

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

Newsletter

Number 130 Fall 2000

Combined Federal Campaign and the United Way Campaign are underway!
0307 Help People in the Middle East; Remember ANERA

To the Future

by Peter Gubser

As this article is written momentous events may be on the horizon. After working in the area for over thirty years, I know that anything is possible. Consider the celebrations in late spring of this year when Israel Defense Forces withdrew after an eighteen year military occupation of southern Lebanon, and the ongoing and serious negotiations between Israelis, Palestinians and Syrians to reach peace treaties.

On the most basic level, when peace is realized and maintained between nations, more energy and resources can be used to ensure that each person has the basic necessities

to live – food, shelter and clothing, but also the education and jobs to sustain themselves.

In this potentially fruitful, but still unstable environment, it is poor people who face the greatest risk. Without financial assets and social stability, their future is precarious.

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2001 Annual Fund Begins

Going into the future means being prepared. Launching ANERA's 2001 Annual Fund is the first step toward meeting the challenges of providing better health care, quality education and job opportunities for people in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine struggling with poverty and uncertainty.

Thanks to your support, we surpassed last year's annual fund goal. Inspired by this success and growing human needs in the region, our goal for this year's annual fund has been increased to \$1.2 million! In addition to completing existing projects, meeting this goal will expand ANERA's work to provide health care, educational opportunities and create jobs. With your continued support, we know we can do this. ❁

ANERA Annual Dinner Held

On September 16, 2000, American Near East Refugee Aid's annual dinner hosted over 240 guests. The highlight of the evening was the honoring of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP), and Lucius Battle, former U.S. Ambassador, for their exemplary work for Middle East peace.

Present to accept the honors and memorial Palestinian ceramic plates were Donald Abramson, chairman of the board, AJWS; Jean Newsom, executive director, FMEP; and Ambassador Battle.

Peter Gubser, ANERA's President; Philip Davies and Nina Dodge, ANERA's Vice Presidents;

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Helen Grant

Members of the Jahalin Bedouin work with ANERA to distribute blankets and other supplies to poor families in the Jordan Valley.



Alfonso Wright

(L to R) Steven L. Skancke, Ambassador Lucius D. Battle, Don Abramson, and Peter Gubser pose with plates recognizing the honorees' contribution to peace-making and ANERA. (Not pictured is Jean Newsom.)

Today there are still over 3.7 million Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza. One-third of all Palestinian refugees continue to live in the fifty-nine camps established by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The social and economic conditions in the camps are generally poor with a high population density, cramped living conditions and inadequate basic infrastructure such as roads and sewers. These conditions affect lives today, but also jeopardize the future. In Lebanon, Palestinian refugees of high school age are being denied quality education since UNRWA provides access to free education only through middle school. In five to ten years, when these adults have to support themselves and their families, what type of work will they be able to do? The causes of tomorrow's poverty are being created today.

In Memory of Edna Davis

Edna B. Davis, a long time friend of ANERA, passed away on September 2, 2000 at the wonderful age of 97. Born in Iowa, Mrs. Davis lived in Lebanon, New York, and for the last three decades in the Washington area.

Her late husband, Dr. John Davis, was a former Chair of ANERA's board of directors and had previously been Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Mrs. Davis was active in her church and other civic organizations. She is survived by two sons, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. ❀



At the Deir El-Balah Rehabilitation Society in Gaza, young children have access to modern learning tools.

And the wide disparity between Palestinians' living standards and that of their neighbors continues to grow. Nowhere is this more apparent than with Palestinians' Israeli neighbors. For every \$1 that Palestinians earn, Israelis earn \$15. This is in spite of that fact that Palestinians, on average, work longer hours and more days per month. Not only do Palestinian families have less to spend on their own needs, but it also means that the amount of money collected through taxes is less. Expenses typically covered by taxes, like schools, water systems, and other basic social services cannot be maintained or built.

Refugees or not, Palestinians, Lebanese and Jordanians are never safe from the repercussions of poverty. War and political violence have disrupted the economy and social services of every community. All poor people experience unem-

ployment, disease and hunger.

Although impoverished people are the most vulnerable, especially in this time of uncertainty, they can also benefit the most from peace and stability.

It is necessary to implement multiple projects with the core goals of improving people's lives – access to health care, education, and jobs – while creating self-sustaining organizations which continue providing and improving these services in the future. This is why long-term vision and presence, like ANERA's, remain important and necessary. Only through sustained, multifaceted, efficacious projects can lives truly improve.

