

2025—2026

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



Full Legal Name	Step Together Association Riverside
Acronym	Step Together
Legal Entity Sheet Number	Ministerial Decree 1856
Nationality	Lebanese
Legal Status	Non-Profit Organization
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The background is a textured, watercolor-style illustration. It features several stylized human figures in blue, green, and yellow, some with their arms raised. A large, vibrant pink heart is positioned in the center. The overall color palette is warm and inclusive, with soft, blended edges.

STEP TOGETHER ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL & VOCATIONAL COMMUNITY
FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS



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Reflecting on a Year of Resilience and Hope

05

Letter from the Chairperson



Dear friends and partners,

At Step Together, our daily work reminds us that our inclusive therapeutic work is far more than teaching and learning; it is a lifeline of hope, healing, love, and resilience. It is for everyone – staff, teachers, children and adults with special needs – to rebuild a sense of safety and belonging in a world that often feels uncertain. We are currently facing unprecedented challenges: ongoing psychosocial stress, sensory overload, and deep economic strain in our daily lives. Our dedicated staff of therapists, administrators and special education teachers are also carrying heavy emotional and professional burdens, and families are struggling to hold everything together under immense pressure.

Since March 2026, it has been particularly demanding for our entire community. Yet even in the midst of instability, we have remained committed to sustaining our mission with persistent dedication. We continue to hold onto what gives our work meaning: love for the people we serve, and faith in their potential, even when circumstances are difficult.

Guided by this understanding, we refuse to lose hope. Instead, we continue forward with courage, knowing that education, therapy, and communities rooted in love can remain a stabilizing force even in times of disruption.

Reflecting on a Year of Resilience and Hope

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Letter from the Chairperson

We have upheld our three strategic pillars: Quality Holistic Education, Sustainability, and Inclusion, Equity & Diversity, and despite the circumstances, none were put on hold. We continued to strengthen the quality of our educational approaches through ongoing professional development, ensuring our educators remain equipped, supported, and grounded in trauma-informed practice; sustaining our services in a fragile context; and fostering inclusive learning environments where every individual is respected, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

This year, our work was anchored in initiatives that reflected these priorities. Through *Together We Respond*, we expanded our emergency pedagogy efforts, creating safe, rhythmic, and creative learning environments that helped children and adults regulate emotions, process trauma, and gently re-engage with learning. With *Gentle Beginnings – Waldorf-Inspired Initiative*, we successfully introduced a Waldorf-inspired kindergarten classroom within a Lebanese public school, demonstrating the potential of inclusive, child-centered education. At the same time, we continued to strengthen families through practical guidance, emotional support, and resources that help sustain learning and wellbeing at home, while investing in continuous teacher training and adaptive educational practices that ensure every child is supported to learn and thrive.



Reflecting on a Year of Resilience and Hope

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Letter from the Chairperson



This alignment between our daily practice, our values of love and faith, and our long-term strategic vision strengthens our resolve. Together with our friends, we remain committed to ensuring that we are not only crisis-responsive, but also deeply human, healing, equitable, and inclusive. We invite you to continue standing with us. Your support enables children and adults with special needs to reclaim their right to learn, grow, and develop, anchored in love, carried by faith, and sustained by hope, even in the most difficult times.

With gratitude and deep determination,

Rim

Chairperson at Step Together



Our Vision

We envision a society where diversity is respected and valued, where equity and inclusion are adopted. We believe that education is based on uncovering everyone's potential and that healing and self-actualization is a common right. We foresee a world where everyone is empowered to live in harmony with society and nature, a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and grow.

Our Mission

To create a better world where every individual, regardless of their circumstances and challenges, is valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential for learning and living. We strive to achieve this goal by providing therapeutic education, vocational training, inclusion, and community support that addresses the physical, emotional, and developmental needs of each person within their family and community.

Strategic Pillars

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Quality Holistic Education

Educational Advancement



We will use personalized plans, nature-based methods, and coordinated therapeutic support to grow confidence, communication, and independence.

Professional Development



We will invest in staff learning through structured training, mentorship, and supervised practice that strengthens classroom quality and employability pathways.

Sustainability

Economic Sustainability



We will strengthen revenue streams, improve production efficiency, build donor partnerships, and keep clear budgets with sensible reserves.

Ecological Sustainability



We will expand renewable energy, reduce waste through composting and material cycles, and care for soil and water across our gardens and workshops.

Inclusion, Equity & Diversity

Therapeutic Services



We will enhance assessment, refine therapy tools, and maintain crisis response so children and adults receive timely emotional and developmental support.

Inclusive Engagement



We will deepen community participation, expand inclusive practices in schools and workplaces, and create supported pathways to education and employment.

A Shared Journey

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our founding members, social committee, supporters, partners, and donors whose trust and generosity continue to sustain our mission. Every opportunity created, every milestone reached, and every life touched this year was made possible through your belief in our community and our work.

Founding Members	Social Committee	Parent Committee
Abou Ghazaleh, Maher & Chadia	Abi Karam, Tania Bejjani	Abi Karam, Tania Bejjani
Barhoum, Hind	Arakji, Sherine	Darwish, Hind Halawani
Freij, Faraj & Odette	Assaf, Imane	Hammouch, Pascale Shouker
Ftouni, Jamal Dr.	Chalfoun, Tania	Mrad, Rayan Shukri
Khartabil, Samia	Darwish, Hind Halawani	Nashabe, Leila Fakih
Majdalani, Lorna	Daou, Patty	Tarraf, Sylvana Ibrahim
Matta, Georges & Denise	Freij, Odette	Yaacoub, Madonna Abi Habib
Mattar, Madleine	Haykal, Roula	
Nakhleh, Hala	Jabbour, Maha	
	Madi, Zeina	
	Merhej, Waltraud	
	Naamani, Samar	
	Nakhle, Hala	
	Nashabe, Leila Fakih	
	Tarraf, Sylvana Ibrahim	



With Heartfelt Gratitude to Our Dear Friends and Supporters

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A Shared Journey

Scholarship Group Fund

Fatouma Al Zabin & Anwar Al Mulla

Fakih Rafik & Samira

Freij Faraj & Odette

Doumit Adriana

Smadi Aboud & Rim

Nakhleh Fouad & Hala

El Zein Madiha

Daouk Kamel

Koussa Karine

Anonymous Donors

Organization Benefactors

Ajyalouna

Aktion Deutschland Hilft

AssistiveWare

Coeur Sans Frontières

Friends of the Waldorf Education

DROSOS Foundation

Give a Child a Brighter Future

Lions Club

Open Minds

Pax Foundation

Ruskin Mill Trust

**THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR MISSION
TOGETHER**

WE ARE CHANGING LIVES

drosos (...)



