



Annual Report

**Kuwaiti Association for  
Learning Differences - KALD**

**2015 - 2014**



**In the Name of God  
The Most Merciful  
The Most Compassionate**



**His Highness Sheikh  
Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah**  
Crown Prince of State of Kuwait



**His Highness Sheikh  
Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah**  
Amir of State of Kuwait

# Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization

Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization is the charitable foundation of Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) and is the main sponsor of the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences. This organization initiates and develops a wide range of projects, such as restorations of historical heritage sites, educational scholarships and donations to the sick and needy.

KALD would like to extend its gratitude to Masharee Al Khair Charity foundation for its continuous support and generous sponsorship since the Association's inception in 2007



## **Mashree Al Khair Charity Foundation Main Goals**

1. Granting scholarships to excelling Kuwaitis, Arab, and Muslim students in pursuit of higher education or research interests.
2. Granting scholarships and awards to excelling scholars in religious, social, and artistic fields in recognition of their invaluable contributions.
3. Giving financial aid to specialized research centers.

## **Examples of the projects and charitable causes in various fields funded by the Foundation:**

### **Health:**

- Sponsoring the breast cancer awareness campaigns in Kuwait
- Paying medical bills for cancer patients treated abroad
- Giving a donation to Children Cancer Hospital in Lebanon
- Furnishing Al Ri'ayah Hospital and supplying it with some equipment
- Supporting the Ministry of Health by supplying twenty anti- radiation unites and a heart machine to Al Amiri Hospital



## Sports:

- Donating to the Kuwaiti Handball Team as a reward for winning the Asian Cup
- A sponsorship of the celebration to honor the participating national teams I the Asian Olympics
- A donation to the building of a sports field in Salwa – Kuwait

## Education and Awareness:

- A yearly sponsorship of the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD) and equipment
- A donation to a drugs prevention program
- A donation to build a new floor at the Center for child Evaluation and Teaching (CCET)
- Sponsorship of the tenth year celebration of a nursery for children with hearing impairment in Kuwait
- Financial aid to a number of schools
- Donations to a number of charities in the Arab countries, such as Oman, Sudan and Somalia
- Full scholarships to exceptional college students in Kuwait
- Donation to the Dyslexia Awareness Campaign that was organized and launched by KIPCO
- Financial aid t a number of students studying in Kuwait
- Furnishing Sheikha Salwa Library with books

## KIPCO's Dyslexia Awareness Campaign

KIPCO's campaign to raise awareness among parents, doctors, teachers and the public about dyslexia began in 2007. The campaign was designed so that people with the condition get the help they need, by educating people that dyslexia is not a disease, but a condition that can be significantly reduced through proper treatment. The awareness media campaign featured TV, press and cinema advertising, supported by public events.

The campaign was highly successful and generated a huge quantity of media coverage. The campaign raised public awareness about dyslexia and helped improve parents, teachers and children recognition of the condition's symptoms. KIPCO subsequently received an award for the campaign in recognition of its contribution to public education.

# The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD)

The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD) is a social welfare association that collaboratively works towards helping all individuals, especially students in private schools in Kuwait, who have learning difficulties and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder through setting up awareness programs, training courses, and other educational activities.

Masharee Al Khair, the charity foundation of Kuwait Projects Holding Company (KIPCO), funds KALD since its establishment in 2007 by Chairwoman Mrs. Amaal Al Sayer and a number of volunteers. Its Board of Directors consists of specialists, educators, and parents who believe in its cause.

Members of KALD have chosen “learning differences” instead of “learning difficulties” because they believe that the targeted students are intelligent people and the only difference between them and other students is that they have their own way of learning.



## KALD Mission

To become a difference-making institution in the development of the educational services offered to students with LD and ADHD in private schools in Kuwait.

