

## A Natural Entrepreneur

**Eman**, age 43, a widow lives in Sharona Island in upper Egypt. Eman and her husband, Hany Zaki were happily married with two children, Meferh and Mariam. Merferh, the oldest sibling suffers from psychological disorders. Hany was a day laborer working at odd jobs for low wages. He earned enough to just feed his family. In 2017, Hany died unexpectedly leaving Eman penniless.

Fortunately, through inheritance, Eman owns the lodging, a two-story structure with a small garden. Like many women in rural areas, Eman had little education. That is not surprising since culturally in rural areas, parents push their daughters into early marriages to save money or gain a dowry. Sadly, these early marriages are a disadvantage to females. Once married, women drop from school, remain illiterate, gain no skills and impair their earning potential for life. Feeling hopeless, Eman became so depressed that she had a nervous breakdown.

Finding Freedom through Friendship (FFF) and the Council of Services and Development (CSD) met Eman. Eman did not want to raise poultry. Instead she suggested trading poultry by buying chickens at wholesale price and then within a few weeks sell the chickens and eggs at the open market. The team was impressed by Eman's initiative and eagerness. For 2,000 EGP (\$120) the team purchased 30 vaccinated plumb chickens and enriched chicken feed.

FFF & CSD believe in the holistic approach to instill independence and confidence at both the emotional and physical state so the individual can live to their utmost potential. The regular visits of the CSD facilitators, Marian Gamal, imparted hope for Rasha to overcome her emotional battles of depression and desperation. She stood by Eman and became a friend.

Today, Eman is running a successful small poultry and egg trading business. Some days, Eman makes 40 EGP (\$2.50). In addition, the family often enjoys eating eggs and the occasionally fat chicken. She envisions to expand and improve her poultry project.

Eman is a natural leader with goals, inspiration and empowerment. Eman has demonstrated how independence and confidence leads to freedom, dignity and security.

Just as FFF and CSD changed Eman's life, she is determined to better the lives of others. An empowered person gives back to their community and self-respect.

*Economically empowered women can effectively influence positive social changes in their lives, their family, and their community.*



### CONTACT

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