AssistiveWare

**Aktion
Deutschland Hilft**



**GIVE A CHILD
A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

**Freunde der
Erziehungskunst
Rudolf Steiners**

openminds
OPENMINDS FUND – AUBMC SPECIAL KIDS CLINIC



ruskinmill
re-imagining potential

PAX
FOUNDATION

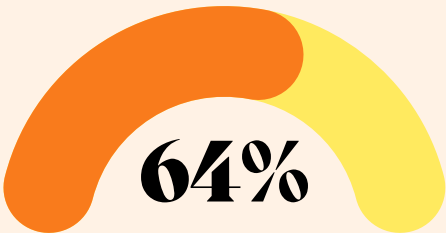
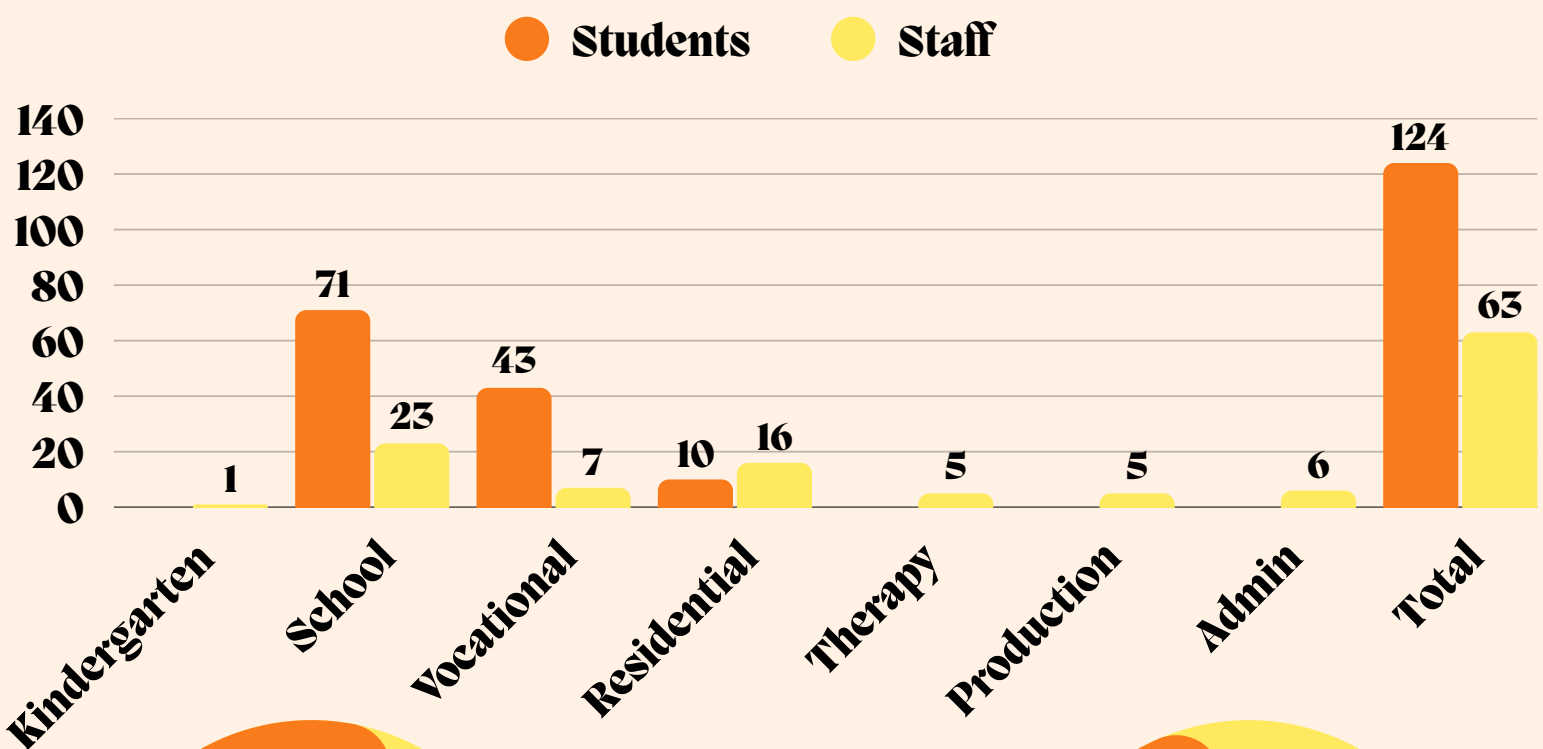
Community Snapshot

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Years of Service

Our Community by Department

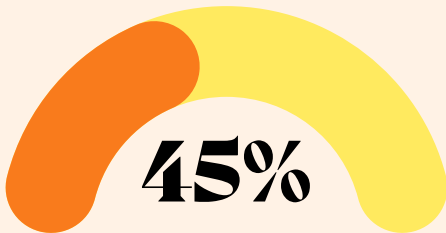


Students in Need
of Financial Support



~ 35

Staff members are participating in
professional training programs



Students with
Access to Therapy Services



22

Staff members graduated from
professional training programs

Bringing Hope to Displaced Communities in Crisis Expanding to Public Shelters

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A Community in Action



The 2025–2026 academic year unfolded against one of the most challenging periods Lebanon has experienced in recent years. The renewed conflict brought displacement, economic uncertainty, and growing humanitarian needs, directly affecting many of Step Together's students, families, staff, and the wider communities we serve. Rising costs and financial hardship placed increasing pressure on families already facing significant challenges, while many children experienced disruption, instability, and emotional distress.

Yet in moments of crisis, our role extends beyond just education. Rooted in our holistic approach, Step Together expanded its emergency response to provide immediate humanitarian, psychosocial, and educational support wherever it was needed most.



Through our emergency response initiative, we mobilized staff, volunteers, and local and international collaborators to support children, families, and educators affected by the conflict. Food assistance, psychosocial support packages, Emergency Pedagogy interventions, educator training, and community outreach became part of a coordinated response.

Healing Through Emergency Pedagogy Training & Intervention

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A Community in Action

The response also included welcoming the **International Emergency Pedagogy Team** to Lebanon, who partnered with Step Together to deliver additional emergency pedagogy interventions across *Jal El Dib, Jdeideh, Mansourieh, Sed El Bauchrieh, Maahad El Tarbawi, Sanayeh, and Bourj Hammoud* Public Schools, as well as *Ahla Fawda* Shelter, while fostering professional exchange and collaboration.



Step Together is equally grateful to Give a Child a Brighter Future, whose support provided food assistance, psychosocial support materials, and creative art supplies, extending the reach of this response beyond pedagogy alone.

