



“VOW of love”

to the person with disability and his family



**SESOBEL**

Founded in 1976

Action Report  
Year 2015-2016

underpinned our action, are more present and pervasive than ever:

Our mission, Being at the service of the person with disability and his family to live happy and complementary.

Educate society about the importance of the human person with disability and the role he can have deep within... the result is reflected in the lives of our children and their families, a mission without which SESOBEL would not have acquired its reputation in the field.

Our unconditional respect for the human being, OUR BROTHER, created in the image of the Lord.

40 years later, I am pleased to also note that the results are rather largely positive:

Our children are happier and live with dignity as we have always wanted.

Our young adults with disability have overcome their difficulties and were themselves witnesses to other young people. Their parents are no longer alone to face the various challenges of life, and a little more confident towards the future.

The society is more and more mobilized to recognize their rights and their position.

The team members are committed, competent, trained, working with all their heart to give the best of themselves to children and to better support their families, Friends, consultants, donors, sponsors, partner associations, support groups, committees and volunteers, who have at heart this mission and sincerely work tirelessly to help us develop our means of action and ensure the necessary, friends who have one passion, how to love more and more the children.

A big thank you to all my friends, team members, employees, partners, godfathers

and godmothers, members of the various committees and volunteers, you have accompanied me, helped me, each of you brought the stone to build the pillars and this has allowed SESOBEL to be what it is today.

40 years later, I can say with certainty that, beyond my role as President, CEO, responsible for SESOBEL, my greatest personal satisfaction is the fact that Yvonne considers me not only the «co-founder» of SESOBEL, but above all, using her own words, «the founder of continuity». Therefore, I would tell her, I am deeply grateful for believing in me, by putting everything at my disposal to help me grow, develop myself, assume more responsibilities, and continue the path that was paved to us.

On this, I agree, as long as the Lord will allow me, to continue to accompany SESOBEL and ensure a solid foundation for its continuity.

Fadia Safi  
President, General Director of Sesobel



# 40 YEARS AT A GLANCE

«Together, the impossible  
becomes possible»

# 1 - Start of a struggle for the dignity of man

In 1975, at the beginning of the Lebanese civil war, Yvonne Chami returns to Beirut after six years in Vietnam in difficult conditions, as a nurse.

She finds a job in the pediatric ward of a hospital in the capital and discovers a disturbing reality: children becoming disabled while we could prevent the onset of disability, families disintegrating and the country's resources not allowing making any response to this dramatic situation, especially as the ongoing conflict is not giving the case of these children a priority.

Yvonne then drew this dream to accompany the lives of children with disability from birth to death, to enable them to lead a life of dignity and to become at their turn witnesses bearing a message to others.

Yvonne Chami

Nurse, midwife and social worker of Lebanese nationality.

1976: Founder of SESOBEL, accompanying children with disability and their families.

1992: Founder of Anta Akhi, for a future of dignity of the adult with disability.

2000: Founder of the project HVE «Handicap et Vivre Ensemble» for a value recognition of the person with disability within the Church.

1993: 1st prize for humanitarian action organized by the Magazine Madame FIGARO, Paris - France, with the association of the International Year of Women.

2012: Distinction of Knight of the National Order of Merit by the President of Republic, General Michel Sleiman.

## Our Logo

Two candles of different sizes, united by the same flame, this is our emblem to show the breath of life. We consider the right symbolizes a healthy person, and the other, leaning, children with disability. Conversely, we also say that the Leaning candle symbolizes the one who gives love to the one with a cold heart. Who can tell the source between the two candles and the two persons? Doesn't this same flame sprout from the movement of the one towards the other ?

First sketches of the logo



## 2 - A LEGENDARY COURSE

Throughout the years, having identified the difficulties of children with disability and their families, the SESOBEL has helped more than 10,000 children with disability to meet their medical, social, educational, rehabilitative, recreational, relational needs... social inclusion and all their rights... to ensure them a life of Joy and Dignity.

### 1976

- Action at St. Georges Hospital of Beirut to study the needs of children with disability.

### 1977

- Action at existing public and private structures in the country working in the field of childhood.

### 1978

- Start of seminars, meetings and vaccination campaigns in an environmental advocacy goal on disability issues.
- Preventive action and public education.

### 1979

- Start of the social and family medical service.
- Opening of the social care center (Nursery) in Antelias.

### 1980

- Setting up an information seminar with Jean Vanier, founder of l'Arche-France: The starting point of our work with people with disability.
- Creating of a screening service, prevention and early treatment of infants and young children with disability, with Dr. Josette Naffah, PhD in genetics.
- Start of a welcome program for 8 children with physical and mental disability, aged between 6 to 12 years.

### 1981

- Start of the first special education service.
- Start of the first physiotherapy service.

### 1982

- Action with refugees, pregnant women and infants for the purpose of screening and prevention.

### 1983

- Start of the first early intervention program at home.

### 1984

- Setting up the technical assistance workshop.
- Setting up of the entertainment program addressed to young people with disability in Rabieh.



### 1990

- Start of the chocolate workshop.

### 1992

- Start of the school integration program and the first parallel class in college Antonine / Brazilia - Baabda (End in 1996).

### 1993

- Founding Anta-Akhi, serving a worthy future for the person with disability. (Second association created by Miss Yvonne Chami)

### 1994

- Creation of the pottery workshop.
- Start of speech therapy, psychomotor and psychological care.

### 1995

- Collaboration with the «Handicap International» organization to equip the technical assistance workshop.

### 1996

- Start of the horticulture workshop.

### 1997

- Establishment of the occupational therapy unit.

### 1998

- Creation of the specialized computer

workshop addressed to young people.

### 1999

- Start of early stimulation unit.

### 2000

- Start of summer camps involving children with disability and the children of the working team.
- Installation of the respiratory unit.

### 2001

- Start of the action with siblings of children and youth with disability.

### 2002

- Installation of the occupational therapy unit in collaboration with the association «Handicap International» and the Embassy of France in Lebanon.
- Creation of the prepress studio.
- Creation of the «Research and Development» department.

### 2004

- Opening of the training center.
- Installation of an IT field specialized for children with cerebral palsy.
- Pilgrimage of the first group of children and youth in Lourdes, in collaboration with the association « Les petits frères des pauvres» – France.
- Opening of the first branch of «Les Tournesols» for girls with disability in cooperation with the Lebanese Guides Association.