## KALD Goals

- Raising the level of awareness in society that people with learning differences are capable of achieving success in school, work and social life. They are also capable of being active and productive individuals in their society.
- Giving adequate support to individuals with learning differences, their families, their schools and all other educational institutions that provide services for them in Kuwait.
- Collaborating with all institutions public and private institutions, such as schools, The Public Authority of People with Disability, The Ministry of Education, House of Parliament to contribute to the development of education.
- Growing towards becoming a modern model institution that fulfills the needs of students with learning differences.

## KALD Family

Mr. Faisal Al Ayyar	Honorary Chairman / Vice Chairman Kuwait Projects Company (Holding)
Sheikha Dana Nasser Subah Al Ahmad Al Subah	Honorary Member / Founder and Chair, Board of Trustees, American University of Kuwait

## Board Members

Amaal Al Sayer	Founder and Chair
Dr. Fatima Al Awadi	Vice Chair /Consultant Developmental Pediatrician-Fatima Clinic
Hana' Al Duaij	Board Treasurer/ Member of Kuwait Curriculum Team-Ministry of Education
Dr. Su'ad Al Mazrooi	Board Secretary/Associated Professor-University of Kuwait
Dr. Lulwa Hamadah	Member/ Chairperson of Special Education Department- Public Authority for Applied Education and Training
Dr. Badria Al Hajji	Member /Assistant Professor - The College of Basic Education-The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)
Wafa' Nusaibeh	Member/ Supervisor - Inspection of Private Schools Department- Ministry of Education
Sheikha Nashmyieh Al Subah	Member/ Head Public Relations Dept. - Kuwait Petroleum Company
Mrs. Wi'am Al Uthman	Member / Assistant Director- International Projects Office-Kuwait Institute for Scientific Advancement
Mr. Jamal Al Sayer	Member/ Chairman / Hamad & Moular Trading Company
Mr. Omar Hamad Al Issa	Member/ Advocate / Kuwait Bar Association

## KALD Friends

Nabila Al Midlij	English Language Teacher-The College of Basic Education-The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training
Dr. Nahed Al Atiji	Consultant Developmental Pediatrician
Suad Al Thwaikh	Assistant Teacher/College of Social Sciences/Kuwait University
Ibtsam Al- Qauod	Training Field Teacher/The Department of Sociology & Social Work/College of Social Sciences – Kuwait University
Dr. Issa Jassem	Consultant- Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching (CCET)
Kamla Al Ayyad	Director General- National Council for Culture and Art Theatre
Suad Swedan	Director\ Markez al Umooma Wa Al Tofoola
Linda Abed Al Baqui	Principle Milestone Nursery

## KALD Team

Noria Al Amiri	Executive Manager
Alia Qardan	Head of Cultural and Media Office
Farah Shebly	Public Relations Officer
Maraam Tharifi	Executive Secretary

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## A note on LD and ADHD

Researchers do not know exactly what causes learning disabilities. Differences in brain structure seem to be the cause of learning disabilities while brain chemical, called neurotransmitters and differences in the way nerve pathways work are behind ADHD.

It is worth mentioning that ADHD as a disorder does not cause a learning disability in all people. Therefore, “students with ADHD” mentioned in this report are only the ones that are affected by the disorder and that is reflected in their poor academic achievement.

**The Report is prepared by:**  
Alia Qardan

**Designed by:**  
Hiba Hamdallah

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# Note by KALD's Chairperson



What motivated me to establish a nonprofit institution that aims at supporting students facing the challenges created by learning disabilities? Some people might ask.

Is it because learning disabilities often go unnoticed and, subsequently, not diagnosed or treated?

Is it because society, in general, does not realize the negative impact of disabilities on the life and the future of those children at a time when we most need all creative and innovative potentials to advance progress in Kuwait?

Or, is it because this subject touches me, personally?

After eight years of work, I can say that all the reasons above are relevant. People should know that students with learning disabilities have average or above average intelligence and they can achieve a lot if surrounded by families that understand them and learn

in schools that provide the appropriate educational environment.

