

**THE
SECRET OF
HAPPINESS**

ANAS ATTAR

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about the author

My name is Anas Attar, founder of Alkhayiroun. This book shares my experience of creating this non-profit initiative. Read the following pages to infer what is the secret of happiness.

about alkhayiroun

Alkhayiroun is a non-profit initiative that aims to draw smiles on orphans' faces and help needy families in the Lebanese society.

how it began

It all began in the middle of Ramadan 2015 when I saw an old man with his daughter sitting on a sidewalk, holding a small old board. I approached them and interviewed the old man for a minute. It was so, he was teaching his daughter from his own knowledge because he couldn't afford to put her in fancy schools. I wanted to help this man out, so I went to a nearby restaurant and bought him and his daughter a meal to have for Iftar. Little did I know that I had created something huge. From that day, I was inspired by this man and wanted to spread smiles on other people's faces. The week after, I collected money from my family, then went all over the streets of Beirut with the help of my sister, who was the first supporter of mine, to do this initiative. We successfully distributed sandwiches to 30 people to have for iftar.

the evolution

In the years 2016 & 2017, I wanted to do the food distribution initiative but this time I bought full family chicken meals and pizza. I collected money from my family and some other close friends and distributed more than 200 meals.

10 days before Eid al Adha, I met a family friend and told him about my little initiative. As a result to that, he loved it and wanted to help out. "Take this \$50 and open a cow slaughter fundraiser." \$50 was the first donation I got for the first Eid initiative. A new goal was set to slaughter a cow. However, the cow cost a huge amount of money for little me to cover, but with all the support I had gotten after going on a local radio station, I secured the entire amount in 9 days, just one day before Eid, and introduced the Eid Al Adha initiative.

the rise

In 2018, when Ramadan started, it was the time for a change. With the contribution of my close friends, we decided to do an on-ground iftar in Masjid Muhammad Al Amin in Downtown, Beirut. We invited 50 orphans with the contribution of a local orphanage. Each child left the iftar with a huge smile on their face holding a bag full with toys.

In Eid Al Adha, we have fixed the slaughter initiative to be annual in order to help the maximum number of people we could. We slaughtered one cow and 3 sheep being the new high record of our initiative.

the success

In 2019, before Ramadan, we participated in Talaa Al Badr Alayna (TBA) event in Prophet's (PBUH) mawlid selling Islamic products to collect money for Ramadan. Also, we contributed in the Fanoussy event located in Downtown, Beirut in Beirut Souks introducing "Sallah Al Khayir". All proceeds that we made went to our Ramadan box dedicated to our Ramadan Iftar Event for orphans.

In Ramadan, with the contribution of another initiative specialized in the distribution of gifts, and with the collaboration of Loacker, Chamsine Bakery, Daadouka, and others, we have managed to do 2 on-ground Iftars, one in Muhamad Al Amin Mosque and another in Majidiya Mosque for a total of 320 orphans beating the highest score for the past years, celebrating our 4th year anniversary. Also, more than 30 people had helped us in our event which introduced "Alkhayiroun Volunteer Team" in order to help Alkhayiroun in its upcoming initiatives. In Eid Al Adha Not 1 but 2 full cows were slaughtered in the 2019 Initiative.

the pandemic years

In both years 2020 & 2021, with all Covid & economic crises in Lebanon, we managed to stay strong and expand our initiatives even more than ever. We didn't allow these circumstances to affect the activity and the progress Alkhayiroun was making.

As a result to that, we successfully distributed 400 food meals to families delivered to their doorstep with sweets bags for kids in Ramadan. Moreover, we distributed toys in Eid Al Fitir in refugee camps in addition to distributing food boxes to needy families.

the pandemic years

Due to the Covid pandemic, people were obliged to get prayer carpets with them when they wanted to pray in mosques, however some people didn't have or couldn't afford one. For that reason, Alkhayiroun directly took action and distributed a handful of mini prayer carpets to mosques in Beirut to allow all people to pray.

In Eid Al Adha, we slaughtered a cow & 5 sheep. Also, we introduced another initiative, "Mounet Al Khayir" with the contribution of spinneys and distributed vouchers to needy families.

the reviving year

We call 2022 the reviving year for Alkhayiroun. In that year we combined most of our previous initiatives in it for it to be one of the most successful ones for Alkhayiroun.

We introduced the "Dafini Initiative" and distributed blankets in winter to needy families. Also, we participated in the Fanoussy event for our 2nd time. After 2 years with no on-ground iftar due to the Covid pandemic, we were able to do an on-ground iftar for 100 orphans in addition to distributing 100 toys to orphan kids. As a great way to end Ramadan, we revived the classic way of distributing food on the streets of Beirut and distributed 150 sandwiches just the way Alkhayiroun has started in 2015. In Eid Al Adha, we successfully slaughtered 3 cows beating the highest score of the 5 years of Eid Al Adha initiatives. Not to mention launching our online donation form.

the thriving comeback

The year 2023 was an accomplished comeback for Alkhayiroun. Throughout this year, Alkhayiroun has achieved incredible milestones, and we're thrilled to share these accomplishments with you. First, during the holy month of Ramadan, we hosted two heartwarming Iftar events, inviting 350 orphaned and needy children. These gatherings not only provided nourishment but also created lasting memories of joy and togetherness. Following that, during Eid Al Adha, we celebrated the spirit of sacrifice by slaughtering four sheep, ensuring that over 200 individuals experienced the joy of a hearty meal. This compassionate act exemplifies our commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

the thriving comeback

Moreover, the reintroduction of the Alkhayiroun Ramadan Booth at Fanoussy's event and the newly introduced Alkhayiroun Arcade at TBA's event brought fresh dimensions to community engagement.

A pivotal stride in our Global Initiatives, the newly introduced Water Well Initiative has successfully seen the completion of five wells in underserved communities. This crucial endeavor addresses the pressing need for clean and accessible water, exemplifying our dedication to sustainable solutions that have a far-reaching impact. This shows our commitment to inspire positive impact globally.

purpose of book

I decided to write this short book with a short reading time and easy understandable words to target youth and kids to encourage them with my story. I named this book "The Secret of Happiness" because helping others and drawing smiles on orphans and needy people is the secret of happiness. The purpose behind the book is to inspire others, especially young entrepreneurs and youth looking for helping our society by encouraging them to join such initiatives as Alkhayiroun and help their community. I wanted to prove through my experience that age is not a barrier, it's an advantage and anyone, literally anyone, can be the person he wants to be. My experience shows how impactful one can be in his community.

our socials

Website:

www.alkhayiroun.com

Our Socials:

<https://linktr.ee/alkhayiroun>

Join Volunteer Team:

<https://forms.gle/YJicwJSVduNrHEUG9>

ALWAYS DRAW SMILES

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