Freunde der
Erziehungskunst
Rudolf Steiners

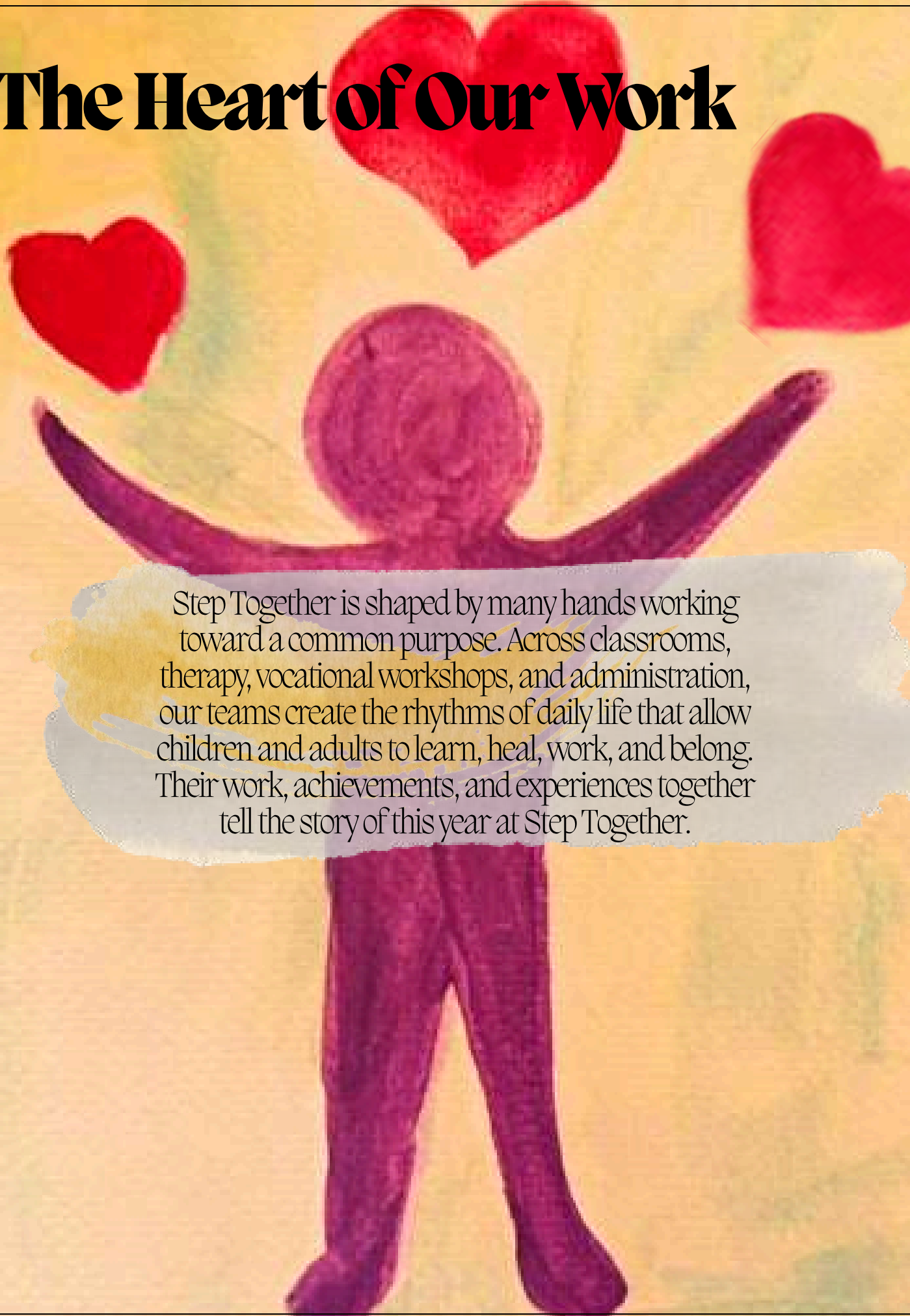
 **Aktion
Deutschland Hilft**

 **GIVE A CHILD**
A BRIGHTER FUTURE

These efforts reached children, families, educators, and schools across Lebanon, demonstrating the strength of community partnership and the importance of responding quickly to emerging needs. Step Together extends its sincere gratitude to **Friends of Waldorf Education** and **Aktion Deutschland Hilft**, whose support made the emergency pedagogy team's response in the *Togetehr We Respond* project possible.



The Heart of Our Work



Step Together is shaped by many hands working toward a common purpose. Across classrooms, therapy, vocational workshops, and administration, our teams create the rhythms of daily life that allow children and adults to learn, heal, work, and belong. Their work, achievements, and experiences together tell the story of this year at Step Together.

Expanding Services to Beirut to Spread Holistic Waldorf-Inspired Education

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Early Childhood

This year was one of the most challenging in our journey. The consequences of war, instability, economic hardship, and uncertainty affected every aspect of life in Lebanon, including education. As many families left and enrolment declined, Waldorf Beirut, which has been officially recognised by **IASWECE**, was faced with the difficult reality of relocating its kindergarten from Mansourieh to **Beit Byout** in Achrafieh.

Despite these challenges, our commitment remained unchanged. We launched a Waldorf-inspired toddler program for mothers and children aged 1 to 3 years, creating a warm and peaceful setting where families gathered each week to experience nature-based activities, movement, music, storytelling, free play, and meaningful connection.



These gatherings offered a space for families to reconnect through rhythm, creativity, and shared experiences during a time of uncertainty, while embodying the values of Waldorf education through warmth, beauty, and meaningful human connection. More than a program, they became a place where children and caregivers experienced belonging, stability, and joy, reaffirming the importance of nurturing relationships in early childhood.

This experience reaffirmed our belief that every challenge carries the possibility of transformation. It strengthened our commitment to finding new ways to support children, families, and educators while continuing to share the principles of Waldorf education with the wider community.

A Successful Waldorf-Inspired Pilot Project at Jal El Dib Public School

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Early Childhood



The success of *Gentle Beginnings* has created a strong foundation for the next phase of Step Together's Waldorf-inspired work. In the coming academic year, the initiative is expected to continue at Jal El Dib Official Intermediate School while expanding through the launch of *Gentle Rhythms* in additional public kindergarten classrooms. By building on the lessons and partnerships established through the pilot, Step Together aims to reach more educators and children with child-centred, rhythm-based learning experiences. This planned expansion reflects the organization's continued commitment to strengthening early childhood education and supporting meaningful educational change within Lebanon's public school system.

Following months of preparation and collaboration with MEHE and with Dr. Vernaliza, Director of Jal El Dib Public School, we received permission to implement *Gentle Beginnings*, a Waldorf-inspired KG2 pilot classroom supported by the **PAX Foundation**. The initiative represented an important step toward bringing Waldorf education into the Lebanese public education system. Despite the challenges of the academic year, the project concluded successfully and demonstrated that meaningful educational change remains possible even in difficult circumstances. We are deeply grateful to all those whose trust and support made this possible.



School Section

The School Section continued to provide a holistic and inclusive learning environment where every student was supported according to their individual strengths, abilities, and needs. Through a balance of academic instruction, creative learning, therapeutic collaboration, and social-emotional support, the department remained committed to nurturing each child's overall development while fostering confidence, independence, and a genuine love of learning.

Throughout the year, teachers strengthened inclusive classroom practices through collaborative teaching, differentiated learning strategies, and ongoing professional development.



Strong partnerships with families, meaningful collaboration across departments, and continued investment in staff training further enriched the educational experience, ensuring that students benefited from consistent, well-rounded support.

Beyond the classroom, students participated in educational outings, welcomed visiting schools, and engaged in activities that promoted inclusion, environmental awareness, and meaningful connections with the wider community. Together, these experiences created opportunities not only for academic achievement, but also for personal growth, belonging, and active participation in everyday life.



Building and Nurturing Inclusive Learning Communities

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School Section



This year marked an important step toward greater inclusion and independence through the participation of several youth students into the *Inclusive Employment Program at Al Yarz Leisure Club*. Working within a community environment allowed participants to apply their skills in meaningful ways, build confidence, strengthen social connections, and experience the dignity of purposeful work. The program reflects Step Together's continued commitment to creating meaningful pathways toward inclusion, community participation, and greater independence, empowering young adults to apply their abilities beyond the classroom in real-world settings.

This year, three members of the Step Together team successfully completed the *East-West Training Program*, an international professional development program that brought together participants from eight countries through six interactive online modules. Throughout the program, participants exchanged experiences, reflected on their professional practice, and explored approaches to supporting adults with special needs through a combination of theoretical learning, guided reflection, and collaborative discussion. The program provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen professional practice while fostering meaningful international exchange.



Building Skills for Independence and Workshop Growth

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Vocational Section

Throughout the year, the Vocational Section continued to provide individualized vocational programs that combined practical workshops, productive activities, and individualized support to strengthen functional, emotional, social, and vocational skills. Through hands-on learning experiences, learners developed daily living skills, communication, emotional regulation, creativity, and greater independence while preparing for meaningful participation in community life.