Establishing the KALD would not have achieved anything without the serious voluntary work of individuals and institutions that believed in our mission and its noble objectives.

I would like to thank all those who believe in our mission and support our work with donations, knowledge and experience, and time.

Those who trust us and made great efforts to help us overcome the obstacles we faced during our journey.

Thanks from the depth of my heart.

**Amal Al Sayer**





# **KALD Annual Report 2014-2015**

# Administrative File

KALD's success in achieving many of its goals is due to many factors. First, the significant financial support provided by its main sponsor; **Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization / Kuwait Projects Company**. Second, the dedication of its Board of Directors; a group of volunteers who believe in the just cause of students with learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Third, the significant support of government and private institutions and individuals. The team spirit that prevails among KALD staff, Board of Directors, sponsors and friends is the most distinguished feature of KALD.



## General Assembly Meeting 28 May 2015



A representative of The Ministry of Social Affairs attended the meeting held on 28th of April 2015. During the meeting, several issues were discussed, most importantly the administrative report and the auditor's report. After the Assembly approved and ratified the general budget and the closing accounts for the financial year ended in 31 December 2014, it elected its new Board of Directors.

## Did you know?

According to statistics conducted by the Learning Disabilities Association in Ontario- Canada, the percentage of people with learning disabilities ranges between 4% - 10% of their population.

Let's apply the lowest percentage (4%) on the number of students in Kuwait: around 500,000.

The number of students with LD in Kuwait would be

# 20,000

## KALD's Collaboration with the United Nations Development Program

UNDP provides significant support for KALD through appointing an expert to work for the Association for a period. **Dr. Fatima Al Awadi**, KALD Deputy Chairperson, held several meetings with **Sahar Al Shawwa**, Head of Woman and Social Development Program – UNDP. The meetings resulted in appointing **Dr. Wafa Al Yaseen**, an expert in the fields of social sciences, life sciences, modern

administration and human development, to work for KALD for three months. Dr. Yaseen participated in various projects during her period of delegation, such as joining the judging committee of KALD Teachers Award and organizing and presenting a workshop on modern methods of administration. The workshop was attended by KALD board of directors and employees.



## What are learning disabilities?

Learning disabilities are problems that affect the brain's ability to receive process, analyze, or store information appearing as difficulties or deficit in one or more of these skills:

- Linguistic skills
- Academic skills: reading, writing and mathematics
- Memory and Perspective (ability to justify and take correct decisions).
- Social skills
- Kinetic and coordination skills of large muscles (such as inability to throw or catch a ball, or of small muscles, such as using scissors, closing buttons and writing).

Usually, a single person does not have all these disabilities. Every person has a different group of disabilities. The severity of disabilities varies from person to another and they will not disappear with age. However, the person would be able to deal with them in better ways.



# First Parents Forum titled, "The Present and Future of our Children with LD and ADHD"

## For Parents of Students with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

KALD organized a whole day seminar that aimed at improving the skills of parents when dealing with children with LDs and ADHD. In addition, the seminar addressed the parents' biggest concern; the future of their children after high school.



During the first part of the forum, the following lectures were presented:



*Be in Control: Ways of Dealing with the Problems of Teenagers*  
by Dr. Suad Al Bisher

*Strategies to Follow when Helping Children Do their Homework*  
by Dr. Suad Al Thuwaikh

*Help me Identify my Disabilities so I Can Graduate and Excel*  
by Dr. Huda Shaaban

*Where are Our Children after Secondary School?*  
by Dr. Abrar Al Jazaf



*Handling Every Day Pressures*  
by Nabila Al Mudleg



*My Experience as a Student with Learning Disabilities*  
by Sarah Al Batti



A significant number of parents attended the forum and expressed gratitude to KALD for giving them an opportunity to express their opinions and feelings and get answers to the issue that worries them most; the future of their children.

During the second part of the forum, **Dr. Tarek Al Shatti**, Director General of the Public Authority of People with Disability, chaired a panel discussion.

