

25 years of service ANERA Newsletter

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 118/119 Fall 1997/Winter 1998

So Much, So Little

We were seven members of ANERA's Board and several spouses seeing for ourselves the wide variety of ANERA projects in the West Bank and Gaza. We talked with people who benefit from ANERA's projects, local leaders and public officials, project officers and managers, and the U.S. Deputy Consul-General. During October 18-26, by bus and car, we crossed Palestine and Israel inspecting Palestinian health clinics, schools and educational facilities, youth centers, libraries, businesses, markets, and agricultural projects. Each site is an essential part of the mosaic of people and services that are ANERA.

ANERA, to our great pleasure, is an exceedingly effective organization. Its work in Palestine is well regarded by

everyone we encountered. We were astounded by how much could be done with so little money. ANERA's staff, managing projects throughout the West Bank and Gaza, are all professionals in their fields and have an impressive grasp of both the general situation and the projects they oversee. Staff members in the region, with the exception of Middle East Representative Tom Neu, are Palestinian. They are doing a superb job in stunningly difficult circumstances. Given the social and political tensions, their ability to engage dispassionately and without prejudice in the delivery of ANERA's services is a remarkable feat.

In the village of Halhoul, near Hebron, we inspected the fresh produce market and cold storage facility funded by ANERA, through the U.S. Agency

for International Development, fourteen years ago. The market is widely used by local farmers, especially for marketing grapes. The cold storage facility needs upgrading to protect the fresh fruits and vegetables from spoiling before being sold. The people of Halhoul face many difficulties including the demolition of homes by Israeli authorities, continued curfews and the imprisonment of their neighbors, but still they are looking at the future with hope, which includes a prosperous market.

"Education is critical work," remarked Tom Veblen, an ANERA Board Member. Indeed, our group's main conclusion is that education should be the principal emphasis of future ANERA programs. We must move forward to increase and strengthen educational opportunities for Palestinian children.

ANERA's educational partners do outstanding work! Their capacity to deliver quality education is only limited by their lack of physical resources. We talked with Dar El-Tifl's Director Mahirah Dajani and toured the girl's dorms and classrooms. At Rawdat El-Zuhur, 4 and 5-year-old boys and girls sang for us as part of our visit to their school. Neither of these wonderful institutions would have such a positive impact on these hundreds of children without the help of the many individuals supporting ANERA's Scholarship Program.

Crossing into Gaza proved to be a trying experience. We disembarked from our bus at the first Israeli checkpoint. Dragging our bags, we walked to the next Israeli station about half a mile away to have our passports inspected.

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(Above) Hamda, an illiterate grandmother, pauses from inspecting fabric she uses to create mattress and pillow covers for her growing business which began with a loan from the ANERA-supported Gaza Women's Loan Fund.

So Much, So Little, continued from page 1
 Then we lugged our bags about the length of two football fields, end-to-end, to the Palestinian controlled check-point and into our waiting bus. Our difficulty was minimal compared to the hardship of the thousands of Palestinian workers who daily attempt to go from their homes in Gaza to employers in Israel, and back again. For over two months this year, these employees have been stopped from reaching their places of work by the total closure of Gaza.

ANERA Donor Honored for Special Gift

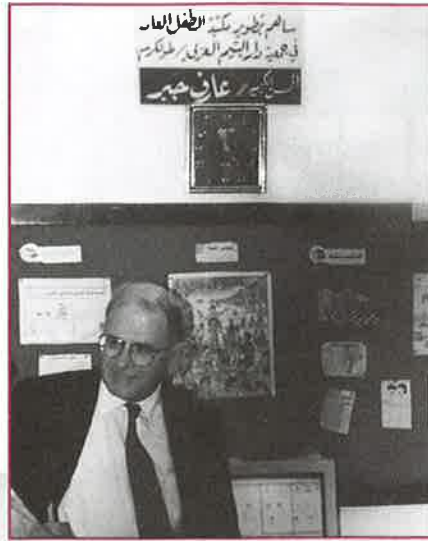
Aref Jabr, a Palestinian-born American and ANERA board member, was honored this fall by Dar El-Yateem Orphanage in the West Bank town of Tulkarem, for his generous contribution to their library. Mr. Jabr, above, stands beneath the plaque bearing his name. This unique children's library serves the boys living in the orphanage and the community at large. Mr. Jabr's gift along with the contributions of two other ANERA supporters in the past year, made it possible for the library to update and expand its collection of books and magazines, and to start a computer laboratory.