This individualized approach was strengthened through continuous collaboration with families and ongoing progress monitoring.



Occupational therapy support, adapted materials, structured routines, and individualized interventions ensured that learning responded to each learner's unique strengths and needs, while digital documentation supported ongoing planning and evaluation throughout the year.

Beyond the workshops, learners participated in community partnerships, workplace experiences, outreach activities, and educational visits that strengthened inclusion, encouraged meaningful participation, and highlighted the abilities and contributions of adults with special needs. Together, these experiences fostered confidence, independence, and a strong sense of belonging while preparing learners for active participation in their communities.



From Skills to Meaningful Work & Sustainability

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Vocational Section



Creating meaningful pathways from vocational learning to community participation, the *I Can Be Productive Program*, supported by **Open Minds**, continued to provide learners with supported workplace experiences in real community settings. Despite the challenges experienced this year, vocational objectives continued through flexible online delivery before gradually returning to on-site workshops and community-based employment training. Through practical experiences in settings such as the nursery, library, supermarket, and coffee shop, participants strengthened workplace routines, communication, confidence, independence, and workplace readiness.

Reflecting the department's commitment to environmental responsibility, a *Recycling Program* was launched in partnership with **Echo Hub – Ahla Fawda**, further expanding the vocational students' opportunities to engage in environmentally responsible vocational practices. Integrated into everyday workshop activities, the initiative promoted recycling alongside the principles of reducing waste, reusing materials, and developing greater environmental responsibility. Through meaningful, hands-on participation, students strengthened practical work habits while contributing to a more sustainable learning environment.



Creating a Home of Care, Growth, and Belonging

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Residential Community

At the heart of the Residential Community is a commitment to providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing home where residents are encouraged to develop independence, well-being, and meaningful participation in daily life. Through compassionate care, structured routines, and a holistic approach, the department continued to create an environment where every resident felt valued, respected, included, and empowered to reach their full potential.

This work was strengthened through close collaboration with families, individualized follow-up, and ongoing professional development. Continued collaboration with an Anthroposophical physician from the UK supported holistic assessments and individualized support planning.



Through community-based practice, training at NDU, and strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration, the department enhanced its ability to respond to each resident's unique strengths and needs. Digital documentation also improved coordination between residential staff, families, and the multidisciplinary team.

Through meaningful collaboration with the School and Vocational Departments, residents participated in shared educational, therapeutic, vocational, and community experiences that strengthened independence, encouraged inclusion, and reinforced a strong sense of belonging. Above all, the Residential Department continued to be a place where care, dignity, and belonging came together to create a true sense of home for every resident.



Promoting Health, Inclusion, and Well-Being 23

Residential Community



The Residential Community further strengthened inclusion by expanding opportunities for residents to learn, participate, and engage across the wider Step Together community. Supported by stronger collaboration between the Residential, School, Vocational, and multidisciplinary teams, regular parent progress meetings, and enhanced digital communication systems, these efforts improved coordination and reinforced continuity of care. More importantly, they strengthened partnerships with families, creating a more integrated and person-centered residential experience that encouraged consistent support, meaningful participation, and a stronger sense of belonging for every resident.

Throughout the year, the Residential Community strengthened its commitment to promoting healthy lifestyle choices and well-being by introducing nutritional education sessions that increased residents' awareness of the relationship between nutrition, health, and daily living. As part of the department's holistic approach, these sessions complemented residents' daily routines and individualized support while encouraging greater independence and meaningful participation in everyday life. Together with expanded therapeutic and creative opportunities, these initiatives further supported residents' health, well-being, confidence, and overall development.



Strengthening and Expanding Holistic Therapeutic Services

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Therapy

The Therapy Department remained committed to providing individualized, student-centred therapeutic services that responded to the diverse developmental, sensory, communication, and emotional needs of every student. Despite challenges that interrupted therapy sessions throughout the year, the department remained dedicated to maintaining the quality and continuity of therapeutic support through flexible service delivery, ensuring that students continued to receive the interventions they needed.

Work was further strengthened via ongoing professional development, evidence-based therapeutic practice, and continued investment in specialized approaches that enhanced expertise and expanded the quality and diversity of services provided.



Through regular assessments, individualized recommendations, and close collaboration with families and multidisciplinary teams, the department continued to support each student's unique strengths, needs, and developmental goals.

The department also continued integrating environmentally conscious practices into its daily work by reducing unnecessary waste and making greater use of outdoor therapeutic activities whenever possible. These experiences enriched therapeutic sessions, encouraged student engagement, and promoted more sustainable use of resources, reflecting the department's commitment to both high-quality therapeutic practice and responsible stewardship.



Opening of the Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Room and Promoting AAC Implementation

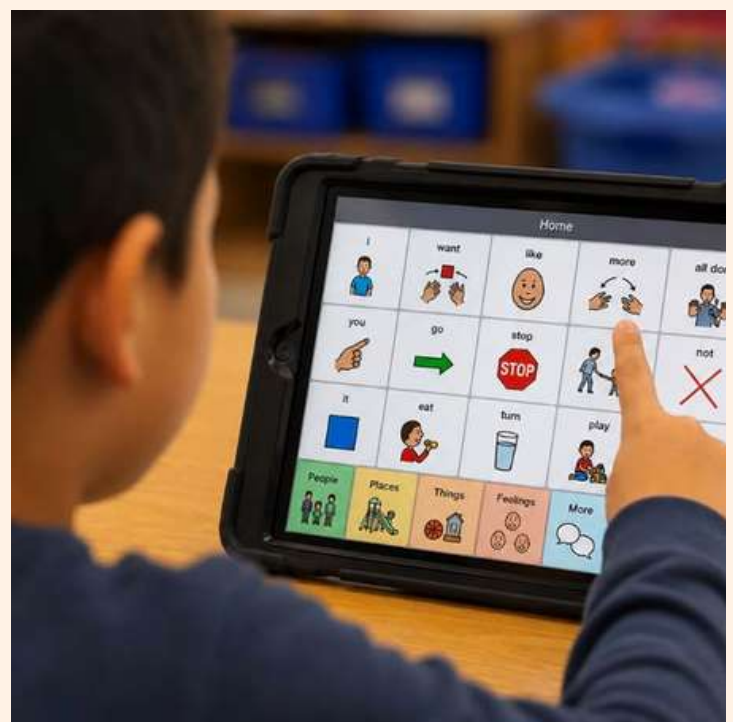
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Therapy



Recognizing the importance of accessible communication, the Therapy Department launched the *Assistive Communications Program* in support of **AssistiveWare**. The program aims to increase access to Assistive Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices for students with complex communication needs, strengthening communication, participation, and independence across the school environment. As implementation continues, it represents an important step toward more inclusive communication practices while ensuring that every student has greater opportunities to express themselves and engage meaningfully in school life.

This year marked the completion of the *Snoezelen Room*, made possible through the generous support of **Give a Child a Brighter Future**. Designed as a multisensory therapeutic environment, the space provides students with sensory regulation, relaxation, emotional well-being, and guided sensory exploration within a calm, adapted setting. Since becoming operational, it has expanded the department's therapeutic services by offering individualized sensory experiences tailored to each student's needs, further strengthening the quality of therapeutic support available at Step Together.