### 2005

- Installing of the Gait Lab for motion and movement analysis.

### 2006

- Emergency action to displaced families following the July 2006 war.
- Animation project in the caza of Jezzine in collaboration with UNICEF, FOR WAR-TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN.
- Creation of the local produce workshop «Gê» at Kfarhouna in collaboration with the CDR and the World Bank.
- Application Of the new technique «alternative and augmentative

communication» to all children and youth with an oral language disorder.

### 2007

- Start of the «Children advocating Children's rights» program.
- Implementation of the school inclusion project in the public primary school of Jezzine in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and the local community.

### 2008

- Second pilgrimage for children and youth in Lourdes, in collaboration with the “Les petits frères des pauvres” association- France

### 2009

- Start of the «Living Space», boarding program (ongoing) suitable for youth with autism to promote their self autonomy.
- Structuring of the existential support program.
- Application of the exchange and development therapy among children with autism disorders, in collaboration with CHU Tours and Professor Catherine Barthelemy.

### 2010

- Creation of neuro-alimentary clinic for children and youth having difficulties in food consumption and swallowing.

### 2011

- Installation of the visual disturbance clinic.

### 2012

- Inauguration of the protected workshop «3 hearts lodge».
- Integration of body expression sessions- The dance-therapy by Jose Melgar.

### 2013

- Setting up of the local produce workshop on the premises of the Kfarhouna public school.
- Start of the «external care” program.
- Certificate in hospitality for youth at SESOBEL people from the Phoenicia Hotel, along with a painting exhibition «Inspirations» (paintings made by children and youth with autism).

### 2014

- Engagement of a second team, from the Family Reception Unit, in rotation during the

afternoon, to respond to more requests and inquiries from new families.

- Integration of the «Go Green» theme in educational programs' activities for environmental protection.

- Grounding of the school inclusion program in the middle school at the Jezzine public school.

### **3- STRENGTHENING THE LINKS TO Better Serve!**

#### **1991**

- Joint work with the Ministry of Education to develop laws on the integration of children with disability in ordinary schools. (A failed attempt)

#### **1993**

- Founding member at the National Committee for affairs of people suffering from disabilities under the Ministry of Social Affairs.

#### **1994**

- Agreement with the «Orthophonistes du Monde» association for an ongoing training of the team.

#### **1997**

- Convention with ADAGES-France, for unifying practical knowledge.

- France, for unifying practical knowledge.

- Organization of «Health management of children with disability» symposium in collaboration with Professor Claude Hamonet, expert of the World Health Organization.

- Collaboration with «Handicap International» association for the establishment of the Institute of Occupational Therapy at the Lebanese University.

#### **2000**

- Convention with ARAPI for unifying knowledge and for organizing trainings.

#### **2004**

- Organization of the «Autism and Creativity» seminar in cooperation with AMIR network.

#### **2005**

- Convention with the University of Balamand

in the context of the SESOBEL's training center activities.

- Organization of the first scientific conference «A step towards new horizons» to launch and promote the Gait Lab for motion and movement analysis.

#### **2006**

- Contract of Expertise and Orthopedagogical Audit with the Institute of Educators / St Joseph University, whose aim is to assess the skills of the teaching staff at work and enhance their learning.

#### **2009**

- Organization of the second scientific conference «A step towards new horizons» to promote the Gait Lab for motion and movement analysis.

#### **2011**

- Convention with the University of St. Joseph in the context of scientific and educational cooperation.

- Gaining the authorization from the Ministry of Education for the use of the premises of the professional school at the Kfarhouna public school to establish the workshop of the local produce.

#### **2012**

- Collaboration with Alfa mobile operator and the Ministry of Interior for the delivery of the cultural card for people with disability.

- Convention with the NSSF for the recognition and for the costs of examinations at the Gait Lab.

#### **2014**

- Collaboration with Alfa mobile phone company for organizing a ceremony at the Ministry of Justice for submission of "climbing-stair" chairs facilitating the access of people with disabilities in the Department.

- Convention with Saint Joseph University in order to introduce into university courses, lessons on the value of the person with disability and the importance of taking care of him.

- Collaboration with the Lebanese University, Faculty of Public Health, Medical and Social Work Department, to provide social marketing



courses for students in their 4th year degree.

#### 2015

- Organization of the 1st Symposium «Better Seating for a Better Life» in partnership with the Harika Center, Lebanon and in collaboration with the company Ottobok, Germany to demonstrate the vital importance of positioning to the person with disability.

## 4- Status and Progress

#### 1980

- Obtaining notice of association formation No. 42/S.I

#### 1988

- Obtaining the first «Médecine Entraide» prize, created by the Gala of Medicine and the Association «Homme et Solidarité».

#### 1989

- Obtaining of State approved association decree No. 371.

#### 1993

- Obtaining Madame Figaro prize handed to

Miss Yvonne Chami, founder of SESOBEL.

#### 2012

- Handing of the Knight of Honor badge to Miss Yvonne Chami by the President of the Republic Mr. Michel Sleiman.

- Handing the badge of Knight of the Order of Merit to Mrs. Fadia Safi, CEO of SESOBEL by the Ambassador of France in Lebanon, Mr. Patrice Paoli.

- Obtaining the Vatican blessing for the project SESOBEL, Anta-Akhi and HVE «Handicap et Vivre Ensemble».

- Signing a memorandum of interest with the Union of Municipalities of Jezzine.

- Obtaining the «Takreem» prize of philanthropy and social acts in homage to the action of SESOBEL.



BELIEVE, LOVE,  
ACCOMPANY,  
UNITE,  
TESTIFY

FOUNDATIONS OF  
OUR ACTION



## 1- BELIEVE

We Believe that:

- People are much more than they appear to be —each possessing a mystery that shall only be revealed by acts of faith and trust.
- Each disabled person is a human being, a child of God.
- Everyone is entitled to live in dignity and love.
- All that we have received as Gifts are meant to be used for the support of one another.
- Obstacles are part of life. It is up to us to overcome them.
- Life is everlasting; everyone is called to grow and reach his potential.
- We are called to live as one large family, at the heart of which the weakest have their place.
- Love's strength triumphs over death and all its aspects.

This is why we believe that everyone's life, no matter how severely disabled, is worth being lived as a celebration, because Love is enduring and because you are my brother.

## 2- LOVE

«Every person is recognized, valued, respected and loved for what he is, not for what he does or what he gives».