This discussion was honest and transparent, Dr. Shatti answered questions asked by parents regarding the present status of their children and their future. In addition, he asked for a full collaboration among all parties to improve the laws and services offered to students with LD and ADHD.

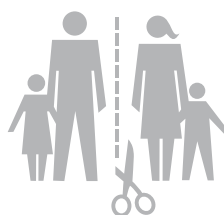


The highly acclaimed actor, **Sua'd Al Abdallah**, attended the seminar and honored a group of parents who helped in the organization of the seminar.

## How does learning disability impact family life?



Life in the family of a child with LD is complex and challenging, involving practical and emotional issues. The inherent concern, disappointment, anger, self-recrimination and blame — typical emotions in response to a child's problem — also



contribute to the pressures frequently disruptive to the family equilibrium and divisive to a marriage.

Therefore, parents must:



- Accept the child as is and help him/ her to identify points of strength and to use them to enhance his self- confidence and acquire the necessary skills for success
- Search for information from credible resources through reading
- Develop a daily routine for the child to follow. Structure gives him/ her feeling of security that reflects positively on educational attainment and behavior at home and school





# Educators' Forum titled “A Different Perspective of LD and ADHD”

Proceeding from the vision and mission of the Association, KALD organizes annual conferences and forums to foster a generation of specialized teachers capable of understanding the abilities and requirements of students with learning disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The conference was held at the premises of the American University of Kuwait on the 6th and 7th of February 2015.



The forum hosted two international experts in the field of learning disabilities and ADHD: David Parker, PhD, a postsecondary Disability specialist and ADHD Coach



at CRG I Indianapolis, IN and Blaise Aguirre, MD and expert in Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychotherapy, Harvard Medical School. The workshops focused on the concept of “Coaching” which is a relatively recent concept in the educational field. It aims at assisting students to discover and use their points of strength and to manage points of weakness to achieve success in all aspects of their lives.

## What is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?

An evolutionary neurological disorder of three types:

- 1 Inattentive Type
- 2 Hyperactive-impulsive Type
- 3 Combined Type (most common) combination of hyperactivity and attention deficit

The symptoms have a negative impact on educational attainment as well as behavioral and social skills. Diagnosis and treatment is of utmost importance, and the best results may be achieved

by mutual and full cooperation between teachers, parents, physicians and psychiatrists in a manner that they all work together, as a group, to achieve a common objective.

## An Event to Honor the Experts Participating in the Forum

On February 7, United Nations House hosted an event organized by the Kuwait Association Learning Differences (KALD) to mark the successful conclusion of a two-day educators'

forum organized by the Association, under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly.

In an opening speech, **Dr. Mubashar Riaz Sheikh**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, noted that UNDP is a proud partner of KALD and other valued stakeholders in the implementation of its program to support people living with learning difficulties and their families to enjoy full and equitable participation in society.



**Mrs. Amal Al Sayer** – Chairperson of KALD- said:

“We believe in the important role citizens play in the development of any country. However, without the cooperation of legislative and execution of official entities, only little could be done. The presence of the Speaker of the National Assembly in today’s event is a significant proof of the Assembly’s belief that the citizen plays a major role in the development process and not just a recipient.”

**Mr. Marzuq Al Ghanem**, Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, expressed his compassion to all people with special needs and he concluded by saying:

“The Assembly and KALD share the same philosophy and goal: Kuwait should resume its role as a pioneer and innovative country.”



**Dr. Odeh Al Ruwaihi** –Chairman of the Educational Committee at the National Assembly- confirmed what Al Sayer noted regarding the deficit in the laws and services, which consequently cause great suffering to students with LD, and their families. He promised that the Educational Committee at the National Assembly will do it's best to address the issues related to learning disabilities. He called for the collaboration of all parties to build a better future of Kuwait.