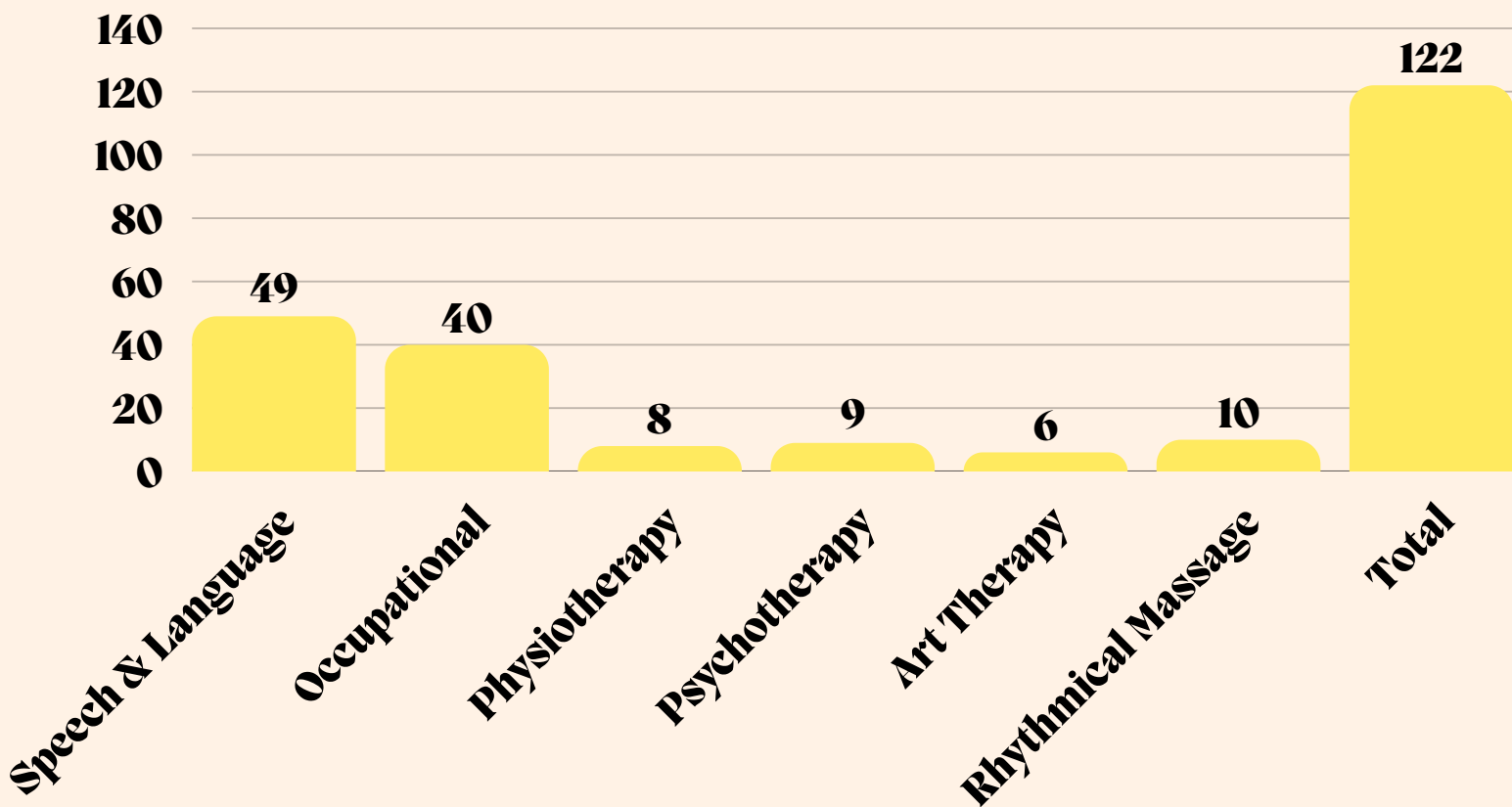
Key Statistics

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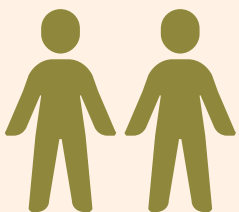
Therapy

Therapy Services Delivered

● Number of Weekly Sessions



45% *Access to Therapy*



2

Therapies per Student Receiving Therapy

Where Skills Become Opportunities and Products Have Purpose

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Production

The Production Department remained committed to the consistent preparation and delivery of high-quality products and services that support the daily operations and long-term sustainability of Step Together. Through careful planning, efficient production processes, and a strong commitment to quality, consistency, and teamwork, the department continued adapting to growing demands while maintaining reliable production and service delivery that supported both the school and the wider community.

At the heart of the department is the active involvement of students with special needs, who continue to participate in meaningful production activities within a supportive and inclusive work environment.



Through hands-on experiences, students develop practical skills, build confidence, strengthen independence, and contribute as valued members of the production team while gaining meaningful vocational experience.

The department also remained committed to continuous improvement by maximizing the efficient use of raw materials, reducing unnecessary waste, and encouraging responsible resource management without compromising product quality. These practices strengthened operational efficiency while reflecting the department's commitment to sustainable production, responsible stewardship, and the continued growth of Step Together.



Slowly and Gradually Improving Our Points of Sales

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Production

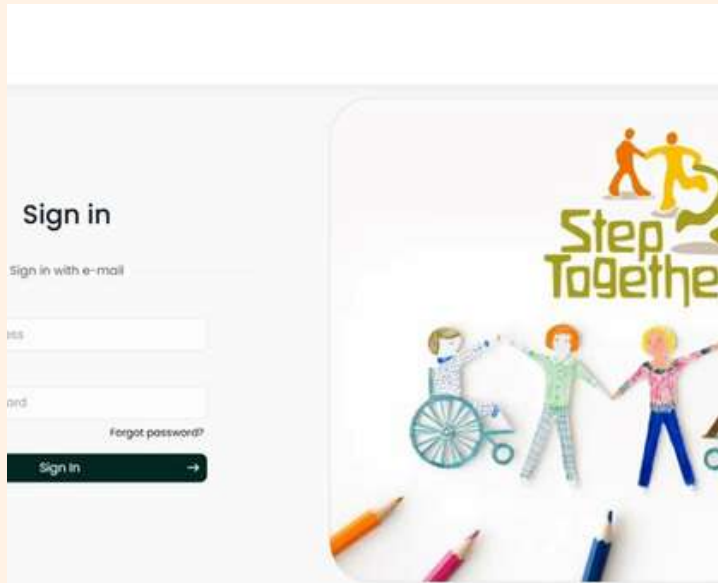


Building on the department's continued focus on growth and expansion, the Production Department expanded its network to eight points of sale, significantly increasing product reach and strengthening its market presence. The addition of a new salesperson further enhanced client communication and follow-up, creating new sales opportunities and strengthening customer relationships. Together, these developments expanded the department's visibility within the community while contributing to the long-term sustainability and continued growth of Step Together's production activities.

Alongside its continued expansion, the Production Department diversified its product portfolio through the development of new products, product designs, and staff training. New additions included sewing products, candle and soap designs, gardening workshop kits, and new packaging reflecting the department's ongoing commitment to quality, innovation, and continuous improvement. At the same time, training in gluten-free bread preparation has expanded the team's expertise, strengthening the department's capacity to respond to evolving customer needs and support future product development.