## 3- ACCOMPANY

▪ Accompany means joining a person's daily functioning mode, motor, mental, intellectual and spiritual; a mode of operation of its own, different, but natural. It especially covers joining a person's system of values, beliefs, crossing his vision and walking with him in his environment, in his society.

▪ Each child is unique! His treatment is tailored and so the importance of the individualized project.

▪ We build a real partnership with the family, because we believe that disability is not an enough reason to exclude the child with disability; it is also essential to support the family especially the mother, to avoid her exhaustion, to reduce the family burden from disability and its requirements.

# SESOBEL : A Holistic Mission

FOR THE HARMONIOUS  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD



## OUR ACTION IN FIGURES

**1,253** Children and Youth from **1,151** were supported in our various action programs to meet their specific needs

1- Family Reception Service	88 children
2- Early Stimulation Unit	34 children
3- Physical Disability Program	35 children and youth
4- Mental Disability Program	57 children and youth
5- Multiple Disability Program	37 children
6- Autism Program	42 children and youth
7- School Inclusion Program at the Jezzine public school	22 children
8- Vocational & Rehabilitation programme in Ain El-Rihani - Kesrouan	43 youth
9- Vocational & Rehabilitation programme in Kfarhouna – Jezzine	8 youth
10- Medical and rehabilitation care for adults in Anta-Akhi	52 adult
11- External Services	835 people



69,142  
medical and  
rehabilitative services

707 Assessments

66,100 Therapies

1,156 Consultations &  
Medical Examinations

9 Surgeries

652 Parental Guidance

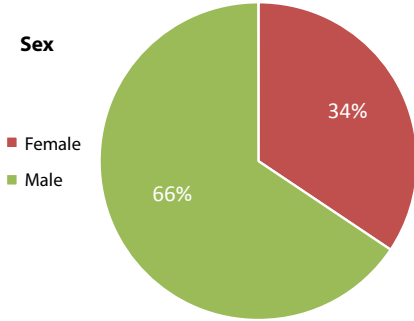
518 Assistive Technology



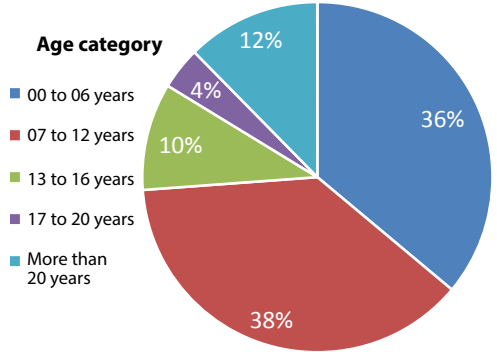
### Disability Categories

PHYSICAL DISABILITY 257 Children (22%)	Cerebral Palsy	180
	Degenerative disease	52
	Genetic Syndrome	10
	Diagnostic Research	24
	Unspecified	2
	Idiopathic Cause	7
MENTAL DISABILITY 252 Children (20%)	Chromosomal Aberration	108
	Brain Malformation	33
	Genetic Syndrome	19
	Diagnostic Research	62
	Unspecified	3
	Idiopathic Cause	27
DEVELOPMENT INVASIVE TROUBLE (AUTISM) 81 children (7%)	Autism	56
	Unspecified Development Invasive Trouble	2
	Genetic Syndrome	0
	Diagnostic Research	23
OTHER 645 children (51%)	School Difficulties	432
	Out-of-Criteria Disability	202
	Other	11

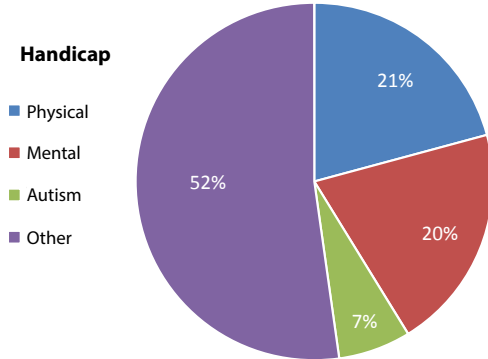
### Sex



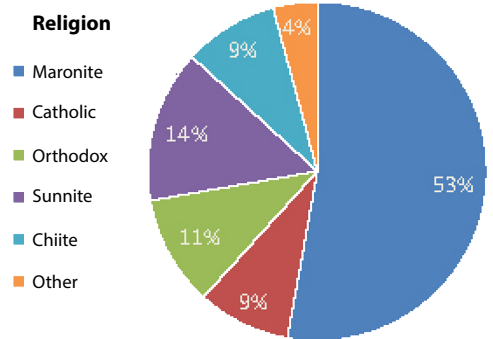
### Age category



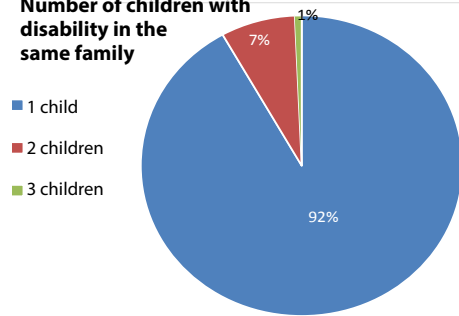
### Handicap



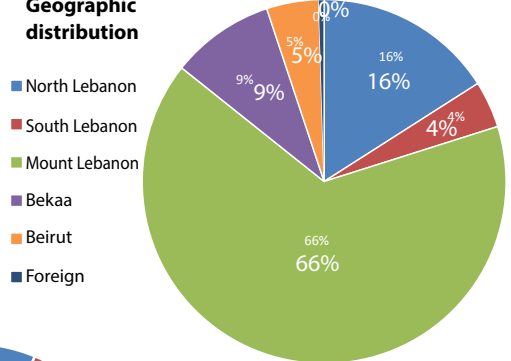
### Religion



### Number of children with disability in the same family

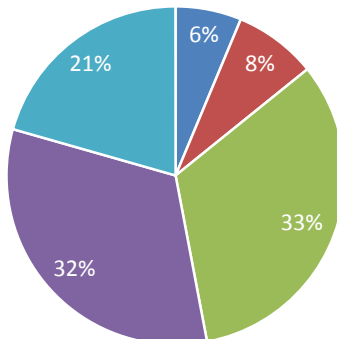


### Geographic distribution



### Families revenue

- A = 0 to 500000 LL
- B = 500000 LL to 1000000 LL
- C = 1000000 LL to 1500000 LL
- D = 1500000 LL to 2000000 LL
- E = More than 2000000 LL