Mr. Jabr visited Dar El-Yateem as part of ANERA's Board Leadership Tour to the Middle East, along with his wife, Barbara. They were able to see a wide range of ANERA-supported institutions and visit Jaffa, the city of Mr. Jabr's birth, for the first time since 1948. Back at home in St. Paul, Minnesota, Mr. Jabr writes: "It was rewarding to be eyewitness to the wonderful projects ANERA has been and still is contributing to. We were overwhelmed by the extent they cover."

Would you like to join a growing group of ANERA contributors making special project gifts through ANERA? Special recognition opportunities are available, or you are welcome to remain anonymous. Contact Nina Dodge at ANERA for details.

Assistant Director Samira Farah showed us the Ahli Arab Hospital which is the only private hospital for the one million residents of Gaza. There are only 860 hospital beds available to Palestinians in Gaza and not all of these beds are financially accessible to refugees. There are urgent needs here, including medical books and continuing medical education, computers, syringe infusion machines and ventilators. The hospital staff thanked ANERA for its support, without which the hospital could not do their essential work.

Most children in Gaza, as well as in the West Bank, attend over-crowded classes in public or UNRWA schools in morning or afternoon shifts. This leaves ample time for them to have positive learning experiences elsewhere. However, for the vast majority of children no such opportunities are available. The



Maghazi Refugee Camp's Education Enhancement Center, supported by ANERA, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation and UNRWA, has a library, sports program, health education and computer

facilities. We visited with children as they drew or worked on computers. The Center is indeed a bright spot for these children!

In Khan Yunis, we were briefed by Wafa Katba, ANERA's administrator of the Gaza Women's Loan Fund. This revolving credit program funds Palestinian small businesses. Since trade with markets outside the West Bank and Gaza will not attract investment until greater progress is made in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we feel that we must make local economic development a priority. Presently the program has \$500,000 in capital to use, but our goal is to have \$1,000,000. Over 100 loans of \$1,500 to \$5,000 have been made, with an amazing repayment rate of 100%!

Each of us, even those familiar with the Palestinian people's story, was shocked by some of what we saw and heard. Wherever we traveled, we listened attentively to descriptions of needs and wish lists intertwined with plans for future development. These are people with hope and promise for the future. We were made acutely aware of great need among Palestinians for every one of the programs and projects being managed and financed by ANERA.

In a letter to my family, I summed up our group's common reaction, "ANERA is doing an incredible job, reflecting the extraordinary determination of the Palestinian people. Whatever we can do to build for an unknown future is a plus." ■

*by Frances Stickles
and Doris E. Warrell*



Members of ANERA's Board Leadership Tour (Margy Werling, Frances Stickles, Ken Landis, Barbara & Aref Jabr, Diana Dajani, Tom Neu (staff) and Steven Skancke) inspect the ANERA-supported Light Industrial Complex in Hebron as part of their fact-finding mission.

Staff Transitions

ANERA bids farewell to Paula Stinson, who served as Vice President for ten full and fruitful years, to begin a new career in art. We are very grateful to Paula for her strong contributions to our work and her commitment to lasting Middle East peace.

We now welcome two new Vice Presidents, Philip Davies and Nina Dodge, and a new Director of the Scholarship Program and Communication, Doris Warrell.