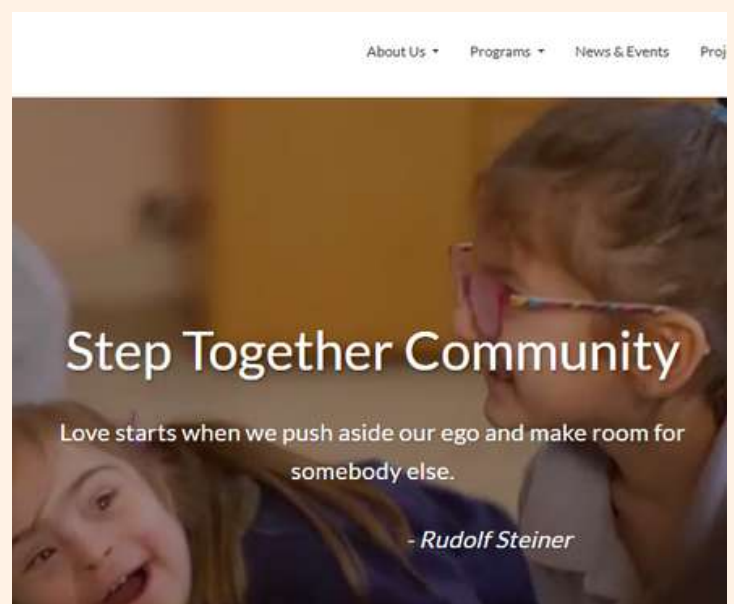


Administration

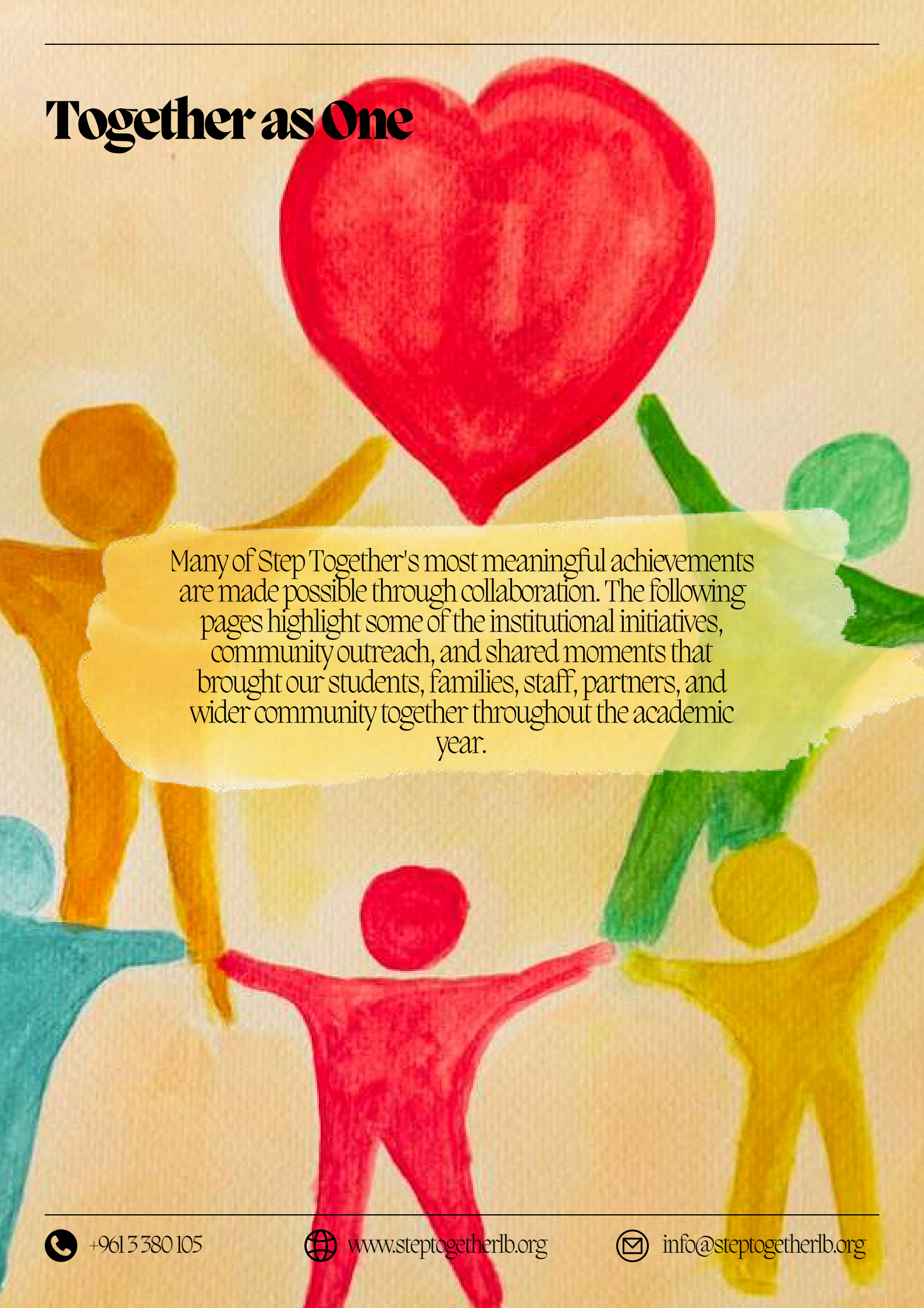


As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening visibility and community engagement, Step Together launched a redesigned website that reflects the organization's continued growth and evolving work. Developed to provide a more accessible, user-friendly experience, the new website features improved navigation, updated content, and a clearer presentation of our programs, services, projects, and impact. Serving as a hub for supporters, families, partners, and the wider community, it strengthens access to information, showcases Step Together's work, and creates new opportunities for people to connect with, support, and follow the organization's ongoing initiatives.

A major milestone was the development of the *Special Education Support Platform (SESP)*, a customized digital platform created through close collaboration between the IT team and the Heads of Special Education and Therapy, serving as a comprehensive tool for educational planning, documentation, and communication. The platform supports the development and monitoring of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), individualized therapy plans, and daily student progress. It also strengthens collaboration with families by providing parents with direct access to goals, progress updates, behavioural reports, schedules, and announcements. Through this integrated system, we enhance transparency, collaboration, and continuity of care, ensuring all involved in each student's educational journey remain informed and connected.



Together as One



Many of Step Together's most meaningful achievements are made possible through collaboration. The following pages highlight some of the institutional initiatives, community outreach, and shared moments that brought our students, families, staff, partners, and wider community together throughout the academic year.

Quality Education Through Ongoing Professional Development

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Professional Development



Early Childhood Training

Throughout the year, Step Together continued investing in professional development in early childhood education. Five staff members successfully completed the **IASWECE**-recognized *Early Childhood Training*, strengthening their knowledge of child development and Waldorf-inspired educational practices. Four of these graduates continued into the Deepening Course in preparation to become future trainers, while three additional staff members are expected to complete the training by the end of the year. These achievements reflect our ongoing commitment to building internal expertise and delivering high-quality early childhood education.

Opening Our Doors

At the beginning of the academic year, Step Together welcomed families, partners, and the wider community for its annual Open House, offering an opportunity to explore the organization's programs, meet students and staff, and experience its holistic and inclusive approach firsthand. As part of the event, Step Together also hosted a community lecture in collaboration with **NeuroNanoMed** – **BrünstlMedizin**, exploring the intersection of Special Education, Music, and Artificial Intelligence. Together, these experiences strengthened community engagement, fostered meaningful connections, and reaffirmed Step Together's commitment to openness, collaboration, and sharing its work with the wider community.