At the closing of the ceremony, KALD honored the following distinguished guests:

- **Mr. Marzuq Al Ghanem** - Speaker of the National Assembly
- **Dr. Mubasher Riyadh Sheik** - UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
- **Dr. David Parker** and **Blaise Aguirre**; The Forum Guest Speakers
- Board members of Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching, **Dr. Abdullah Al Sharhan** – Chairman
- **Mrs. Fatin Al Bader** – Director - and **Mrs. Fatooma Al Zabin** – a board member.
- **Rehab Borseli** - Founder and Chairperson of the Kuwait Society for Guardians of the Disabled



KALD also honored the sponsors of the event:  
**Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and Fatima Clinic**

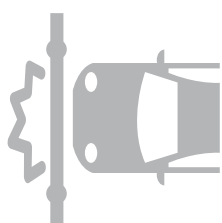
## ADHD is the most common disorder in children: four in each classroom has ADHD



### What makes this percentage scary?

Academic underachievement diminishes the children's confidence and create feelings of failure, embarrassment and frustration, which turn into serious behavioral problems:

Teens with ADHD have four times as many car wrecks and are seven times more likely to have a second accident



Teenagers with ADHD have almost four times as many traffic citations as their non-ADD peers

20% of students with LDs and 35% of students with ADHD drop out of high school



x7



# KALD Distinguished Teacher Award

Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD) Distinguished Teacher Award (in the field of teaching students with learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Training and qualifying teachers is part of the work system to support and assist students with learning disabilities. For this purpose, KALD launched an award to enhance this process through the following objectives:

- Provide a sustainable service for Kuwaiti society represented by creating a new generation of teachers enthusiastic of their mission.
- Motivate teachers to implement employment development plans of each commensurate, with their requirements, for the objective of enhancing practices
- Qualify teachers and develop the educational process in the field of students with learning disabilities.
- Enhance the spirit of distinction in teachers and create motivation leading to work improvement

## Preparations for the Award 2015 Meetings of the organizing committee

The committee consists of the following members:

**Dr Fatima Al Awadi** - Consultant Developmental Pediatrician /Fatima Clinic

**Hana' Al Duaij** - Member of Kuwait Curriculum Team / Ministry of Education

**Dr. Badria Al Hajji** - Assistant Professor - The College of Basic Education /Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)

**Nabila Al Midlij** - English Language Teacher- The College of Basic Education /Public Authority for Applied Education and Training

**Wafa' Nusaibeh** - Supervisor - Inspection of Private Schools Department /Ministry of Education

**Dr. Huda Sha'ban** - Disability Educational Services Coordinator, American University in Kuwait

**Dr. Wafa' Al Yassin** - Life Sciences, Modern Management, and Human Resource Expert /UNDP

**Dr. Suad Al Thwaikh** - Assistant Teacher - College of Social Sciences /Kuwait University



## Training lectures for candidates



Presented by  
**Dr. Fatima  
Al Awadi  
and Dr. Huda  
Sha'aban**

## Field visits to schools



## Distinguished Teacher Award Ceremony for 2013-2014



Under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Amir, **Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah**, and in the presence of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, **Mrs. Hind Al-Subaih**, KALD's first annual Distinguished Teachers Award Ceremony was held. The ceremony aimed at honoring the three teachers who exemplify the highest standards in teaching students with Learning Difficulties and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

KALD honored Mrs. Hind Al-Subaih- Minister of Social Affairs & Labor, and the sponsors of the event: **Zain Telecommunications** represented by its Chairman, Mr. Omar Saud Omar, and **National Bank of Kuwait** represented by its CEO, Ms. Shaikha Al Bahar



KALD also honored two of its important supporters; **Sheikha Aida Salem Al Ali Al Sabah**- Chairperson Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award and **Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah**, Chairperson of Al Nuwair Initiative and Lulwa Production House.