### Equivalent in dollars :

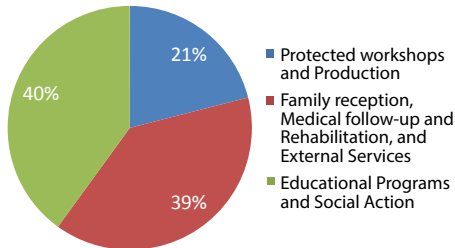
- A = 0 to 333 USD
- B = 333 USD to 666 USD
- C = 666 USD to 1000 USD
- D = 1000 to 1333 USD
- E = More than 1333 USD

# RESSOURCES

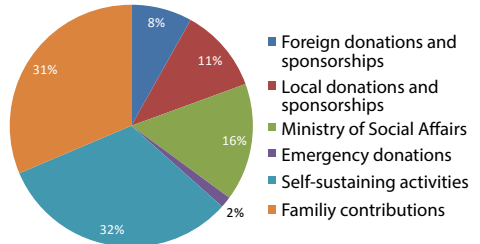
## Our budget :

6.537.983 USD as of 30/06/2015

Expenses



Charges



## TRANSPARENCY

SESOBEL is independent of any religious or political authority to maintain its moral and financial freedom. Furthermore, 69% of SESOBEL's funds come from self-financing activities, private resources, allowing the association to maintain its autonomy.

For full transparency towards donors, accounting is annually subject to control by two auditors appointed by the General

Meeting and SESOBEL's Board of Directors.

The accounts are audited by the Lebanese Cabinet «Anthony J. Haddad» and the French Cabinet «Ernst & Young».



## DEVELOP TO BETTER SERVE The Continuous Training Center

Several trainings were conducted under the SESOBEL Continuous Training Center during the year 2015 - 2016 in order to:

- 1) Raise environmental cause and the rights of the person with disability.
- 2) Promote quality of care and support for people with disability.
- 3) Strengthen the intervention capabilities and expertise of the professionals working with people with disability.
- 4) Involve parents in the implementation of the life project of their child fostering his integration into the socio-economic structure.

From July 2015 until June 2016, The SESOBEL Continuous Education Center organized: 28 training modules divided into 68 sessions for 361 participants.

14

The training modules were conducted by 16 professionals from SESOBEL, 4 foreign experts and 16 Lebanese experts (4 Lebanese persons and 3 groups from the American University of Beirut consisting of 12 medical students).

The modules were made up of 14 technical trainings and administrative trainings  
The participants :

262 professionals, including: 236 professionals working at SESOBEL, 10 professionals working in Lebanese socio-medical establishments, 16 professionals working with external services.  
63 Parents.

2 youth with disability.  
11 university students.  
23 volunteers.

## Provided Trainings

- Conception & animation of learning - I.
- Conception & animation of learning - II.
- Communication with gestures.
- Artistic activities, technical concepts and used materials.
- My Body, intimate space, my emotional life and relationships.
- Special Education with the integration of the basal stimulation approach.
- Relaxation.
- Mediation means.
- Practice workshop: Treatment of swallowing and eating disorders.
- Body work: Personal experience and appropriate intervention.
- Pathological drive.
- Instrumental respiratory treatment.
- Positioning appraisal.
- Treatment of restrictive ventilatory disorders.
- Holding effective meetings.
- Power Point and Excel.
- Photoshop.
- Workshops of manual works.
- Relaxation.
- Prevention of eating disorders for children with trisomy 21.
- Prevention of domestic accidents and first aid.
- How to manage stress.
- Meditation tools.
- Social marketing.
- Cerebral palsy.
- Autism.
- Intellectual disability.
- Emergency first aid.

### Training in Extra Muros

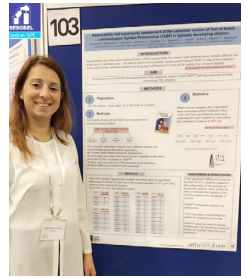
- \* Social worker's role towards children with disabilities and their families.
- \* Analysis of the psychomotor practice.
- \* Nurse's role at SESOBEL.
- \* Social worker's role in a multidisciplinary team.

## International congresses

### 5th European Seating symposium, Dublin

The symposium is always an important meeting place between professionals and international sales agents; what really allows us to be always up-to-date with technological news regarding the seating position and

assistive technology and achieve our ultimate goal to provide the best to our children. SESOBEL participated in an international conference entitled "5th European Seating Symposium 2016" in Dublin, Ireland from 12 to 15 June 2016.



2 oral presentations took place:

The first, entitled "Evaluation of an adaptive Arabic keyboard to Facilitate typing for children with cerebral palsy: a case study"

The second, entitled "Seating in Lebanon since 1983..." Presented with our Irish friend, the occupational therapist Andrew Semple.

An interesting display of different types of material on the seating position and assistive technology accompanied the multiple scientific conferences during the 3 days, animated by well-known international speakers.

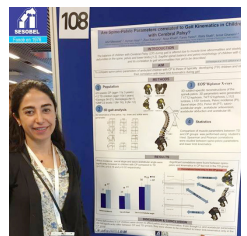
### "International conference on cerebral palsy and other childhood on set disabilities" – Stockholm

4 people from SESOBEL participated in an international conference entitled "International conference on cerebral palsy and other childhood on set disabilities", at Stockholm-Sweden from 1 to 4 June 2016.

This conference brought together several international organizations from 66 countries and beyond 1500 professionals working with children with disability.

SESOBEL participated by presenting four posters and one verbal communication.

The congress allowed the units (Speech and physical therapy) to be up-to-date on all the news, which can be incorporated and applied on our children and to subsequently improve the quality of services offered by SESOBEL medical team.



# OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Summer program

The summer program has encompassed a wide range of educational, artistic, cultural, sports, recreational activities ... helping our children and youngsters with disability to develop their full potential and foster their personal development, their independence, and their social integration.

### Art workshops



### Dietetics & nutrition



### Aikido & Taekwondo



### Brushing



### Sport



### Fair



### Outings



### Iftar

Our youth at the protected workshops have loved to share Iftar of Ramadan with our colleagues Ahmad, Mahmoud and Hamdi in the premises of SESOBEL.