Expanding Our Professional Development in the Arab World 32

Professional Development



Transformative Learning with SEKEM

This year marked the completion of a three-year training program in Inclusive Supportive Education and Social Development, celebrating a meaningful partnership between Step Together and **SEKEM, Egypt**. Rooted in shared values and a common vision for inclusive, human-centred education, the program fostered professional growth through learning, reflection, collaboration, and the exchange of best practices. The final module concluded with a certificate ceremony recognizing participants' dedication and commitment, marking not only the end of a transformative learning journey but also the beginning of continued collaboration between two communities united by a shared purpose.

Advancing Waldorf Education

Building on the success of *Gentle Beginnings*, Step Together collaborated with the **Ministry of Education and Higher Education** to deliver a professional development session for Early Childhood Coordinators from public schools across Lebanon. Led by Dr. Rim Mouawad and Ms. Carol Teddy, the session introduced the principles of Waldorf-inspired education while fostering professional dialogue and the exchange of best practices in holistic early childhood education. Bringing together coordinators from across the public education system, the initiative represented an important milestone in strengthening national capacity and advancing more child-centred approaches to early childhood education in Lebanon.



International Conferences and Professional Learning Across Borders

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Professional Development



Throughout the year, Step Together proudly represented Lebanon at three international conferences, strengthening its commitment to inclusive education, Emergency Pedagogy, and global professional collaboration. Team members participated in the **Autumn Conference at the Goetheanum** in Switzerland, the **30th Anniversary Conference of the International Training Circle** in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the **20th Annual Emergency Pedagogy Conference** in Karlsruhe, Germany. Together, these gatherings provided opportunities for learning, reflection, professional exchange, and collaboration with colleagues worldwide, strengthening international partnerships while bringing new knowledge and best practices back to the communities we serve.

They also provided opportunities to share Lebanon's experiences, exchange perspectives on supporting children affected by crisis, and contribute to international discussions on inclusive and trauma-informed education. Through these experiences, Step Together continues to strengthen its role within the global communities, ensuring that international learning translates into meaningful improvements for the children, families, and educators we support.

Bringing People Together in Support of Our Mission

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Celebrating Community

Mother's Day Celebration

Step Together brought together families, supporters, partners, and members of the wider community for its *Mother's Day Celebration at The Peninsula*, creating a meaningful opportunity to celebrate mothers while strengthening the spirit of the Step Together community.

Beyond the celebration itself, the event reflected the generosity, compassion, and shared commitment of those who continue to stand alongside the organization, bringing together families, friends, and supporters in an atmosphere of appreciation, connection, and belonging. It also served as an important opportunity to raise awareness of Step Together's mission, strengthen relationships with long-standing supporters, and welcome new members of the community to engage with the organization's work.

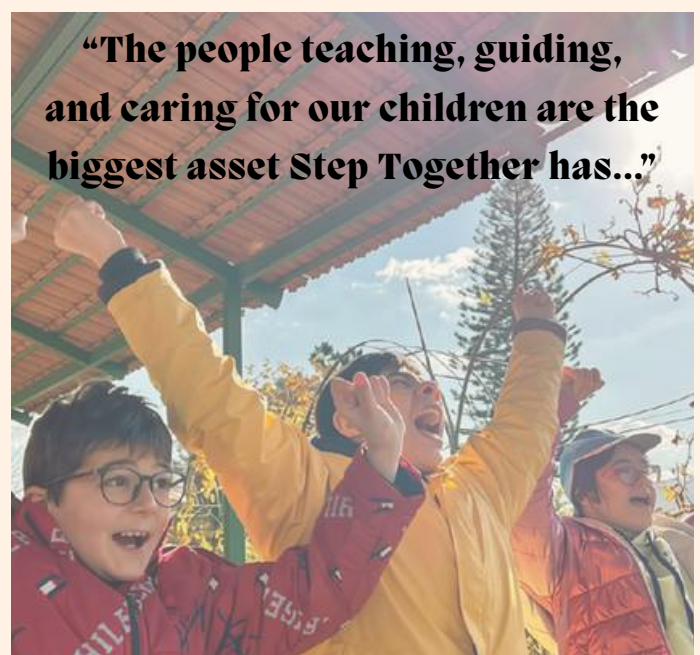
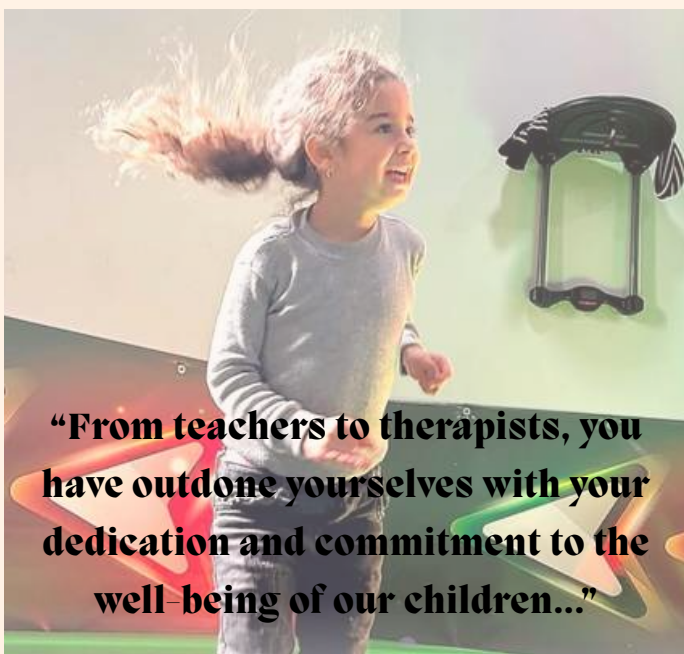
The success of the celebration demonstrated the power of community partnership and reaffirmed the importance of creating spaces where inclusion and generosity can flourish. Step Together extends its sincere gratitude to all sponsors, community partners, and donors, with special thanks to **Beesline** and **Amatoury114**, whose generous support helped make this special celebration possible.



Community Voices

35

Some of the most meaningful moments cannot be measured through numbers alone. They are reflected in the words of the families who entrust us with their children each day.



Looking to the Future

36

As Step Together looks toward the future, we remain committed to building on the progress of this academic year by strengthening existing programs, expanding innovative initiatives, and creating new opportunities that deepen inclusion, promote holistic development, and respond to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

A key priority for the coming year is to expansion of our work through *Gentle Rhythms*, a project building on the success of our Waldorf-inspired public-school pilot to bring holistic, child-centered educational practices to additional classrooms across Lebanon. Alongside this, we aim to continue enhancing learning environments through future classroom adaptation initiatives while advancing work on *Vibrant Spaces*, our vision for a sensory garden at Step Together that will provide a dedicated therapeutic environment where nature, movement, and sensory exploration become part of everyday learning and well-being.

