

NEWS

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Building Partnerships

No doubt by now you have read about how ANERA works with local partners to implement so many of our important projects overseas. In fact, much of our work is very successful because of the strong partnerships we have built over the years. Our local partners help identify people's needs and work with us to carry out projects that make a positive impact on hundreds of communities and thousands of men, women, and children.

As ANERA's range of projects has grown, so too has the number of partners. With growing donor support, we are now partners with hundreds of organizations providing vital services throughout the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Our partnerships typically begin by locating nonprofit institutions and/or charities that have a strong expertise in their fields and share ANERA's goals. They must demonstrate a strong, successful track record and a thorough understanding of the needs in their communities.

These partnerships have been sustained for years because of ANERA's dedicated professional staff, based in offices in Jerusalem, Gaza City, Halhul, and Nablus. By maintaining offices in the areas where we work, ANERA can respond quickly to project and community needs and stay in close contact with our partners.

This newsletter highlights some of our project partners. Although it is only a small sample, it is our hope that you will learn more about the terrific groups with which we work and which you help support. ▶

35th Anniversary Campaign - Success!

Because of you, ANERA was able to make a very special investment in people and peace in the Middle East!

ANERA's 35th Anniversary Campaign succeeded beyond any level imagined when it began five years ago. The goal of \$15 million has been met – a goal increased twice since the Campaign's beginning. Major new projects have been established as a result, with structures to sustain and develop them into the future. Ongoing projects have been sustained and enhanced. Participation

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35th Anniversary Campaign

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from our donors, board, and committee volunteers was phenomenal. Thank you!

We celebrated the success of our Campaign at this September's annual dinner and immediately began planning for ANERA's future work. Your contributions allowed us to do so much. In addition to continuing current programs in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan, your donations initiated an array of new projects.

Campaign gifts helped prepare the Gaza Women's Loan Fund to become self-sustaining and to provide an increasing number of affordable loans to women in Gaza for years to come. The number of loans increased in 2002 by 13% and continues to increase in 2003. The repayment rate – after dropping due to the impact of the intifada – is improving again. ANERA is now introducing a loan program offering lower amounts (\$600 to \$1000) to help GWLF reach more women.

ANERA is working to promote and strengthen music education throughout the West Bank and Gaza through the National Conservatory of Music – Palestine (NCM). The Conservatory began in 1993 with three part-time teachers and 40 students. Now these numbers have grown to 20 teachers and over 400 students (children and adults). Because of your campaign gifts, ANERA is helping the Conservatory build its instrument inventory and library, and strengthen its operations, fundraising, and public relations.

Funded by campaign donations, one of ANERA's boldest education and employment generating projects is building a Palestinian workforce of internationally trained information technology (IT) professionals and developing the IT sector. This sector holds special promise for the region as IT can be transacted over the Internet thus avoiding political constraints such as restrictions on movement. With our pilot training program at six universities, the number of qualified Palestinian IT professionals is already multiplying many times over. IT Centers of Excellence at two West Bank universities are about to open their doors to the community, providing training and opportunities for business development.

Campaign donations also helped schools and community centers offer new opportunities in sports, computer training, arts education and recreation to hundreds of children and adults in refugee camps and other underserved communities.

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SUMMER CAMP - NABILUS/PHILIP DAVIES

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For years, ANERA has been attending to the health care needs of the Palestinian people through a variety of medical programs and relief efforts. With campaign donations, this program grew rapidly. Your gifts helped to upgrade and expand the medical supplies program's operations, to provide increased emergency relief, and to improve health care facilities in the West Bank, Gaza and also, in Lebanon.

In the last five years, \$35 million in medical and food supplies – largely donated – have benefited thousands of impoverished families. A major new food program aimed at reducing the rate of child malnutrition in Gaza began this year. Major clinic and hospital upgrades mean that thousands of the most vulnerable Palestinians and Lebanese will have better care each year.

The campaign raised the seed money for an endowment fund to help ensure that ANERA's investment in people and peace in the Middle East can continue.