The political work already done this year could dramatically alter the course of history for the eastern Mediterranean countries, and our world. Lives of every person in the region, but especially poor and marginalized people, may improve in real and important ways – as long as the work continues.

Whatever happens politically, economically or otherwise, the road ahead will be long and difficult. Announcements and signatures on paper happen far quicker than schools can be built, sewage pipes laid, or malnutrition reversed.

The big picture may be slow to change, but to the person receiving a textbook or medicine, the future is immediately better. Delivering what is needed today while building for tomorrow keeps communities alive to experience the benefits that the future holds. ❀

In Honor of...

Musa Husein Ali Shama • All poor souls • All the peacemakers • Maureen Hala Atalla • Charlotte Frost Byrd • Dorothy Day • Doris Dodge • Abo Allah Maamood El-Hindi • Katrina, Sabena & Ellen Halaby • Grace Halsell • Dorothy Eddy Hatsell • John C. Jacobs Jr. • Jean Mogannam • My parents • My wife Charlotte • Charlotte Reid • Theodore & Kafa Saad

Jordan, ANERA Sign Agreement

On September 3, ANERA officials signed an agreement with Ms. Tamam Ghoul, Minister of Social Development, to help address the development needs of Jordanian communities. As part of its mission to empower communities and alleviate poverty in the Middle East, ANERA will help improve the country's health and information technology (IT) sectors.

ANERA plans to extend our efforts in four basic areas of our expertise: health, environment, community development, and IT. "Through their IT project, [ANERA] will also work to rehabilitate people and develop the country's human resources," said Ghoul. ANERA's Poverty Reduction and Job Creation through Information Technology in Jordan initiative was designed to create thousands of jobs. ❀

Annual Dinner, continued from page 1

and Tom Neu, ANERA's Middle East Representative, each gave updates on ANERA's projects and their future impact on the lives of needy people in the region.

As a special end to the evening,

guests received a copy of the National Conservatory of Music's Oriental Music Ensemble's compact disk *Emm el Khilkha*. The production of this cd was made possible through a grant from ANERA. ❀

ANERA's Peace Plan

Signing a peace agreement is just one step toward achieving stability in the Middle East. Through hard work and cooperation, people make peace a reality. ANERA's goal is to strengthen communities to enable peace to take root and thrive.

ANERA has invested resources in the long-term development needs of Palestinians and Lebanese for over 30 years. We work with local grassroots organizations on projects that have a long-term impact in the Middle East. These programs strengthen communities through education, health and economic development. By joining ANERA's Peace Plan, you play a significant role in our programs by providing

dependable resources over a sustained period of time.

First, decide how much you would like to give monthly. Fill out the coupon below with a check for the first monthly gift and mail it to ANERA.

Each month your bank will automatically deduct from your account the amount you indicated and deposit it into ANERA's account. Donations will be clearly listed on your bank statement. You may change or stop your donation at any time by contacting ANERA.

Not only does this make donating to ANERA quick and easy, it also helps to lower our administrative costs.

Thank you for your commitment to making peace a reality! ❀

In Memory of Grace Halsell

Grace Halsell, journalist and author, died August 16, 2000, in Washington D.C., at the age of 77.

A white woman born in Lubbock, Texas, Miss Halsell left the staff of the Lyndon Johnson White House in 1968, had her skin chemically darkened, and lived as a black woman in Harlem and Mississippi. She wrote of her experiences in *Soul Sister*, a million-copy seller first published in 1969.

Her personal mission to tell the wider world about people marginalized by society because of race, poverty and stereotypes led her to the Middle East. *Journey to Jerusalem*, written after living with Christian, Jewish and Muslim families in the strife-torn Holy Land, was the first book published by a mainstream U.S. publisher (Macmillan, 1981) that was openly sympathetic to the plight of dispossessed Palestinians.

She is survived by a sister, Margaret Parker of Fort Worth, Texas; a brother, Oscar Ed Halsell of Andrews, Texas; and her dear friend David Hunter of Arlington, Virginia. They have suggested that donations in Miss Halsell's memory be sent to ANERA and Americans for Middle East Understanding. ❀

Yes, I want to join ANERA's Peace Plan.

Here is my monthly gift of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10

I authorize my bank to transfer the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my bank statement and serve as my receipt.

I understand that I may stop my contribution at any time, by contacting ANERA at 1522 K. St., NW, Suite 202, Washington, DC 20005-1270, (202) 347-2558, or my bank.

