



# Champion School

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## TO ALL OF US:

BY MUYI YANG, GENERAL DIRECTOR

2020 flies by. It feels like yesterday we were still discussing the profiles of our prospective students, and today we have already finished the last class of fall 2020.

If I have to say one word about this year, it would be "grateful". Of course, I am not grateful for the pandemic, pain, and suffering of people around the world. But I am grateful for the courage, solidarity, and unswerving faith that so many of us have demonstrated for people around us.

Champion School embodies such care, courage, and belief: care for our children that just need a hand to lift them up, courage to beat the odds that drag them down, and belief that one day, every single one of our students will become a champion not only in the football fields and classrooms but also in their lives.



But none of these could have happened without our deeply committed team. Thank you for believing in me and joining me in this bumpy but rewarding journey. You are the true heroes of Champion School. Also, I want to express my gratitude for all the tremendous support we have received along the way. When there were days that bred doubts in me, these support, faith, and courage carried me through.

The road ahead of us is filled with difficulties. But with all of you, we can conquer those hardships and achieve our goal: to empower more children and help them thrive despite the circumstantial disadvantages, and ultimately, enable them to build a more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous community for the future.

When we founded Champion School, we set the slogan: Change Happens Here. Today when we look back at our students, we can confidently say that change has already started. And we will bring more to come.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

Muyi Yang  
Founder & General Director | Champion School

**"Change  
Happens  
Here."**

- CHAMPION SCHOOL







## SOCCKER EFFECT

BY ASAD GABI RAHJI, COORDINATOR OF  
FOOTBALL PROGRAM & HEAD COACH

When I was young, I was a shy boy who did not like talking and communicating with others. For that, I was bullied hard at my school.

It was the day when they established a sports training program for young people in an Evangelical Church in Latakia that changed my life. Later on, they created a football team under the name of LEC. I ran to the church and registered myself. And here it all began.

I made new friends that I could talk to, joke with, and laugh together. I feel like belonging to a team with a sense of security. It also helped me quickly develop my skills. With my self-confidence increased, soon I became a midfield captain, and that shy kid was longer to be seen.

I formed beautiful memories that remained with me to this day, memories that prevented me from engaging in anything bad. Memories that remind me I can do good and be a team leader, and I have someone who loves me. That program changed my life. When I hurt my back and had to retire from the field, I made a decision that I will do the same to our future generations. And that's why I joined ChampionSchool.

When I see our children at Champion School, those young children of the same age when I started playing football. They reminded me of myself, that shy boy who became a leader in the team. I made sure to teach them the values of respect and orderliness so that they would be a good example to the rest of the children around them at Champion School. At the same time, we work together to create a warm atmosphere like one family,

But most importantly, I made sure that they enjoyed every moment together. And they know that here at Champion School, everybody helps everybody else—one for all and all for one! If one of them falls, he will find that everyone's hands are extended in front of him to help him get up again.

**"It's no  
shame to fall  
down, but it is  
a shame to  
just stay  
down."**

- MIROSLAV KLOSE

# BE WITH US FOR CHANGE

BY LUJAIN AOUN, CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ADVISOR

The light touches the young eyes. That's how the world greets children at their birth, to start their journey within the family, where they develop their personalities, ideas, and lifestyles.

In some societies, childbearing is an inevitable sequence after marriage without knowing how to raise a psychologically healthy child, so many times the child would suffer from wanted needs, deprivation, lack of parental attention, and neglect. And in many cases, the children may even be exposed to domestic violence due to the lack of awareness of the parents.

Together, we at Champion School help those children who suffer in societies to learn about their lives and themselves. We want them to become active individuals in their societies through a range of recreational and cultural activities to gain communication skills and tolerance, discipline, and self-confidence, so we transfer them from vulnerable children to influential people and active builders in society one day.

Champion School is a non-profit organization and all of our employees are volunteers who believe in the idea of a better life for every child.

We are with you and for you, so be with us for the change!



"Without education, your children can never really meet the challenges they will face. So it's very important to give children education and explain that they should play a role for their country."

- Nelson Mandela





# CHAMPIONS IN COMMUNITY

## FROM FOOTBALL FIELD TO COMMUNITY

What's better than finishing up our fall class 2020 with some community service? At the end of the last training in 2020, our students helped clean the football field together. They have been so familiar with this training field, but only as users who have enjoyed others' service of maintenance and cleaning. This time, they became the ones who serve others and therefore contribute to make their community a better place for everyone. And next year, our students will take more responsibilities to make their neighborhood a better home.

From the very start, we at Champion School have been taking a personality-centered approach to nurturing our students into responsible and active community leaders. We are, in the end, the enablers who give our students a leg up to become the superstar that they are always meant to and able to be. And empowerment is at the core of our program—empower them to take responsibility and do good, empower them to not only work for themselves but care for others despite their gender, religion, and ethnicity, empower them to think of, and fight for, a better future.

A rewarding experience where we put our students at the center to contribute and serve so to empower them with the belief of ableness, responsibility, and public service.





# CHAMPION WISHES

This is the moment of reflection and sharing. We asked our Champion family - students as well as teachers what their wishes



are for 2021 and share with us on the notes. Below is a wish from our volunteer, who wrote **Peace (السلام)**, a word that - funny enough - has not been used a lot this year in

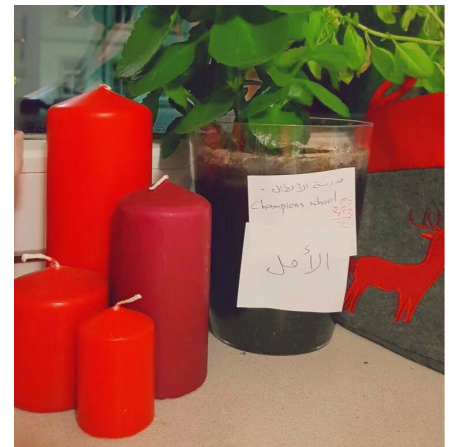


our conversations. It's almost like we have been secretly wishing for it but do not dare to say it.

But we still have **Hope (الأمل)**, as shared by another volunteer on the right. Especially after what we have been through in 2020, hope gives us power and carries us forward



As shown above, many students also expressed their wishes to have more matches with other teams - don't worry champions, we certainly will have many more matches soon in 2021!



## Looking forward

*Marhaba 2021*

When we started Champion School, we made several plans. Many of them came true. And some of them we have to wait a little bit more.

One of those plans we have been working on is our digitization platform.

Again, just another reason we look forward to 2021.

Together with you, we will continue to do good, and do better.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year

—Champion School

