



We are in Full Swing!

- Staff training took place the second week of September. Great discussion took place about what our center looks like amidst COVID regulations, keeping the safety of our students a priority. It was also a great time to plan for the new school year, dream about extra-curriculars and community involvement, and discuss how we will cultivate a "Team Culture" for staff and students together.
- September 14th we kicked off school with the students and resumed lessons and physiotherapy.
- We added a new student from Tirana. It's been quite a treat to see this 19-year-old young man attend school for the first time in 10 years after being hit by a car when he was 9 years old.
- Students were able to talk with a counselor and open up about their difficulties and individual situations.
- Connecting some of our students with local churches.
- Continued progress made on the new facility we will be moving into mid-October. The elevator installation has begun.
- Fundraisers continuing as well as building connections with local Albanian businesses to hopefully sponsor Valdete Trust.

A Picture Worth a Thousand Words





ACCESS – We are eagerly awaiting the completion of construction of the new facility VT will be moving into in just a few weeks. This building is fully handicap-accessible with an elevator that will provide access to each floor, including the terrace with an incredible view of the countryside. We will no longer need to use the manual stair-climber to transport our students to the second-floor for their classes.

We have added a new student to our VT family. A young man of 19-years-old who was hit by a vehicle when he was 9-years-old. Being in a coma for 3 months and suffering a head injury and body injuries, his parents tried to get him back into school when he recovered, however his class was on the third floor and he had to be accompanied up and down the stairs. When the school bell rang and he would have to face the stairs again, he was terrified as the other students rushed past him...fearing he would fall and suffer another accident or hit his head again. The school determined "he was not good for school" anymore. He was 9 years old and had no other options. Today, being 19 years old, he is only able to write his name, his father's name, and read basic words. We are privileged to be able to come alongside him and provide access to education and physiotherapy.



COMMUNITY - We have had the pleasure of bringing one of our students to church every week. Initially, people weren't quite sure what to think when they saw her (it is not typical to see individuals with disabilities out in public). And while some individuals were a bit unsure of how to respond, our beloved student displayed no shyness or fear. Any stares she received, she responded by leaning forward and with a big smile saying, "Ç'kemi!" ("Hi" in Albanian). It didn't take long before her warmth drew in friends, big and small. Church has gotten a bit more interactive as well! Throughout the sermon, she chimes in with Truth of the Gospel that she's learned from Bible Study at VT and the Holy Spirit speaking to her. She reminds us that we were made for community and we have much to learn from one another.



GROWTH - Weekly Bible Study provides a safe space for our students to ask questions they may not feel safe to ask elsewhere. Our first meeting was a necessary and great conversation prompted by one of our students desiring to understand more the differences between the Quran and the

Bible. We watched her verbally wrestle with trying to understand better and being challenged by these new thoughts and beliefs that were being presented in the Truth of Jesus Christ.



The Valdete Trust seeks to serve those with disabilities in Albania by opening new doors of opportunity and choice, connecting with others in meaningful relationships, and cultivating the God-given potential of each individual.