### Closing mass

The summer program was closed with a mass followed by a party in the presence of Mr. Anthony Touma (First prize winner of Dancing with the Stars) and Miss Chloe Hourany, who made our children and youngsters dance in an enthusiastic atmosphere.





## Jezzine public school summer activities

At the school inclusion program, our children had a good time at their own pace, during six weeks of entertainment with their friends, at the public primary school in Jezzine.

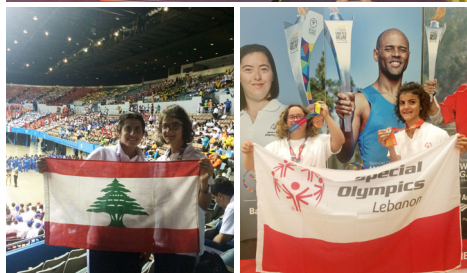


## Olympic games

From 25 July to 2 August 2015, 7,000 athletes with mental disabilities, who came from 177 countries participated in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles.

Accompanied by Joëlle Ouba, their physical education teacher at SESOBEL, Sara Khalifeh and Elissa Harik left Beirut airport, on July 21 - Destination: Fullerton, host town of the 5 countries of delegation: Tunisia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Ukraine, Lebanon.

On July 24: Departure from the University of California for the Olympic Games opening ceremony. Sara participated in the 50 to 100m free swimming competition and then won the 3rd place, whereas Elissa won the 5th place in the 25m breaststroke swimming.



## Back to school

The holidays are over. The new school year started the 15th of September. A special animation welcomed our children and youth who were happy to get together.



## Beirut marathon

«Beat the Challenges, Overcome the Handicap, Go beyond Obstacles»

That was our slogan in the Beirut Marathon. Accompanied by the parade band «Peppers», 121 friends and 51 attendants, 41 of our children and youth took up the challenge and have overcome the obstacles of their disability by participating in the Beirut Marathon, held on 8 November 2015.



## The Independence Day

As every year, our children and youth with educational programs and at the professional and rehabilitation programme, gathered to celebrate the feast of the independence



of Lebanon. The celebration began with the National Anthem followed by songs, dances, an exhibition of handicrafts and a traditional Lebanese breakfast stand.



At Jezzine school inclusion program, our children enthusiastically welcomed a troupe of the Lebanese army which presented a military parade and offered gifts.

## The feast of the Saint Barbara

Two days of festivities at SESOBEL! Our children and youth dressed up with all kinds of costumes. Their ultimate goal was to win the 1st prize of the competition, which lasted for two days to choose the best group. The jury was formed of two actresses Ms. Roula Hamadeh and Mirva Al Kadi and representatives of the team. Results of competitions: Everybody wins!



## Christmas at SESOBEL

The Christmas party at SESOBEL brings us every year beautiful surprises. Our children and youth began preparations a little early this year! They are eager to welcome Christmas and share the joy with their friends: The birth of the baby Jesus, the sweet and holy night, the crib, the Christmas tree, songs, garlands, holidays and especially gifts!



## The Christmas mass

This year, the Christmas mass was celebrated by Mgr. Antoine Nabil Al Andari -Chairman of HVE «Handicap et Vivre Ensemble» project- at the church of Notre Dame of Louaize College. It was a great time to gather our family: children, youngsters, parents, friends, SESOBEL and Anta-Akhi's work teams.



## Our basketball champions

Again, our youngsters won a new bronze medal at basketball games. The games were organized by Special Olympics - Lebanon, on February 17, 2016.

Congratulations!



## Feast of St. Valentine

A pleasant day with friends to say:

«You are my brother, and I love you»



## Talent show

Under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs Professor «Rashid Derbas» the association "Friends of the disabled" and the international organization on arts and disability VSA organized the first Arab festival for people with disability, on 21 April 2016 along with 8 Lebanese associations, 2 Syrian ones and 1 Moroccan.

Our children and youth, with their teachers, presented a scene on environmental problems and got the admiration of the audience!



## Teacher's Day

In the presence of two presenters of TV programs Mr. Tony Baroud - LBC and Ms. Rania Al-Ashkar MTV who fired up this day.

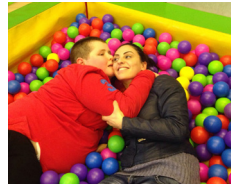


## World Autism Day

«Music and Triage» was the theme of the party organized by our children and youth on the occasion of the World Autism Day. Preparations began early this year: Sorting and recycling waste to transform them into musical instruments.



## Educational and recreational outings



Amusement park



On the snow



Kids Mondo



To the bakery



In nature



To the supermarket

## 4- UNITE

The SESOBEL is a non-profit organization, with public interest, which is neither related to the state nor to international institutions. We rely on donations from associations and true friends to support our work with children, youngsters with disability and their families.



We thank all members of our family, who have supported us over the years:

- Individuals and companies who participated in our self-financing events,
- Sponsors and Donors
- Employees
- Media
- Visitors
- Volunteers
- Trainees
- Parents and siblings
- Support Committees
- Work team.

Thanks to you, our mission was born and we shall continue with you....

## SELF-SUSTAINED ACTIVITIES

The self-sustaining activities are paramount in our association. It helps to strengthen our autonomy to cover basic, education, rehabilitative, social needs of our children and youth with disability and to support their families.

We thank everyone for participating in these events.

### Field Day

For the 15th consecutive year, the Youth Committee of SESOBEL organized, on August 30, 2015, a field day in the gardens of Mzar - Kfardebian. More than 1,200 people came to enjoy themselves in a relaxing setting. The programs: Choreography of Nadra Aassaf dance troupe, sports parade, games and competitions for children and adults, soap soccer, paintball, ATV, fair ...

We thank all the partners who contributed to the success of this day: The animator Ziad Said, volunteers, sponsors, advertisers, restaurants, media ...



## Drama show

The Volunteers' committee has helped in selling tickets for two plays «Masrah AL Jarima» and «Bent Al Jabal» in favor of the action of SESOBEL.

## Christmas exhibition

SESOBEL organized a Christmas exhibition at Le Royal Dbayeh from Thursday, November 26 to Sunday, November 29, 2015 from 10 am to 9 pm. Similarly, a second exhibition was held on 5 and 6 December 2015 in «IRIS HOTEL» – Jezzine.

We thank all the friends who came to buy our products, helping us provide the financial means to cover the needs of our children and youth with disability.