Your donations and support for the campaign have made this truly a year to celebrate even in the midst of the ongoing Middle East crisis. You have provided hope to so many. Thank you. ▶



Ard El Insan

Malnutrition has been growing at an alarming rate in the West Bank and Gaza since the beginning of the intifada. This is due primarily to the fact that as people lose their jobs, their ability to buy food diminishes. The greatest number of cases of acute and chronic malnutrition is in Gaza.

In an effort to slow the rate of malnutrition, ANERA looked to Ard El Insan (AEI), a leader in children's nutrition, to help begin the Milk for Preschoolers program in Gaza. This program provides more than 2,000 preschoolers in over 20 institutions one free box of milk and a package of nutritional biscuits to each child every school day.

Established in 1984, Ard El Insan primarily works in the areas of mother/child health and nutrition. It operates two community health centers serving rural and impoverished communities in Gaza City and Khan Younis. These centers provide health and nutrition education, teaching mothers how to cook healthy meals. AEI health care professionals also counsel nursing mothers who have trouble breastfeeding, anemic mothers and children, and help families treat and prevent childhood illnesses.

By working to reduce the infant mortality rate, AEI improves the nutritional health of children, offers counseling services to parents, and educates parents and other care providers. AEI also conducts research in nutrition and training for Palestinian health care professionals in the area. ▶

Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees

ANERA and the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (UPMRC), partners since 1990, have been helping to improve and expand the level of health care available to thousands of families in the West Bank and Gaza. ANERA supports the UPMRC through medical in-kind donations and grants that help them continue serving those who cannot afford health care.

Founded in 1979, UPMRC addresses health problems in virtually every sector of Palestinian society. As one of the largest health nongovernmental organizations in the Palestinian territories, UPMRC's national health programs emphasize prevention, education, and community participation. They focus on the needs of the most vulnerable members of Palestinian society: women, children, and the poor living in rural villages, refugee camps, and urban centers.

UPMRC's programs are wide-ranging and include:

- ▷ operating community health centers
- ▷ offering specialized health services, such as dental care, eye care, and counseling
- ▷ mobile clinics and outreach programs
- ▷ health education
- ▷ school health programs
- ▷ training for health care professionals
- ▷ emergency first aid
- ▷ rehabilitation for the disabled
- ▷ women's health
- ▷ well-baby and child health
- ▷ treatment of chronic diseases

UPMRC's dedicated staff includes physicians, community health workers, nurses, midwives, and other health professionals, many of whom volunteer their services.

Ultimately, UPMRC seeks to mobilize communities to take responsibility for their own development and empower individuals to take control over their own health. This holistic approach has allowed UPMRC to improve the lives of Palestinians for over twenty years. ▶



ST. LUKES HOSPITAL - NABLUS, WEST BANK/NANCY DINSMORE

AGRICULTURAL LOAN RECIPIENT - JERICHO, WEST BANK/HELEN GRANT



Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee

Established in 1983, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) has played a pioneering role in providing services in the agricultural sector and rural areas of the West Bank and Gaza. It focuses on agricultural extension, developing the skills of rural women, and building the capacity of civic organizations. PARC is unique in promoting women's clubs, women's business centers, and savings and credit associations for women.

Since the intifada, PARC has raised additional resources to carry out emergency projects focusing on income generation and job creation in the agriculture sector. Examples include agricultural road construction, retaining wall construction, and the rehabilitation of wells and cisterns. PARC also promotes household economies by supporting backyard gardens that provide families with their own source of food and potentially earn them extra income.

PARC has 130 staff members, ten sub-offices, and thousands of volunteers throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Since 1994, it has been a valued partner with ANERA in the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development Relief and Development Project. ANERA recently signed a second phase of the IFAD project valued at \$3 million and we look forward to continuing our partnership with PARC.

AL-JANA/Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts

Palestinian children living in refugee camps in Lebanon face overwhelming challenges: marginalization, discrimination, poverty, unemployment, lack of civil and legal rights, and deteriorating educational and health services. To help address these problems, ANERA supports AL-JANA/Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts through periodic grants.

AL-JANA works to impart skills, instill self-confidence and to motivate children and youth to assume an active role in re-establishing their own and their community's sense of self-worth and identity. Started in 1990, the center provides educational materials and non-formal learning programs to counteract the culturally impoverished environment of the camps. The goal is to inspire children to research and creatively present their ideas to their community and to other children around the world.

