



Healing Children of Conflict



Please help HCC support the medical needs of this Iraqi child!

On April 29, 2008 Imad Hamza Al-Daeni had just come home from work. He was getting out of his car and noticed that his 5-year old son Hamza was playing near their home. All of a sudden there was an explosion.

“My son Hamza was badly injured, covered with blood, stomach and intestines are cut out of his belly, the car was destroyed and part of my house and the houses next to it. I carried my son Hamza who was in a very bad condition, and ran to the nearest hospital to my home (Ib al-Nafis Hospital). The doctors told me: “What do you want us to do with him, we cannot do anything; he will die”. I was crying, begging, they agreed to take him, they took him into the operating room. The operation lasted for 4-5 hours. When he came out, he was in a catastrophic condition; all wrapped in bandages and tubes, and his right leg was plastered.”

Hamza survived the operation, but he lost one of his legs and has had continuous medical problems since the April 2008 US bombing that changed his family’s life. The bomb destroyed his father’s car and their house and most of their furniture was also badly damaged. In an interview Hamza’s father said, *“My family lives in too difficult psychological conditions because of what happened to Hamza and all of us, my wife and my children are unhappy. Seeing Hamza, my family suffers with him. Hamza is psychologically very tired, when he gets mad because he can not do certain movements, his brothers and sisters do not know what to do or how to do it. We all are deprived of many things, financially and psychologically.”*

This story is one of thousands throughout Iraq as a result of the 8 years of US occupation. Healing Children of Conflict is bringing Hamza and his father to Grand Rapids so that Hamza can get the medical attention he needs, which is currently unavailable to him in Iraq.

Healing Children of Conflict heals families and communities by facilitating medical treatment for children seriously wounded in conflicts involving the United States, and thereby educates others about the root causes of those conflicts.



“We are living in poverty and insecurity now, sectarianism, fear, discrimination, hunger, terrorism, daily explosions and daily indiscriminate arrests, poverty and humiliation. This occupation has destroyed us, there are so much other things to say, but I am afraid, for myself and my family.”

Statement from Hamza’s father

How you can help:

1. Make a donation - all donations should be made out to our fiscal sponsor the Arab American Association of West Michigan. Send checks to AAAWM/HCC P.O. Box 68562, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.
2. Healing Children of Conflict will need help with housing, transportation, food, fundraising, education and promotion of this effort to provide Hamza and his father the best medical care and a welcoming environment.
3. Host an educational event at your place of worship, neighborhood association or any other group you are affiliated with. HCC can provide a speaker to not only share Hamza’s story, but provide you with plenty of background information on how the US military presence in Iraq has been detrimental to children and their families.
4. Visit our website at www.healingchildrenofconflict.org for more information. For those wanting to volunteer send us an e-mail at volunteer@healingchildrenofconflict.org.

Together we can make a difference!