Our thanks also go to support committees and the working team who have worked hard for 2 months for creating products, organizing and promoting the exhibition.



## Collection campaign

As part of their annual activities, members of the volunteer committee organized during the Christmas period, a collection campaign in 3 schools: College Louaizé, International College- Ain Aar, School of Saints Coeurs-Bikfaya and Lycée Montaigne- Ain Alak; school children have sold small cakes prepared by their mothers to help SESOBEL children and support our mission. Many thanks.

## Easter exhibition

For Easter 2016, we organized at the «Marina» club - Dbayeh 3 days of the exhibition for a variety of high color items manufactured in our protected workshops.

The days began with the singing of the SESOBEL's choir formed of our children and youth who delighted all those who were present.

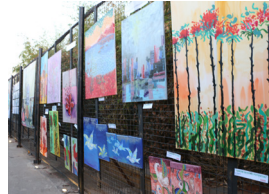


## Relaunch of «HAPPY TREAT» campaign

We thank the 5 restaurants that have worked with us this year to promote our «HAPPY TREAT» campaign to their clients. Also, thank you for customers who agreed to add optional 1 USD to the bill to help somehow the action of SESOBEL.

## Sunset gathering

An exceptional activity organized by the youth committee of SESOBEL, to close our year of 2015 - 2016, on Wednesday, June 29, at Garten - Biel. The evening was filled with fun and cocktails, appetizers and a dynamic line-up of entertainment with LOOPSTACHE mixing folk, swing, funk with electronic beats.



## Donors, regular and faithful individuals

Several organizations support us in the world. Partage and Terre de Vie in France; SESOBEL Australia, Liban Canada Fonds and American Friends of SESOBEL. Our sponsors and friends, who believe in us and to whom we are deeply grateful, can follow our progress and that of their Godson/Goddaughter despite the distance and help us persevere.

In Lebanon, the SESOBEL works with more than 6,000 people to provide medical and rehabilitative needs of children and the costs required for operations: donations to support a program of action, donations in cash or in services, local sponsorship contribute to the care of children...

## PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2015 – 2016

### Waterproofing, playground

Thanks to the contribution of the LORD MICHELHAM OF HELLINGLY Foundation, MUREX SAL, the LIBANO-FRANCAISE Bank and Mrs. Raya Raphael Nahas, the SESOBEL was able to set up an indoor playground and two tents to avoid the rain and to ensure an adequate, protected, entertaining, educational and rehabilitative environment to our children and youth with disability.



### Refrigerated room

The SESOBEL was selected among other associations to benefit from the support of the «Recettes de Vie» Association to set up a refrigerated room needed for developing and operating the kitchen and cafeteria protected workshop where 10 of our youth with disability are working.

### tents &

### Continuous Training Center - CTC

The affiliated association of Partage, Partage Région Nantaise, has covered the costs of training provided by professionals in the CTC and one professional training abroad.

These trainings were addressed:

- To the mothers of our children in order to help them better manage conflict situations resulted from tensions and provide them with a professional training to find work, to have more autonomy and to help their families. 22 mothers benefited from these courses.
- To professionals and supervisors to increase their knowledge and improve their work techniques for a better quality of service and better supervision.
- The pedagogical head unit in charge of children at the multiple disabilities program is following an overseas training over 3 years, entitled «Specialized pedagogy with the inclusion of Stimulation Basal approach». This Training will be lately transmitted to the whole team.

## Living space

NEXT CARE Dubai has provided some of the operating costs of SESOBEL's «Living space»: a temporary foster home for autistic youngsters, adapted to their disability in which they can discover and learn to live independently away from their home setting. This foster accommodates 13 of our autistic youth twice a week.

## The cafeteria of the «3 Hearts Lodge»

Thanks to a generous philanthropist, we were able to renovate the cafeteria that serves lunch for lunch prepared in the kitchen of SESOBEL to our children and youth.



## Local produce

The Lebanese Industry Value Chain Development (LIVCD) - funded by USAID - provided its support and professional assistance to help us develop our production workshop of local produce.



Objectives:

- Introduce new equipments needed to increase production capacity and reduce costs, while respecting the recommended hygiene standards.
- Provide training to workers and farmers to improve the quality of their products.

***We reiterate our sincere gratitude to all the friends who have helped us cover the medical expenses and chronic medications of our youth, and the necessary equipment for the operation of workshops and classes.***

***A big thank you also to all those who responded to our call with medical emergency.***

## Volunteers

The SESOBEL could not exist without the support and commitment of our volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of SESOBEL forever. They engage enthusiastically bringing their expertise, experience, availability and above all their love.



## The Visitors: 1598 people

Our doors are open to all visitors: School children, university students, academics, donors, NGOs, companies...



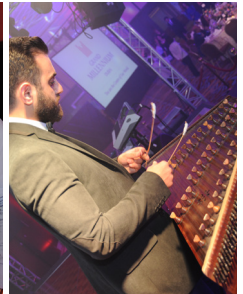
## SPECIAL EVENTS

### GALA DINNER – Dubai

For the second consecutive year, the community of Dubai warmly welcomed SESOBEL in the Al Bustan Rotana ballroom, on Thursday, February 25, 2016, for a Gala Dinner to finance the construction of the new Center of Autism. We are very grateful for our faithful friends, Mr. & Mrs. Fadi and Frida Chammas and their family members for their valuable initiative and for their continuous support over the years.

In the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador of Lebanon Saad Hassan, the General Consul of Lebanon Sami Nmeir and CEO of SESOBEL Fadia Safi, 450 guests enjoyed the evening. The funds were spent on the ongoing construction of the new SESOBEL center of Autism in Lebanon.

During this dinner, sale of paintings made by children and youth from the autism program took place. The major factors that contributed to making this dinner a success were the collaboration of Mr. Wissam Breidy as Master of Ceremony, the beautiful voice of Yara, our famous singer, the energy of «Fly on Stage» Dance Academy and the enthusiasm of Mia Haddad, Marcel Ghrayeb, Samar Abi Hayla et Georges Hajjar.





## Films on autism

On the occasion of the month of April, dedicated to raising awareness on the cause of people with autism, SESOBEL and in collaboration with «Grand Cinemas» rolled out the red carpet for its children. Objectives:

Children with autism could enjoy with their families and friends, every third Thursday of every month, an outing to the movies in rooms tailored to their needs, namely a permanent dim light and a low-volume sound. It is well known that children with autistic spectrum disorders have difficulty managing the spaces and sounds, and are very sensitive to these stimuli.