Signature _____

Date _____

I have enclosed a check for my first monthly contribution, made payable to ANERA.

Your personal commitment makes a difference in the lives of others!



Double Your Gift

Will your corporation match your donation to a cause you feel is admirable? Many companies today have a matching gift program that matches their employee's contribution dollar for dollar. The process is easy. Most organizations simply ask you to fill out and submit a form to ANERA along with your donation. Suddenly your donation doubles - sometimes triples - support for Palestinians, Lebanese and Jordanians in need.

If you have any questions concerning matching gift programs, please call Paula McNicholas, Director of Donor Development, at (202) 347-2558.

Improving A Child's Education

You can help a girl or boy in need receive a quality education, and be a better person tomorrow. This fall, send your scholarship gift of \$175 to help a student. In return, you'll receive information about the school and their life, and make a difference in a student's life.



Workplace Giving

Through the end of December, ANERA is again participating in various workplace giving campaigns around the country. You can give to ANERA, a member of International Service Agencies, by using our identification #0307.

Last year workplace givers donated over \$40,000. This generosity helped

distribute medical supplies to rural clinics, improve poor children's education, and provided women and men with access to small business loans.

If you give through your workplace and would like to be recognized for your generosity, give permission to the CFC or United Way to release your information to ANERA. ❁

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FOUNDED 1968

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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Philip Davies, Vice President

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Cyril G. Bindah, Assistant Treasurer

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

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TO THE FUTURE!

Nonprofit Organization

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ANERA's 2000 Projects To the Future

American Near East Refugee Aid's (ANERA) mission is to reduce poverty and relieve suffering, thereby improving the lives of people in the Middle East. In cooperation with local institutions, we formulate and implement social and economic development projects and provide relief in response to emergency needs.

A nonprofit, charitable organization, ANERA is concerned with the long-term development needs of Palestinians and Lebanese. ANERA assists grassroots organizations to provide their communities with crucial health and community services in addition to increasing employment and educational opportunities for deprived groups. Since 1968, ANERA has helped provide the basic necessities of life to people adversely affected by war and conflict. Through these efforts and increasing public understanding of the region, ANERA promotes peace.

In fiscal year 2000 (June 1, 1999 through May 31, 2000) ANERA gave development assistance and relief aid totaling \$6,261,167 to local institutions. In this listing, totals include grants, loan guarantees, technical assistance and project oversight expenses, grants in-kind and shipping costs. These local institutions provide economic and community development, education and health services, assistance to poor and indigent persons, and related technical assistance and training to Palestinians, Lebanese, and other people living in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Egypt.

During this year, ANERA provided:

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Grassroots Service & Urban Economic Projects

Partial funding to local non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and other institutions providing community, microcredit, and environmental services. These projects are with: Community Services Project (West Bank and Gaza), Friends of the Earth Middle East (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Palestine), Gaza Women's Loan Fund (Gaza), Jenin Villages Water Users Association (West Bank), Jericho Municipality (West Bank), and the NGO Trust Fund (West Bank and Gaza). **\$2,660,011**

Agricultural Credit, Extension & Irrigation

Partial funding for revolving loans to poor farmers for farm improvement, animal disease control, agricultural extension and irrigation systems for farms. These projects are with: AIDOS Rural Women's Credit Program (West Bank and Gaza), Beit Lahia Agricultural Cooperative (Gaza), Irrigation Jericho Water Users' Association (West Bank), Jericho Marketing Cooperative (West Bank), Khan Younis Cooperative (Gaza) Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (West Bank and Gaza), and Salfet Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank). **\$673,025**

Technical Assistance & Project Oversight

Provision of training and consultants as well as project development, implementation and evaluation. **\$1,251,333**



Over 88¢ of every dollar given to ANERA directly serves children, women and men living in the Middle East.

