

Students raised money to refurbish the Mostawsaf Centre in Cairo, Egypt



Hospital project lands major CAS award

Community prize honours the inspirational work of IB World Schools throughout Africa

An Egyptian school has been awarded one of the most prestigious prizes in the IB community in recognition of its work at a local hospital.

Green Land/Pré Vert International School in Cairo, Egypt won the 2007 Robert Blackburn Award for its project at the Mostawsaf Centre, a small hospital in an area of the city lacking many basic healthcare services.

The bi-annual award recognizes the best CAS project by an African-based IB World School. Entries must reflect the values of the IB, be sustainable, fulfil a need in the community and involve students in planning, implementation and evaluation. The award was created in honour of the late IB deputy director general, Robert Blackburn, who died in 1990. The GBP1,000 first prize helps keep the winning project running.

The Mostawsaf Centre lacked the equipment it needed to run its clinics, operation rooms, offices and cafeteria. Students collected money through a range of activities, including garage sales, bake sales, babysitting and car-washing.

The scheme brought together 79 students from six different classes and three different years.

Students were organized into teams, with leaders, coordinators and assistants. Each team submitted a portfolio documenting the project, including planning, photographs and feedback. Each individual also presented a reflection on the experience, highlighting problems faced and lessons learnt. "Reflecting after every step was key for our continuous improvement," says one participant. Another adds: "Working for higher goals is very motivating. Sometimes I worked for 20 hours a day without being bored or tired."

The students succeeded in collecting a quarter of the total amount needed. They followed up their efforts with an exhibition presenting the work carried out during the project, to encourage further donations.

"I was so proud of the students," says May Waly, MYP coordinator. "Their eyes were glowing while presenting their achievements to the whole school community and their parents."

The centre now has equipped clinics, patients' rooms, offices, bathrooms and a kitchen. A second phase of the project aims to raise funds for an operating table and x-ray machine.



Participants interviewed local people as part of their plan to improve facilities

2007 BLACKBURN AWARD WINNER

- Green Land/Pré Vert International School, Egypt

RUNNERS-UP

- Aga Khan Academy, Kenya
- International School Moshi, Tanzania
- International School of Uganda
- SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College, Ghana
- United World College of Southern Africa, Swaziland