The event was a chance to show appreciation for the work and dedication of **KALD board members**. **Mariam Shakroon**, Fawzia Al Sultan International School, won the first place. **Helen Al Rai'i**, Manarat School, came second and **Valerie Wagner**, American International School, came third.

Showing a short documentary film about the achievements of KALD in 2014-2013 was part of the program. The audience enjoyed a sand art show that demonstrated the importance of the teacher in a child's life especially those with learning disabilities.



## Moments from the Ceremony





# KALD: an Operational NGO in Kuwait

Optimal development requires the harnessing of a country's assets and the full cooperation between its government, private sector and nonprofit organizations. KALD works towards becoming an operational NGO designing and implementing development related projects and participating in public policy and law making.

To achieve this goal, the association has been developing communication channels with official and national entities, as well as, public and private institutions in Kuwait to present the voice of people with learning disabilities and ADHD and claim their rights to a better education and brighter future.

## Visit to the Speaker of the National Assembly Office

**Mrs. Amal Al Sayer**- Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences briefed His Excellency, **Mr. Marzook Al Ghanem** on KALD's mission, objectives, projects and plans. Al Ghanem kindly accepted his patronage of KALD's ceremony to honor the experts participating in its forum on ADHD.



## First Meeting of UNDP Kuwait Advisory Board

As an appointed member in UNDP Kuwait Advisory Board, **Mrs. Amaal Al Sayer**- Chairperson attended its first meeting. The board aims at strengthening the role social community organizations play in contributing effectively to the political, economic, social, and cultural development of Kuwait.



## Public Authority of People with Disability Events



Steaming from its mission serving the public with special needs, The Public Authority for People with Disability and KALD are often present in each other's activities.

**Mrs. Nouria Al Amiri** – Executive manager of KALD- participated in the opening of the Public

Authority for People with Disability's new building. She also attended the Authority's first meeting aiming prepare a plan for all public and private organizations to work together towards developing and improving the quality of services given to people with special needs.



**Dr. Tarek Al Shatti**- Director Manager of the Authority for People with Disability and **Mr. Raed Al Wahib** visited KALD to discuss ways of activating the role and participation of civil society organizations in improving the services offered to people with special needs.

## Cooperation with Ministry of Youth Affairs

**Mrs. Amaal Al Sayer**- Chairperson of KALD- participated in the discussion session on social responsibility organized by the Ministry of Youth. In addition, Al Sayer met with the Manager of the Department of Volunteer Work- **Mr. Fuad Bushahri** at the Ministry of Youth Affairs to discuss aspects of cooperation between the Ministry and civil society entities concerning the development of volunteer work in Kuwait.





## Sponsorship Agreements

### National Bank of Kuwait:

To support students with learning disabilities and encourage them to display their talents and potential, **National Bank of Kuwait** agreed to sponsor all youth activities KALD is to organize for the coming year 2015-2016. **Al Yousefi Co.** will present all participants in these activities with gifts.



### Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences

Meetings between the Chairperson of KALD and the executive manager with **Adnan Shihab Al Din** – Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences- and **Mrs. Wia'm Al Othman** – assistant manager – resulted in an agreement in which the Foundation sponsors KALD Distinguished Teacher Award Ceremony for the year 2014-2015.

### Kuwait Finance House

**Mr. Fahd Al Mkhazem**- Group General Manager Strategy and Corporate Affairs and **Mr. Yusuf al Raweeh** Public Relations Manager at Kuwait Finance Bank met with **Mrs. Nouria Al Omeiri** – Executive Manager of KALD and **Mariam Al Bisher** and the Banks headquarters. An agreement was signed in which the bank sponsors KALD Parents Forum to be held in November 2015.



## KALD Support for other Volunteering Entities

KALD participated in the Third Childhood Carnival organized by **Dowa-Alyada Volunteering Center** with setting a booth to spread information of its mission, objectives and services.

KALD also supports **Spread the Passion** volunteer group headed by **Dr. Fatima Al Moussawi**.