Philip Davies, known to us for many years, joined our staff this fall. Previously, he worked for Save the Children as Assistant Regional Director for the Middle East, Field Office Director in West Bank/Gaza, and Director of International Program Evaluation. He was also Director of Feed the Children's Washington liaison office. Philip has an MA in Near East Studies and Anthropology, and speaks Arabic and French. Philip brings with him his specialized skills in program development, monitoring and evaluation, as well as local institution building to ANERA. In addition to the Middle East, Philip has hands-on field experience planning and evaluating programs in Africa and countries of the former Soviet Union.



Andy Tuck/PWS

In Memory of Bob Marsh and Tom Mallison

We are deeply saddened by the passing of two close friends and partners of ANERA, Bob Marsh and Tom Mallison. ANERA truly appreciates their support and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

From 1980 to 1986, and 1988 to 1992, Bob Marsh served on ANERA's Board of Directors. For thirty years, Bob worked in the Middle East for Aramco and its affiliate, Tapline. Following his retirement and until his death, he was associated with the Olayan Group. He was a generous supporter of ANERA, as well as a number of non-profit organizations. He will be remembered for his great service to the Middle East through business relations and U.S.-Arab friendship, and for his generosity and kindness.

William Thomas Mallison, Jr., served as Vice President on the Board of the Musa Alami Foundation of Jericho which joined with ANERA in 1991. The Musa Alami Board supported a home for orphaned boys in Jericho as well as an experimental farm which is now being used for agricultural research. An international lawyer, Tom was on the faculty of The George Washington University. He and his wife Sally addressed the conflict in the Middle East in a variety of ways over the years. Tom's dedication and work for peace in the Middle East will long be remembered. We thank Tom's family for including ANERA as a recipient of donations in his memory. ■

Nina Dodge, previously served ANERA for over five years as Director of Major Gifts. She grew up in Beirut, Lebanon. Before coming to ANERA, she spent fifteen years working in the fields of international human rights and global education, with a focus on the Middle East. She ran the American Friends Service Committee's Legal Aid Center for Palestinians in Jerusalem in the early 1980s, and worked for

Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and Georgetown University.

Doris Warrell joined ANERA this fall. She has been involved in Palestinian-related issues for four years, including working and living at a Palestinian school in Beit Jala, West Bank. Her background in fundraising, editing and design, as well as non-profit organizations will benefit ANERA. ■

YES, I want to help ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 and above: Founders | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 to \$2,499: Sponsors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 to \$9,999: Builders | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 to \$999: Sustainers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 to \$4,999: Benefactors | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 to \$499: Creators |

Contributions of \$250 or more to ANERA's Annual Fund will be recognized in the coming year by category in ANERA's FY98 Annual Report.

I have remembered ANERA in my will.

\$200 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$35 \$25 Other

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

- General Programs
- Gaza/West Bank Fund
- Lebanon Relief
- Scholarship:

I would like to provide a one year scholarship (\$100 per child) for a:

- Palestinian child
- Lebanese child
- Where need is greatest

Scholarship Donors receive a photo of the child and letters from the child's school.

Your donation is tax-deductible

G4 22

Spafford Diabetes Clinic Launched with James Knight Memorial Grant

Jim Knight's family and ANERA extend heartfelt thanks to the many friends who contributed to the James V. Knight Memorial Fund. With your support ANERA has just made a grant to the Spafford Mother and Child Care Center in Jerusalem's Old City to open a diabetes clinic in Jim's name. This facility serves the approximately 24,000 residents of East Jerusalem and directly helps to improve their quality of life.

Additional contributions to Memorial Fund, which would be greatly appreciated, will continue to honor Jim's unique service, and provide further support for this project which addresses a critical health problem faced by Palestinians children and adults. ■

ANERA Appreciates Your Stock!

