learning, and pushed them to become distinguished students and top of their classes at school. She won the “Dream Home” competition for best orphanage in “Child Care and Protection” category. She didn’t stop there, as she also received a “Behavioral Change” diploma, and now she shares this knowledge with other orphanages through workshops.

She is currently preparing for a training program on self-directed learning with no tutoring to help out other orphanages.



She is a strong believer in science and ongoing education, she also believes in the inherited goodness of orphans and believes that with patience and love they will thrive and flourish.

Mostafa Hanafy

“Larger than Life Children” Activities Manager - Resala Charity Organization



He always aspired to provide a better life for unprivileged children; constantly seeking professional expertise and knowledge to realize his dream. He came across Wataneya Society through an advertisement on specialized training courses in alternative care; after concluding the courses, he felt they gave him the knowledge he needed to apply quality standards in orphanages, seeking the best interest of each child. He then joined the “Advanced Professional Certification in Child Growth” from Amaan Center for Learning and Development, an affiliate of Wataneya Society. He was one of the first graduates in this specialized field to become a professional care giver with a special focus on child alternative care quality standards. After he became the “Larger than Life Children” activities manager, he insisted on transferring knowledge to all those working at the orphanage and gave them the chance to get the same certificate in order to unify their vision and caring methodologies.

He also trained others whether fresh graduates or those wanting to join institutional homes, helping them do a better job, and extending his knowledge to other orphanages.

He also helped his institutional home participate in Sanad Project’s “Technical Fund from Wataneya to institutional Homes” which had a great effect on the application of quality standards after applying to the “Dream Home” competition. “Larger than Life Children” won the prize in 2016.

Moustafa Believes that the learning process goes on, and that he has a responsibility towards those children to assure them a better life.

Shaimaa Monaiti

First Registered Child care giver and Hamzet Wasl Program Graduate

Shaimaa came to know about Wataneya Society from an employment fair held at the Faculty of Social Studies where she graduated.



She joined the “Hamzet Wasl Program for Qualification and Employment”, designed for fresh graduates wanting to work at orphanages. She had no idea when she joined the 3-months program what being a child care giver meant, assuming that those who took care of children at institutional homes were volunteers like herself. She then learned about and appreciated this noble profession that a lot of people don’t know even exists, which was painful to her because she hated the fact that unqualified personnel took care of children.

After working at an orphanage, and while wanting to issue a new ID with her new professional title, she was shocked to find that her application was rejected because “Child care giver” was not a title known to them. She nearly gave up, yet Wataneya society and the orphanage’s management supported her with needed documents, and with perseverance she managed to get what she wanted, an official acknowledgement of her beloved profession, to become the first Egyptian ever to hold this title officially, and open the door to others to get recognized now that it is a registered title in the official records and entities.

Shaimaa carried on with her career and received a grant from Wataneya Society to receive a Professional Child alternative care certification from Pearson, to help her become more experienced in alternative care.