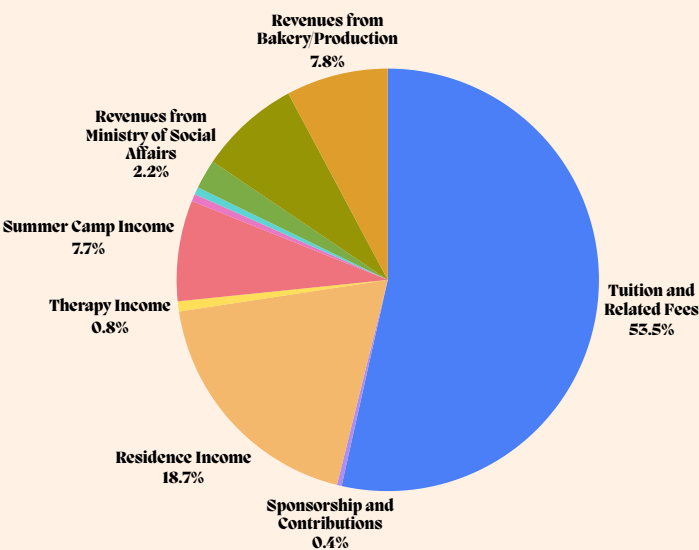
Our commitment to growth also extends to vocational development. Through *From Skill to Sustainability*, we hope to strengthen Step Together's bakery and production activities into a more sustainable social enterprise that creates meaningful vocational pathways for adults with special needs. At the same time, we will continue exploring opportunities to strengthen vocational programming through future accreditation and expanded community partnerships.

Equally important is the continued development of the programs that have become central to our mission. By expanding the *Assistive Communications Program* and *I Can Be Productive*, we aim to create even greater opportunities for communication, participation, independence, and lifelong learning for children, young adults, and their families.

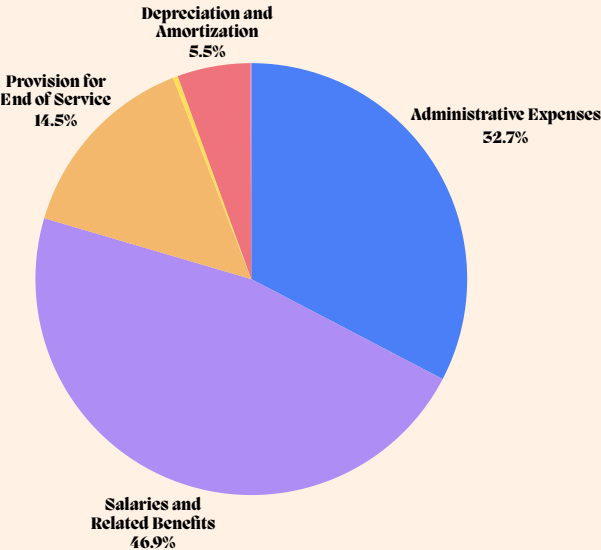
These priorities represent more than individual initiatives, they reflect our long-term commitment to innovation, inclusion, and holistic education. Guided by the belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute, we look to the future with confidence, purpose, and optimism as we continue building a more inclusive community for generations to come.

Our Impact In Numbers

Revenues



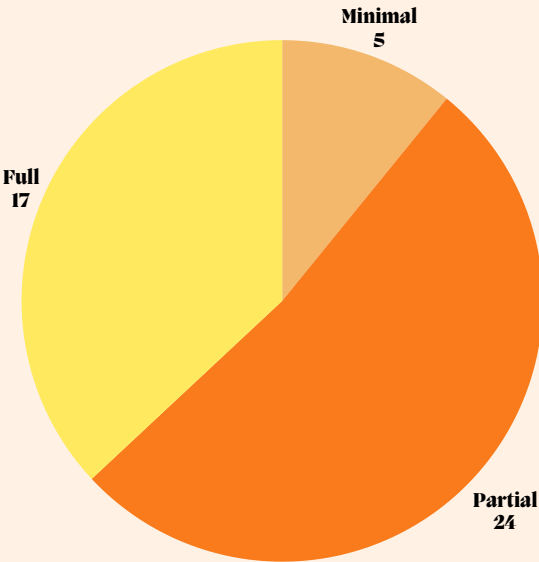
Expenses



37%

Financial Support Coverage

Financial Support



Total Revenue

LBP 124,437,309,500

Total Expenses

LBP 141,696,221,000

Our Impact In Numbers

38

Behind every figure is a network of support that enables Step Together to continue its work. The following provides an overview of the sources of income and areas of expenditure.

Revenues	2025 – 2026	2024 – 2025
<i>Tuition and Related Fees</i>	LBP 66,585,136,000	LBP 70,005,015,130
<i>Sponsorships and Contributions</i>	LBP 449,558,500	LBP 11,125,639,390
<i>Residence Income</i>	LBP 23,309,917,000	LBP 37,382,938,170
<i>Therapy Income</i>	LBP 966,600,000	LBP 4,274,516,420
<i>Summer Camp Income</i>	LBP 9,585,450,000	LBP 7,784,651,195
<i>Event Income</i>	LBP 703,470,000	LBP 13,475,999,785
<i>Assessment Fees</i>	LBP 703,828,000	LBP 183,117,000
<i>Other Income</i>	LBP –	LBP 689,418,500
<i>Revenues from Ministry of Social Affairs</i>	LBP 2,785,687,500	LBP –
<i>Revenues from Proposals</i>	LBP 9,634,227,500	LBP –
<i>Revenues from Bakery & Production</i>	LBP 9,713,435,000	LBP –
Total	LBP 124,437,309,500	LBP 144,921,295,590

Expenses	2025 – 2026	2024 – 2025
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	LBP 46,275,617,000	LBP 45,975,602,260
<i>Salaries and Related Benefits</i>	LBP 66,443,815,500	LBP 88,315,591,905
<i>Provision for End of Service</i>	LBP 20,600,304,500	LBP 13,773,544,325
<i>Net Finance Income (Cost)</i>	LBP 532,614,500	LBP 540,203,205
<i>Depreciation & Amortization</i>	LBP 7,744,524,500	LBP 896,428,420
<i>Other Expenses</i>	LBP 99,345,000	LBP –
Total	LBP 141,696,221,000	LBP 149,501,370,115

Supporting Our Mission

39

In a country shaped by ongoing instability, your generosity helps create stability where it is needed most. Your support enables students to continue learning, growing, and participating fully in their educational and therapeutic journeys while allowing Step Together to sustain its daily work and expand its reach within the community. We invite you to explore the giving pathways below and become part of this shared commitment.

 **Circle of Light**

Join our community of supporters who contribute regularly throughout the year through recurring monthly donations.

AMOUNT	TIER	
\$10/month	Supporter	Donate
\$25/month	Friend	Donate
\$50/month	Partner	Donate
\$100/month	Guardian	Donate
\$200/month	Angel	Donate

Members of the Circle of Light receive periodic updates showing how their shared support contributes to meaningful impact over time and helps sustain our programs across the year.

 **Circle of Hope**

For those who wish to make a deeper and more personal impact by directing an annual contribution toward student sponsorship.

AMOUNT	TIER	
\$4,000/year	Companion of Hope	Donate
\$8,000/year	Protector of Hope	Donate

Upon receiving your donation, we will follow up with the following:

- A student profile for the student your contribution would support,
- The student's individualized plan for the year,
- Progress updates highlighting achievements.

 Bank & Transfer Details

Through Wish Money
+961 3 541 356

Through Bank Transfer
IBAN: LB22 0093 0000 0035 0725 4366 1LBP
IBAN: LB80 0093 0000 0035 0725 4366 1USD
IBAN: LB33 0093 0000 0035 0725 4366 1EUR



School & Vocational Community for
Individuals with Special Needs

