

## Help UPF Lebanon's Thomas and Hermine Schellen Rebuild Beirut Lebanon

Natascha Phillips  
August 14, 2020



Leaders of the [Universal Peace Federation](#) (UPF) chapter in Lebanon are seeking help as they join scores of volunteers cleaning up Beirut after a deadly explosion tore through the port city on August 4. Unificationists Thomas and Hermine Schellen have lived in the nation's capital for 23 years, dedicating their lives to serving Lebanon as missionaries and peacemakers through UPF. Now among countless people affected by the devastating blasts, they are supporting the recovery efforts of community members through a special relief fund.

"My brother and I grew up there and consider it our home," said Natascha Phillips, the Schellens' daughter. Phillips lives in the U.S. and organized the [Beirut Recovery Fund](#) on GoFundMe to benefit locals. "Many lives were lost, and hundreds of thousands of homes were damaged, including my parents' apartment. Windows and doors shattered and glass and other objects flew around the room. Miraculously, my parents were protected and not hurt by any of the flying debris."

In the following days, [residents have come together](#) to repair and rebuild, clearing many streets and homes of debris. "As people searched for survivors and treated the wounded, amazing young people went to the worst-hit areas and volunteered to clean up the streets and even help people clear debris out of their homes," said Phillips. "I'm personally so grateful for all the kind volunteers that helped my aging parents carry heavy items out, remove dangerous glass shards, and even fixed their front door."

However, the Schellens and many families still have badly damaged homes. The powerful explosion, linked to a massive amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the Port of Beirut, has left approximately \$5 billion in property damage and an estimated 300,000 people homeless, according to multiple U.S. reports.

"Our prayers go out to all those impacted by this terrible explosion," said Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) USA President Rev. Demian Dunkley. "We are grateful to the Schellens for initiating this fundraiser. Disasters like these serve as a reminder that we are one family under God, and that God wants to see us love and look out for one another in any way possible."

Phillips said friends and community members in the U.S. have expressed a desire to offer their support, prompting the fundraiser which has raised more than \$3,000 of the \$7,000 goal. "My parents would like to use the donations received to help pay for house repairs for severely affected families in the community that they know personally, through their many years of serving people through UPF," said Phillips.

The Schellens were designated for peace-building work in Lebanon by UPF and FFWPU co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, known as the [Mother of Peace](#), alongside her late husband Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Lebanon's [cabinet resigned](#) this week after widespread anger over its government inaction and mismanagement, leaving the nation in political limbo.

"As a world power, America has the responsibility to take care of our brothers and sisters in other nations," said FFWPU North America Chairman Dr. Ki Hoon Kim. "I am grateful for those who are following True Mother's example, living for the sake of others, and initiating such a fundraiser to help people in suffering and need. Let us inherit True Parents' legacy and support Lebanon from America as well."

You can donate to the Beirut Recovery Fund [here](#).

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## Beirut Recovery Fund - Schellen Family

**\$3,171** raised of \$7,000 goal



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Natascha Schellen is organizing this fundraiser.

Created 4 days ago

Accidents & Emergencies

**My parents, Thomas and Hermine Schellen, have been living in Beirut, Lebanon for 23 years and dedicated their lives to serving this nation as missionaries and peacemakers.**

My brother and I grew up there and consider it our home.

On Tuesday, August 4th, at 6:07 PM local time, tragedy struck and a huge explosion tore through our beloved Beirut. Many lives were lost, and hundreds of thousands of homes were damaged, including my parents' apartment. Windows and doors shattered and glass and other objects flew around the room. Miraculously, my parents were protected and not hurt by any of the flying debris.

In the days that followed, as people searched for survivors and treated the wounded, amazing

young people went to the worst-hit areas and volunteered to clean up the streets and even help people clear debris out of their homes. I'm personally so grateful for all the kind volunteers that helped my aging parents carry heavy items out, remove dangerous glass shards, and even fixed their front door!

However, they will need windows and doors as well as some furniture replaced, and many families are in a similar situation. Friends of mine here in the US have expressed a desire to offer their support, which is why I decided to create this fundraiser. My parents would like to use the donations received to help pay for house repairs for severely affected families in the community that they know personally, through their many years of serving people through the Universal Peace Federation Lebanon.

My plan is to collect the funds on their behalf, since it is much simpler than trying to connect this fundraiser to their Lebanese bank account, and then transfer it all in one lump sum to have the lowest transaction cost possible.

Thank you all so much for your support, and please keep my parents and all the people of Lebanon in your prayers!

[Read more](#)

### Fundraiser Stats

**27**  
donors

**147**  
shares

**21**  
followers

**Donate**

**Share**

Donations (27)

[See top](#)



Jorge Cuello Espinosa

**\$10** • 20 hrs



Ulrike De Martini

**\$100** • 1 d



Vicki Phelps

**\$100** • 1 d



Anonymous

**\$51** • 1 d

[See all](#)

## Organizer

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Natascha Schellen  
Organizer  
Charlottesville, VA

[Contact](#)

## Comments

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Lisa Take donated **\$100**

Natascha, now I remember your parents! Your mother, Hermine, was instrumental in contacting an Armenian cousin of mine (G. Yerekian), to teach him the Divine Principle, but later was hesitant and failed to show up. I recently contacted him via... [Read more](#)

2 d

[Report fundraiser](#)

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