

A story from Iraq (Part 2)...

A child's need and a soldier's compassion

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

In February I wrote you about the need discovered by our troops of the 287th Sustainment Brigade headquartered in Wichita. Operations in Iraq continue to help in various provinces under reconstruction. A large part of the operations budget for Iraq address these various reconstruction projects in communities. As LTC Moyer and those from the 287th continue their mission they are in contact with various schools, clinics, hospitals, prisons and other elements necessary for a harmonious society to exist. In February they visited the Al Amal School in As Samawah for handicapped children. This school is located about three hours away from the operations base camp where the troops are posted.

The February visit discovered a number of needs—hearing aids are non-existent but could greatly help a number of children; basic educational supplies are not available; the physically handicapped children are in dire need of mobility devices. The first report includes pictures of the visit and our troops interaction with the students.

A focal point of the first visit was a little girl named Duaa Adnan Atawi. She is ten years old. LLTC Moyer wrote about her, *"I have attached a few pictures from our medical event with the handicapped kids. We REALLY need to find a pair of crutches for the little girl pictured in one of them. According to our docs, she will not grow anymore. If you know of anyone that could send a pair now, that would really help."*



Interviewed by Iraqi TV,
Duaa thanked God for
people who helped her.

An email plea for possible assistance in getting the crutches for Duaa brought back an instant reply from Ed Linebaugh in Huntsville, AL. Ed began working on the request and secured a pair of crutches donated by a business in Huntsville, AL. He excitedly emailed, "Got 'em gratis!!! Through His providence, the Lord provided me with a FREE pair of pediatric-sized aluminum forearm crutches for young *Duaa Adnan Atawi*. These were donated by Probst Home Health Services here in Huntsville, AL." In the Judsonia warehouse we had a box of pediatric crutches that C.U.R.E. had brought so I took a pair of those and mailed them to LTC Moyer. This gave our troops two pairs of crutches—one that was the best fit for Duaa and then a spare pair for another in need. We mailed these and received this reply, "John, I received the crutches in today's mail. Thank you and all of your supporters for them. We will be going to the school in about

two weeks and I will take them to her and let them know who they came from. I will also get some pictures for you. *You guys are unbelievable.* Please thank everyone involved for me. Clint"



Duaa receives the crutches
and is being fitted

The 287th returned to the Al Amal School this week. The two pairs of crutches were taken and one pair was fitted to Duaa. Our troops took others items to share with the school (including candy that many of you have mailed after the request). Following the visit LTC Moyer wrote, *"Also, we got back to the handicapped school and gave the crutches to the little girl. I will get you some pictures as soon as they are put on our share drive. Iraqi TV was there and filmed her getting them. I will try and get a copy of that. She said, she thanks God for people like us who helped her. She was so appreciative.*



Please share this with everyone who had anything to do with this...Here are some pics from the Al Amal School visit. I am trying to get a copy of the video and will send it if I get it. Thanks again for all you have done. We are going to be providing the hearing aids in June. Only about 20 of the 45 students will benefit from them but it is a great start...Yes, we have gotten a lot of candy! Thank you all very much! We should have thank yous out to all of your great people who are sending us items. It is wonderful! Our PAO is writing a story about the visit and I will forward that to you when she gets it completed. It usually takes about a week to get it. Thanks"

More pictures from the visit of the 287th Sustainment Brigade to the Al Amal Special Needs school



LTC Clinton Moyer, 287 SB Civil Affairs Officer is interviewed by Iraqi TV regarding the PRT's mission





Look at the bag of JOLLY RANCHERS!!!

Yes, we have gotten a lot of candy! Thank you all very much! We should have thank yous out to all of your great people who are sending us items. It is wonderful! Our PAO is writing a story about the visit and I will forward that to you when she gets it completed. It usually takes about a week to get it. Thanks"