AL-JANA provides multimedia, literary, and other resources to educators and children, allowing them to produce videos, exhibit art, and publish books – all recording the stories of the children and their community's history. These projects enable children to voice their concerns, dreams, and hopes and develop the students' communication, research, and problem solving skills through artistic expression.

AL-JANA also showcases artistic products from both national and international sources. Many of the children have not traveled much outside the refugee camps. These exchanges allow the students to experience other children's cultures and work, reducing the feeling of isolation life in the camp can create.

AL-JANA is leading a campaign to develop child-friendly libraries in Palestinian camps and communities. The purpose is to encourage reading, writing, and reflection among youth and also to improve basic facilities to make reading enjoyable.



Remember to designate **ANERA** during your workplace giving campaigns this fall. Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) # is 0307.

ANERA also participates in most matching grants programs. Contact your employer for information about how you can increase the impact of your gift to ANERA!

Halhul Municipality

ANERA has enjoyed a long relationship with the Halhul Municipality and its surrounding West Bank communities. During the 1980's, ANERA provided the municipality a substantial grant to construct a modern, regional wholesale fruit and vegetable market that continues to generate income for local farmers and the municipality to this day. ANERA also worked with local cooperatives to help hundreds of farmers to plant parasite-resistant grapevines, olive and fruit seedlings, and reclaim marginalized land.

In 2001, with a grant from USAID, ANERA opened a sub-office in Halhul staffed by four professionals specializing in community development, engineering, and health care. They are engaged in a broad range of self-help projects to improve the physical infrastructure of six neighboring communities who, with a combined population of 20,000 persons, are among the most underserved in the West Bank. These are communities where poverty, isolation, and joblessness have been acute, but where an agricultural industry has the potential to grow through water resource development, wastewater reuse, and land reclamation.

Projects in the Halhul region include market access roads, water catchment systems, simple wastewater treatment units, spring improvement, and the construction and equipping of schools, youth clubs, and clinics. The impact of these projects is three-fold: upgrading basic infrastructure, improving social services, and generating job opportunities. They are critically needed and greatly appreciated by the residents of Halhul.

HALHUL FARMER'S MARKET - HALHUL, WEST BANK/ADNAN OBEIDAT



Gifts Made

IN HONOR OF

Taha Muhammad Ali
Charles Busada
Afif Abdulwahab
Loren J. Totusek
Phyllis Macon
Nelson Mandela
Charles Willig
Edmund Ristom
Anis Abbeyad
George Kappes
Samantha Runnion
HRH Princess of Wales
Louis C. Perry
Edmond Nouri
Doris Warrell
Natash
Bob and Judy Stoddard
Mr. Harold Lee
Mr. Al Tingley
Mrs. Dell Holsclaw
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Dr. Bill Gentry
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Mrs. Fourthy Cole
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William Ceccotti, Sr.
Dr. John H. Davis, one of ANERA's founders
Catherine N. Deverall
Clarice Bailey Robinson
Marie Sirgany
Rev. Father John Kloepfer
Dr. John W. McLoughlin
Ken Landis
Michael & Laila Redman
Noam Chomsky
Dr. Israel Shahak
Hafez Sami
Susan Higham Dahl
Robert E. Wallace
The Termotto Family
Mr. Kyle B. Wilson
Prime Minister Abbas
Condit N. Eddy
Mona & Kirk Campbell's Wedding
Dan Mercer's 60th Birthday
Dorothy Badway
Allam Ashab Family

ANERA's Monthly Peace Plan

Help people in need:

- ▷ have access to education, employment and health care.
- ▷ increase their prospects for a better future.

Help ANERA:

- ▷ reduce administrative costs.
- ▷ plan for future projects.

Help yourself:

- ▷ by giving incrementally.
- ▷ by making the world a better place for all of us.

Use the coupon or visit our website to start helping today!

Because of the cost of processing the transactions, we ask that all monthly transactions total \$5.00 or more. ▶

Yes, I want to join ANERA's Peace Plan

Here is my **monthly** gift of:

- \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other

I authorize the transfer of the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

I want these donations to be charged to my credit card. (MC or Visa only)

My account number is: _____ Exp. Date: _____



AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

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