The goal is to create a receptive and friendly environment to enable them enjoy a pleasant outing to the movies.



**SESOBEL**  
Fondée en 1976

**KUNG FU PANDA 3**

In close collaboration with  
**Grand Cinemas - ABC Dbayeh,**  
SESOBEL is rolling out the red carpet  
for children with Autism  
by introducing a  
sensory-friendly environment  
that suits the needs of these children

**grandcinemas**  
always entertaining

**Save the Date : Thursday April 21st**  
at ABC Dbayeh Grand Cinemas - Theater # 3 at 4p.m.



## AUCTIONS

The SESOBEL held on Saturday, April 9, 2015 an auction of the painting «Above and Beyond» (2mx2m) executed by Walid, Dina and Rami, three autistic youth. The sale of the painting took place in the framework of «The Middle East Modern and Contemporary Auction» organized by Artscoops and conducted by the auctioneer Edward Rising, the Yacht Club Gallery, Zaytounay Bay.



## MEDIATION

In the context of the collaboration between SESOBEL and the Professional Mediation center of the Saint Joseph University, an action took place for the first time in Lebanon between CPM and NGOs, where SESOBEL was aiming at spreading the spirit of mediation within the institution as a «philosophy of life» and a communication model to adopt.



Two Mediation trainings took place at SESOBEL under the themes: Self-knowledge, conflict analysis, Listening and nonviolent communication, amiable conflict resolution. A group of 12 people from the work team and a group of 10 young people from the professional and rehabilitation programme were able to follow the training given by professionals from CPM.

## Launching the booklet

«Quoi savoir pour mieux orienter» or  
«What to know to better orientate»

On the occasion of the World Autism Day and under the patronage of Mr. Rasheed Derbas, Minister of Social Affairs, SESOBEL, in collaboration with Saint Joseph University - Beirut, and the National Commission of Autism, have launched on Friday, 1 April 2016, the book entitled «the Lebanese institutions at the service of the person with disability: What to know to better orientate»

This booklet is a practical help to all those concerned with the world of disability, doctors, shelters, professionals... It will also help to provide better guidance for parents.



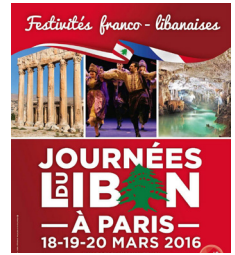
## Brunch- LCF, Canada

We are grateful for the members of the Lebanon-Canada Funds Committee for their valuable initiative of organizing, in June 2016, a brunch for the benefit of SESOBEL and three other Lebanese associations.



## Lebanon Days in Paris

The 2nd edition of Lebanese Days in Paris, at the initiative of the ULCM «Union Libanaise Culturelle Mondiale» - France, with a group of associations, was organized this year and the revenues will help to build the SESOBEL Autism Center.



## Inauguration of the new Diagnostic Center of Support and Rehabilitation D.A.R

Given that SESOBEL is located faraway in Ain El Rihani, and thanks to a generous donor who put the local at our disposal, we opened in June 2016, the new Diagnostic Center of Support and Rehabilitation, D.A.R. at Dora, to make our services available to a larger number of beneficiaries.

This Center will take care of diagnostic and external services, specifically:

- Welcoming new families and determining their needs, first medical and paramedical studies (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychomotor therapy, psychology) and educational assessments (remedial),
  - First social studies,
  - Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan (personalized project)
  - Information to the family about the disability of their child, his needs and existing alternatives on the ground,
  - Child or youth orientation to the most appropriate structure, allowing him to benefit from a comprehensive care: educational, medical and rehabilitative.
  - Orientation may be made to the programs of SESOBEL, to structures outside SESOBEL, or to an external care program that ensures: Examinations: Analysis of motion and movement, and the respiratory part (pulse oximeter, EFR...), balance assessments and rehabilitation, technical counseling, realization of technical aids..... etc.
- In the case of External Care, educational monitoring and respiratory exams will be also offered at home.

## The Anthem of SESOBEL

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, SESOBEL organized the First Communion mass, which was celebrated by the Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Al Rai, the Maronite Patriarch, on May 14, 2016 at Bkerké for 16 children and youth with disability in the presence of their parents, friends and the SESOBEL team.

During the mass was launched the new Anthem of SESOBEL, composed and sang by a group of young volunteers.

We thank all those who contributed to its composition for all the efforts they have put, that have made the new anthem so true.



## 5- TESTIMONIES

### Each child is unique

«The inclusive education program in collaboration with the Jezzine public primary school and SESOBEL helped children with disability and /or learning disabilities to belong to an environment and a society that accepts them for what they are. In fact, the Jezzine primary school and SESOBEL believe that every child is unique and should benefit from specialized and individualized educational program. Therefore, two types of inclusion programs have been established: the partial inclusion and the total inclusion, designed to meet every child's needs»

*translated from Arabic.*

Director of Jezzine Public Primary School

### The dream becomes reality

There's no happiness like the one of seeing your child with disability belonging, participating, and interacting in an organization partnered with a regular school.

This dream is now a reality at the Primary Official School of Jezzine, and this due to the inclusion program initiated and managed by Sesobel.

This initiative wouldn't have been possible without the special efforts of Dr. Joseph Haddad - Director of the South Program of Sesobel, and Mr. Maroun Asmar - Director of the Primary School, and the ministry of national education.

Our children and their families can now share hope and joy.

Every morning when I see Wael wearing his costume, holding his bag, and heading to school by bus, I can't help but feel happiness, because I see Wael belonging to a society that accepts and teaches him, and at the same time, gives him friends who accepts him for whom he is.

It's true my child doesn't do well in writing and reading, however, he has friends that don't mock him. This is true happiness!

The purpose of the inclusion program is achieved and has a positive impact on Sesobel's children and those of the Primary Official School, and on their families. This proved that disability is not a barrier for our children to integrate, learn, and earn skills depending on their capacities.

Many thanks to all those who were aware of the importance of this project, and worked to turning it into an ongoing program, hoping that this program will be eventually a top priority for the ministry of education for it contains many benefits in terms of pedagogical, social, moral, and behavioral life, which is the simplest of their rights.