## KALD Participations in Activities Organized by Other Entities

### Conferences of the Social Sciences Faculty- Kuwait University

By the cooperation agreement with the University of Kuwait, KALD was present in two of its activities; the Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Forums. **Eleventh Annual Forum** titled: “Health and Society”, and the **Twelve Annual Forum** titled: “Childhood: Towards a Better Future” organized by Social Sciences Faculty.

KALD participated in by attending the opening ceremony and in a setting up a special booth to spread awareness on learning disabilities and ADHD and its works in the field of supporting and assisting students, families and schools.



### Ramadan Iftar

The event was held under the patronage of **Senator Madi Al Hajeri** and was attended by **Dr. Tarek Al Shatti** -Director General of the Public Authority of the Disable. Represented by its Chairwoman, **Mrs. Amal Al Sayer**, KALD was honored by the host, Mr. Muhammad Al Matouk- in appreciation of its work in supporting students with LD and ADHD.

Al Sayer attended a lecture presented by **Dr. Tarek Al Habib** titled: “The Coach: Psychological Perspective” during the event.

**Dr. Fatima Al Awadi**, Vice Chairwoman and **Mrs. Noria Al Amiri** – Executive Manager at KALD participated in the Kuwait National Day celebration organized by **Kuwait English School- Green Unit**.



**Mariam Al Bisher** attended a lecture by **Dr. Mayadah Al Natoor** titled: “Learning Disabilities and the Roles of Parents”.



They also attended a lecture by **Huda Al Midlij** - a social media activist and KALD representative all over the world - titled: “Give meaning to your life.”





## Represented by its Chairperson, KALD attended The CHADD Annual International Conference in Chicago- USA

This is the major research, practice and public information conference dedicated to ADHD. Conference sessions focus on providing current science-based information and the impact of this information on treatments for individuals with ADHD.



The conference brings together researchers, clinicians, educators, adults, parents, and others who are seeking more in-depth materials. KALD has been tapping on CHADD resources for many years through its informative website and printed materials that include Attention magazine, Attention weekly, a free electronically mailed current events newsletter, as well as other publications of specific interest to educators, professionals and parents.

The conference was a great opportunity to enrich and update the information KALD present to the public in Kuwait and chance to establish connections and networks with experts and institutions in the field of ADHD.

### What is CHADD?



CHADD is a Non-Profit Organization that provides education, advocacy and support for individuals with ADHD. It was founded in 1987 in response to the frustration and sense of isolation experienced by parents and their children with ADHD. At that time, one could turn to very few places for support or information. Many people seriously misunderstood ADHD.

Many clinicians and educators knew little about the disability, and individuals with ADHD were often mistakenly labeled "a behavior problem," "unmotivated," or «not intelligent enough." ADHD is medically and legally recognized as a treatable yet potentially serious disorder, affecting up to nine percent of all children, and approximately four percent of adults. [www.Chadd.org](http://www.Chadd.org)



# Youth Activities: Camps and a Talent Show

Studies proved that participation in extra-curricular activities has positive outcomes on the educational attainment of the student; the psychological and social life as well as increasing self-confidence. These activities develop skills, such as teamwork and leadership, and limit harmful and unproductive habits such as smoking and otherwise. The Balance between time allocated for study and time spent by the student in these activities remains of the utmost importance. Students with learning disabilities may not be given the opportunity of participation in these activities for several reasons. For example, a student with LD might require additional time for private tutoring. Also, sports require kinesthetic consistency which is usually weak in such students since weakness of kinesthetic synergy is often a feature of learning disabilities. As for weak memory, this requires longer time and more effort for work perfection such as acting. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) creates other obstacles preventing the student from participation in



collective activities requiring concentration and coordination between players. Therefore, KALD provides students with the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from activities, such as camps and talent shows that would enhance self-confidence, improve self-conception and strengthen independence and self-reliance. These activities are also a form of support for the whole family when they see their children happy with what they have achieved. Extensive preparations take place in cooperation with KALD partners –Dowa Alyada Volunteering Center to ensure that these activities satisfy the intended objectives. A week before the event, organizers brief the participants about the program, things they need to take with them, as well as rules and regulations.