Total Community & Economic Development

\$4,584,369

EDUCATION

Child Scholarships

Scholarships for orphaned, destitute, and handicapped children at: Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Institute (Lebanon), Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children (Gaza), Dar El-Tifl (Jerusalem), Dar El-Yateem (West Bank), Palestinian Women's Union (Gaza), and Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem). **\$105,600**

Youth Programs, Schools & Universities

Partial funding for information technology, sports programs and equipment, musical instruments and instruction, school equipment and libraries. These projects are with: Al Quds University (Jerusalem), Bethlehem Arab Society (West Bank), Birzeit University (West Bank), Deir El-Balah Rehabilitation Society (Gaza), Hijazi Tamra Fund (Israel), Institut de Reeducation Audio-Phonetique (Lebanon), Khan Younis Rehabilitation Center (Gaza), Marjayoun National College (Lebanon), National Conservatory of Music (West Bank), and Peace Center for the Blind (Jerusalem). **\$129,671**

Technical Assistance & Project Oversight

Provision of training and consultants, including for information technology, as well as project development, implementation and evaluation. **\$150,514**

Total Education \$385,785



HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics & Hospitals

Partial financial assistance to improve the delivery of health services in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. These projects are with: Al-Ahli Arab Hospital (Gaza), Health Care Society (Lebanon), and Orthodox Society Clinic (Jerusalem). **\$112,702**

In-Kind Health Program

Provision of medicines, food supplements, supplies, and equipment for hospitals, clinics, and charitable societies for: Al Quds University Medical School (Jerusalem), Al-Ahli Arab Hospital (Gaza), Al-Ahli Hospital-Hebron (West Bank), Al-Awdeh Hospital (Gaza), Al-Salah Society (Gaza), Al-Wafa Charitable Hospital (Gaza), Aqraba Zakat Committee (West Bank), Atta Society (West Bank), Augusta Victoria Hospital (Jerusalem), Beita Zakat Committee (West Bank), Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (West Bank), Caritas-Jerusalem (West Bank), Dar Al-Awlad Society (West Bank), Dar El-Tifl (Jerusalem), Dar El-Yateem (West Bank), Gaza Zakat Committees (Gaza), Ihsan Society (West Bank), Islah Bir Nabala Clinic (West Bank), Islamic Charitable Society (West Bank), Jahalin Bedouin (West Bank), Maqassad Charitable Hospital (West Bank), Palestine Family Planning Association-Bethlehem (West Bank), Palestine Red Crescent Society-Gaza, Palestine Red Crescent Society-Jerusalem, Palestine Red Crescent Society-Qalqilia (West Bank), Palestine Red Crescent Society-Tulkarem (West Bank), Palestinian National Authority/Ministry of Supplies, Patients Friends Society-Gaza, Patients Friends Society-Ramallah (West Bank), Peace Center for the Blind Hospital (Jerusalem), Scientific Medical Association (West Bank), St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital (Jerusalem), St. Luke's (West Bank), Subah Charitable Society (West Bank), Terre Des Hommes (Ard el-Atfal) (West Bank), Union of Health Care Workers (West Bank), and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Gaza). **\$1,087,197**

Technical Assistance & Project Oversight

Provision of training and consultants as well as project development, implementation and evaluation. **\$91,114**

Total Health Services \$1,291,013

Overseas Program Total \$6,261,167



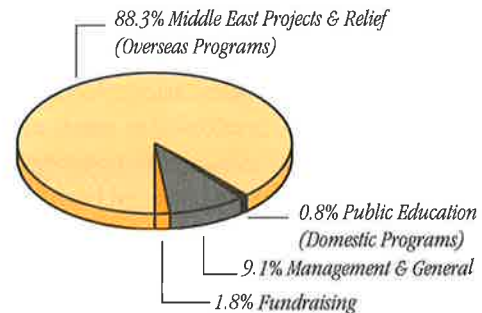
PUBLIC EDUCATION

ANERA conducts modest activities to inform the public about the Middle East, the need for peace, the conditions of Palestinians and Lebanese, and the value of economic and social development. We publish a quarterly newsletter, speak at civic and educational events, maintain a website (www.anera.org), and comment on radio and television.

DOMESTIC PROGRAM TOTAL \$56,107

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES \$6,317,274

(All figures taken from ANERA's independently audited financial statement.)



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Contributions to ANERA are tax-deductible. ANERA is audited annually by Lane & Company. ANERA is registered with and adheres 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 also a member of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction).

Total Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2000 \$7,092,496

ANERA receives support from more than 25,000 Americans and other individuals from around the world, small businesses, religious groups and over twenty private foundations and corporations. In fiscal year 2000, ANERA received grants from governmental and multilateral institutions, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Netherlands Development Cooperation Programme, the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Through membership in the International Service Agencies, ANERA participates in the Combined Federal Campaign and many state and local charity giving campaigns.

If you have any questions about our projects or would like a copy of our 2000 Annual Report, please let us know. Our latest annual report is also on-line at www.anera.org.

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