Gifts of appreciated stock to ANERA in 1997 reached an all time record! Thank you to our many friends for helping ANERA's projects in this most generous way. Please think of ANERA this year when you plan such gifts. Contact Nina Dodge at ANERA for more information. ■

ANERA's Peace Plan

Consider making a modest monthly donation through our automatic program. Your on-going gifts provide a steady, year-round stream of resources supporting peace through ANERA's programs in economic and community development, education and health care. Contact Kathryn Powell at (202) 347-2558 for details.

A continuing, personal commitment like this makes an amazing difference! ■

In Honor of...

Dr. Shukri Abed ■ Abu Ben Adhem ■ Charlotte Frost Byrd ■ Mary P. Copeland ■ Harry B. Crewson ■ Andrew H. Dalto ■ Jean David ■ John Davis ■ Esther Edgar ■ Victoria & Simon Estfan ■ Mr. Ellis Fysal ■ Lucy P. Guilbeau ■ P.T. Hart ■ My father - Liston F. Hills ■ John Horner ■ King Hussein of Jordan & Family ■ Mary Jane Kaho ■ Mr. William Keller ■ Mary Salah Khabbaz ■ Tai Y. Kilby ■ Jim Knight ■ Mr. & Mrs. Ali S. Kurdi ■ Tom Mallison ■ 9th Birthday of Tyler & Patrick Noyes, Rev. Kristie Olah ■ the Palestinian People ■ Pope John Paul II ■ Katie Pavesic ■ Mr. & Mrs. Perea ■ Sophie Rentz ■ Stephanie Saegh ■ Afifi Slaiby ■ the Suffering Displaced Refugee ■ Dr. Paul L. Ward & Dr. Richard S. Ward ■ Evan M. Wilson ■ Dr. & Mrs. Haig Yeni-Komshian.

ANERA

The ANERA Newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to reducing poverty and relieving suffering in the Middle East.

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Editor: Doris E. Warrell

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ANERA does, from time to time, exchange our mailing list with similar humanitarian organizations. We never rent or sell our list. If you wish not to have your name exchanged, please let us know in writing.

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ANERA
1522 K Street, NW, #202
Washington, DC 20005
Tel.: (202) 347-2558
Fax: (202) 682-1637
anera@anera.org
www.anera.org

Nonprofit Organization
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1522 K Street, N.W. #202

Washington, D.C. 20005

The Cutting Edge of Development

PROJECT ACTIVITY 1997

ANERA and our AMER Medical Division gave over \$4 million in development assistance and relief aid to local institutions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel during our 1997 fiscal year (June 1, 1996 through May 31, 1997.) This support provided economic and community development, education, health services, and technical assistance and training to Palestinians and Lebanese living in need.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$2,554,726

Grassroots Service and Urban Economic Projects

Funding was given to local non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and other institutions providing essential services, including: mother/child health care, food for the needy, literacy programs, vocational training for women, and job creation. These projects were in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Israel with: Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps, EcoPeace, Gaza Women's Loan Fund, Hebron Municipality, House of Hope, Institut de Reeducation Audio-Phonetique, Jericho Municipality, Peace Center for the Blind, Silwan Community Center, and Workshops for the Blind.

Agricultural Projects: Irrigation, Credit, Extension, and Animal Husbandry

Funding for West Bank well and spring rehabilitation for irrigation use were provided to: Birzeit Municipality, Doura Al-Qari' Village Committee, Ein-Areek Village Committee, Ein Sultan Irrigation Project, Halhoul Municipality, Jayyous Cooperative, Jeeb Village Council, Jifna Village Council, Kour Village Committee, Surda Village Council, and Yatta Municipality.