## Sultanate of Oman Boys Camp



The Trip gave the students the chance to get to know the Archeological, cultural and natural treasures of Oman. In the district of Soor, the participants toured Wadi Khalid and visited the most important touristic attraction in the country: Moqol Cave. They also visited Wadi Shab, Badia Desert, and Turtles' Sanctuary. In Masquat, they had a swim in Hawiat Najim Lake and had a close encounter on the beach with visiting dolphins. Old markets and traditional crafts, such as pottery and weaving were big attractions.

## Boys Camp in Failaka Island



## Girls Camp in Failaka Island



## KALD Theatre for Talents 2014-2015

Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences held the sixth KALD Theatre for talents this year at the Kuwaiti Scouts Theatre. Families of students from several schools participated in celebrating the talents and capabilities of their children. Students presented performances of stage such as reciting poetry, singing, acting and sports performances. The judging panel, comprised of the Artist **Khalid Amin**, the actor and director **Yusuf Al Hashash** and music teacher **Latifa Al Farhan**.



### The results were as follows:

A song presented by two students from the **American International School** got the first place. A short play titled, "My Prayer" presented by a group of students from **Ma'rifa School** came second and the third place went to **Fahaheel School** for reciting poetry titled, "Al Elm Noor".







# Raising Society's Level of Awareness on LD and ADHD

Research has shown that family, school, surrounding events, opinions, and behavior of other people affect the lives of students with learning LD and ADHD. Therefore, KALD is continuously working towards dissemination of social awareness, through:

## The Website [www.kaldkuwait.com](http://www.kaldkuwait.com)

The website played an important role in the awareness of the audience on learning disabilities and ADHD, in general, and reaching targeted categories, in specific. The website is an active means to prepare for conferences and the process of executing KALD Distinguished Teacher Award. Forms and applications are sent and received directly through the website, thus facilitating the process for teachers and employees at the association.

Recent international statistics proved that the majority users of smart phones depend on their phones, not just for social communication but for browsing the internet and visiting websites. Therefore, it was necessary to commence work on updating and expanding the website, to meet modern developments. More technically advanced website would be able to provide better service and to a large number of people.



## Did you know?

KALD website is the only specialized website for learning disabilities in Arabic. It contains, in addition to services provided by KALD, a wide range of information on learning disabilities and ADHD.



## Vitamin Pill

Vitamin pill is a short message on academic, psychological or social issues of interest to the parents, especially those having children with learning disabilities. KALD sends this message regularly to a large number of people. Afterwards, the subject of the message is extended and details are added before being uploaded on the website as a blog. A large number of parents expressed their interest and appreciation of the idea. Some parents took the responsibility of re-sending the message to their friends abroad.

## Visual, Audio and Written Media

KALD realizes the important role media plays in raising the level of awareness regarding various issues related to LD and ADHD; such as methods of identifying symptoms, steps to be taken if these symptoms were present and entities to go to for help and advice. KALD sometimes seeks the assistance of a company specialized in media for a broad coverage of important activities, in which a wide audience is interested. KALD is often approached by radio and TV channels, especially Kuwait Television. KALD's Board of Directors and staff have given interviews in which they discussed LD and ADHD and KALD's work that supports students who have those disabilities.

Often, newspapers and magazines give large spaces for interviews with KALD Team, as well as following news of the Association's activities and events.



## Social Media

The number of Followers of KALD Social Media Accounts



258 Followers



776 Followers



3363 Followers



1223 Followers

The growing influence of social media in all aspects of life encouraged KALD to utilize and benefit from such a powerful tool in serving its own objectives. The number of beneficiaries and followers of pages on Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter is on the rise as KALD is developing new ideas to attract a greater audience.