Finally, a special thanks to Sesobel and its professional team, especially at Jezzine, the director of the primary official schools and the teachers, for this amazing work, and wishing you go further in your mission towards humanity.

Parent of a Child

# Spiritual and Social atmosphere

## Theme of the Year 2015-2016

At the beginning of each year, the management of SESOBEL chooses a theme based on the values of our mission to mobilize the working team and strengthen its membership.

Our theme for 2015 - 2016 was:

**«Let Us Sow Hope,  
Illuminate the Hearts Around Us!»**

## A faithful and committed work team

SESOBEL working teams, «Anta Akhi», «Handicap et Vivre ensemble» were brought together on 25 September 2015 to enrich the teaching of Yvonne Chami, the founder of the three institutions. It was also an ideal opportunity to thank the staff for their loyalty and commitment.



## Guardian Angel

Being a guardian angel is the opportunity for every staff member to accompany the children and youth in the educational programs during the holy Christmas season in December.

Samira at the Marketing Department said «It was a unique experience that allowed me to better understand the children in the Mental Disability Program and to share with them the joy of Christmas.»

On the other hand, people in charge of children in the Multiple Disability



program thanked the team of the Medical Department for their presence among children: «We spent all great moments that we will never forget. You really are the guardian

angels for all the «chouchous», and you are always part of our little family. We want to tell you how much positive energy you release to our children who are always happy to see you. May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all the year”.

## Thank you, you have added colors to my life !

The teams of the Medical and social department prepared a wafer sales activity. Thanks to the generosity and involvement of all staff, this activity could provide a part of the amount needed to purchase a respiratory machine to one of our children. To



ensure the rest, they organized a dinner that brought together team members and friends.

## OUR PILLARS OF CONTINUITY

Motivated by love, we bear witness to our faith in the cause of children with disability and the mission of SESOBEL...

Our pillars of continuity:

- Our faith in man, child of God
- Love and desire that bind us to accompany our children and their families
- Confidence in our staff that is limitless!
- Transparency is a must in our action with our employees and parents of our children and youth!
- The solidarity of the team that is favored for the best performance!
- The insightful and ambitious vision of our management that is necessary for the development of our programs of action!
- The innovations adopted in all areas of our work to better serve our children.
- The willingness to face difficulties, because «Together the impossible becomes possible».

The SESOBEL working team

## ACTION MAKERS

### Miss Yvonne Chami

Founder of SESOBEL, Anta-Akhi and HVE (Handicap et vivre ensemble).

### The General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of 36 members, meets annually to validate the main strategic and budgetary guidelines.

### Board of Directors

Composed of 11 members elected for four years, the Board meets every two months to validate the strategic and budgetary decisions and to ensure compliance with the mission and values of SESOBEL.

The office of the Board consists of the following members:

Mrs. Fadia Safi,	Co-founder and President.
Mrs. Mireille Frem,	Vice President.
Me. May Khreich,	Secretary.
Mr. Ziad Khadjij,	Treasurer.

Board members:

Dr. Kamal Kallab  
Dr. Mansour Hojeili  
Mr. Salim Khoury  
Mr. Labib Akiki  
Dr. Selim Catafago  
Ms. Frida Chammas  
Mr. Fares Korkomaz

### Executive Director

Mrs. Fadia Safi

### Advisors

Mr. Jean-Marie Miramon  
Mr. Alain Brenas  
Father Michel Sheuer  
Mr. Christian Lujan  
Me. Chekri Khoury  
Mrs. Denise Fouque  
Mr. Fadi Chammas

Me. Alya Warde  
Mr. Naji Boulos  
Mr. David Hurry  
Dr. Ismat Ghanem  
Mr. Toni Kalaani  
Dr. Sami Richa  
Mrs. Enaam Abu Jaoudé

### Companies :

Mediapak  
Memac Ogilvy

Indevco  
MAVENS

## The Support Committees

Ladies' Committee: 15 member

Youth Committee: 16 member

Volunteers' Committee: 18 member

Parents' Committee: 12 member

Ladies' Committee- Jezzine: member

e.committee: 8 member

## Volunteers

623 volunteer

## Trainees

The medical department hosted this year 156 trainees, including 125 university students and 31 professionals trainees from different disciplines.

## The Working Team

A multidisciplinary team of 226 staff of different specializations: teachers, assistant teachers, entertainers, doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychomotor therapists, psychologists, social workers, accounting, administrative staff ... of 28 ladies providing seasonal work in production workshops, and 21 paid youth with disability working in workshops within the frame of the professional and rehabilitation programme.

## Our Partners

The parents

The Ministry of Social Affairs

Third party contributors : Army, General Security, Internal Security Forces...

Partage Association

France

Terre de vie Association

France

Les petits frères des pauvres Association

France

American Friends of SESOBEL

United States

SESOBEL Group - Australia

Australia

Liban Canada Fonds

Canada

Napco Group

Saudi Arabia

International Cerebral Palsy Society (ICPS)

England

Saint Joseph University

Lebanon

Lebanese University

Lebanon

French Embassy

Lebanon

USAID & AMIDEAST

Lebanon

Rehabilitation International

Lebanon

N.U.I.D (UNAPIEI)

Lebanon

National commission on disability

Lebanon



«40 years in the service  
of children with disability,  
for a life of dignity»

## EDITORIAL

### 40 YEARS OF LOVE

#### One of the most passionate adventures

François Mauriac once said: «We deserve our encounters.»

Meeting Yvonne, 40 years ago, was not coincidental. It was meant to be. Probably through the intercession of the Lord who wanted to cast His spell on me to serve her children ...

I was back then a young teenager, I loved helping and I chose a profession that allowed to do so, I didn't want to live my life without leaving a mark, I wanted for my life to have meaning ...

And it was exactly this encounter that allowed

me to live, for 40 years, the most passionate adventure, the adventure of SESOBEL. Because Yvonne, was the adventure.

Upon arriving to her place, during our first meetings, I have realized that the work she wanted me to do, require more than 24 hours per day to be achieved... I did not understand very well the importance of everything she asked me to do at first, but she was confident and seemed to know very well what she sought and how to get there...

Ever since, there were so many challenges to face and roads to travel, full of difficulties, obstacles, moments of weakness, uncertainty and despondency... but also beautiful moments of hope and joy...

40 years later, I am delighted to realize that the values Yvonne knew how to implant in our hearts and souls and that always

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[www.sesobel.org](http://www.sesobel.org)