Funding for revolving loan funds for poor farmers in the West Bank and Gaza for farm improvements were disbursed through: the Agricultural Credit Project, Gaza Fisherman's Cooperative, Jericho Agricultural Cooperative, Khan Yunis Agricultural Cooperative, and Rural Women's Credit Program. Animal disease control and agricultural extension activities were funded at the following West Bank and Gaza institutions: Bani Na'im Agricultural Cooperative, Gaza Livestock Cooperative, Hebron Grape Marketing Cooperative, Hebron Livestock Cooperative, Hebron University, Jericho Livestock Cooperative, Khan Yunis Agricultural Cooperative, Nahda Livestock Cooperative, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture — Extension Department.



An employee of the Halhoul fresh produce market, a project made possible with ANERA's support, prepares grapes to be sold.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

\$275,957

ANERA provided training and consultants in agriculture, job creation, credit, health, and education to a variety of local individuals and groups.

EDUCATION

\$176,172

Student Scholarships

Scholarships were provided for orphaned, destitute, and handicapped children in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon at: Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Center, Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children, Dar El-Tifl, Dar El-Yateem, Rawdat El-Zuhur, and Sun Day Care Center.

Youth Programs, Schools and Universities

Sports and school equipment, expertise and books for educational institutions were provided for both Birzeit University (West Bank) and the Maghazi Refugee Rehabilitation Center (Gaza).

HEALTH SERVICES

\$57,393

To upgrade West Bank medical institutions' ability to deliver health services, assistance was provided to: Al- Amal Medical Center — Qalqilia Zakat Committee, Al-Aqsa Health Clinic, Sinjil Health Clinic, and Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children.

IN KIND MEDICAL AND RELIEF SUPPLIES

\$1,041,337

ANERA arranged and paid for the transport of medicines, equipment and books for Lebanese and Palestinian hospitals and clinics to: Ahli Arabi Hospital Medical Library, Hebron Zakat Committee, Lebanese Red Cross, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, and various other West Bank and Gaza clinics and hospitals.

TOTAL MIDDLE EAST PROJECTS AND RELIEF

\$4,105,585

PUBLIC EDUCATION

We have long undertaken modest activities to inform Americans about the Middle East, the need for peace, the condition of the Palestinians and Lebanese, and the value of economic and social development. This year we published our newsletter, spoke at events, commented to the media, and conducted roundtables focused on Middle East economic development. We host an internet site (www.nera.org) which reaches new audiences, provides up-to-date and reliable information on ANERA's projects, and provides links to other sites which may help people understand the work we do.



Andy Trucklows

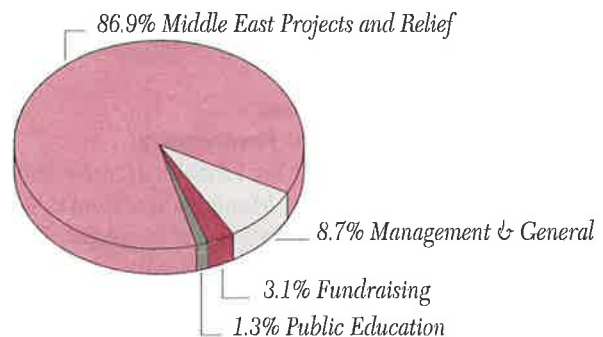
Two residents of the Dar el-Yateem Orphanage in Tulkarem take a break during the visit with members of the 1997 ANERA's Board Leadership Tour.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Over 86¢ of each dollar donated directly helped thousands of families! We are grateful to the individuals, organizations, corporations, foundations and others who have entrusted this work to us and have, through their continuing financial support, judged for themselves that ANERA does good work, worthy of their support.

ANERA is registered as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. We are also registered with and adhere to the standards of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Charities Information Bureau, and the New York State Office of Charities Registration. ANERA is a member of InterAction and the American Council for Voluntary International Action.

Our 1997 Annual Report, which includes a detailed audited financial statement prepared by an independent accounting firm, is currently available.



Total Expenditures for FY 97

\$5,591,689



AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

1522 K Street, N.W. #202

Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: 202- 347-2558

Fax 202-682-1637

anera@anera.org/www.anera.org