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ANERA
Improving Lives in the Middle East

Since 1968

Picking up the Pieces



For many of us, January is a month that signifies a fresh start to pursue resolutions that will improve our lives in some way.

But for families in Gaza, making a new year's resolution is a luxury few can afford. Ambitions that many people consider normal are unfathomable to most people living there. Sure, Gazans would like to aspire to buying a home for their family, graduating from college and living a healthy life style.

Instead, their hopes are confined to the immediate demands of survival—putting shoes on their children's feet, finding food for the next meal, and getting water for drinking and cleaning.

Imagine entering a new year, every year, hoping that things won't get worse, believing that things couldn't get worse. And then they do.

Gaza residents entered 2009 with bombs falling. Our winter newsletter contained a centerfold with the smiling faces of our Gaza staff. It also featured a story from our communications officer, Rania

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ANERA News

The ANERA newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to providing development, health, education and employment programs to Palestinian communities and impoverished families throughout the Middle East.

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COVER PHOTO: A farmer in the northern region of Gaza whom ANERA has assisted by cleaning his farmland of plastic waste which was later recycled into irrigation pipes.

by the Numbers Gaza One Year Later

Percentage of farmland that remains damaged and destroyed: **33%**

Percentage of children under five suffering from malnutrition: **10%**

Number of jobs lost in the private sector: **120,000**

Approximate number of Gaza residents remaining without access to a water network: **10,000**

ANERA's work in Gaza, since January 2009...

Value of medicines, health care supplies, blankets, school kits, kitchen sets, hearing aids and sports equipment delivered into Gaza: **\$9 million +**

Value of food packets delivered to Gaza families: **\$1.62 million**

Number of personal hygiene kits delivered: **11,000**

Number of families connected to water networks: **412**

Number of families provided with 10 hens, a rooster, feed and a cage for egg-harvesting and income-generation: **450**

Answering the Call

One year ago, the call went out. We needed your support to respond to the crisis in Gaza and you were there.

ANERA is fortunate to have a group of thousands of faithful donors who give year in and year out. But during a crisis, the needs increase dramatically. Last January, through ANERA's website, at events and by many other means, people from around the world discovered ANERA—an effective organization they could trust. In a few short weeks, more than 1,000 new contributors were added to the ANERA family. New donors came from over 20 countries, from Iceland to South Africa to Australia, and from 45 states in America.

We pause now, one year after the most recent crisis, to thank those who responded when the need was greatest. We are grateful to the many hundreds of new ANERA donors who continue to give—the person who has become a monthly donor, the person who has increased their original gift five-fold, the person who has shared the ANERA story with others.

Too many times during the past 40 years, ANERA has sent out the call for help in a region beleaguered by wars and crises, but the strength of the work is our day-to-day commitment to projects that educate children, provide jobs, meet health care needs and expand opportunities.

To our donors, new and old, who make our work possible—**thank you.**

In Remembrance

It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of two valued members of ANERA's community.

Andrea Lorenz



Andrea Lorenz, a member of the ANERA Board of Directors since 2008, died at the age of 52 from cancer. Although her family ties are in Maryland, for the past few years Andrea resided in Calgary, Alberta and worked as journalist for *Oil Week*. A long-time ANERA supporter, she generously served as an ambassador for ANERA in the Canadian oil industry as well as with contacts in the Gulf. Andrea had a special concern for Palestinian children. During the last months of her life, she initiated a fundraising drive in Canada generating much-needed aid for Gaza. We will miss Andie's vivaciousness and compassion for others. We extend our deepest condolences to her parents, husband, young daughter and other friends and family.

Ahmad Hijazi



Ahmad Hijazi, a lawyer and judge, was a long-time ANERA board member and great supporter. As a judge, Ahmad represented the British court system in several Middle Eastern countries and was awarded an O.B.E. by Queen Elizabeth in 1961 for his work in building a modern legal system in Kuwait. He was ANERA's Gulf liaison on the Board and he secured substantial and steady donations. Ahmad died at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, four children, and six grandchildren.

Pieces

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Elhilou, describing the grim conditions they were experiencing. She wrote, "I look around and feel sad for Gaza's devastated landscape and economy, alienated population and disintegrating community. I see a lot of people who are hopeless and desperate."

Yet, when that newsletter went to print, the attacks had not begun!

Just a couple weeks later, Rania wrote the following diary entry on our website: "I have never seen anything even remotely like this in Gaza. We have experienced shelling before, even the ANERA office windows were blown in once. But now we live in constant fear and feel that every house is a potential target ... and, because Gaza is so small, we hear everything. We get no sleep because of the terror we feel."

Things had gotten worse than ever.

Since then, Gazans have been picking up the pieces. Despite the fact that building materials have not been

allowed into the region and some 80% of people rely on food aid, some improvements are visible.

And ANERA's community has been helping thousands of families to move beyond worries of simple survival. We have helped put food on tables, provided shoes and warm clothes for children, linked homes to reliable water sources, employed workers, delivered medicines and cleared farmland for harvesting.

As Gaza enters 2010, families there are starting another year hoping that things won't get worse. Most still cannot imagine the luxury of making a new year's resolution. Yet together, our community can renew our ongoing resolution to making a better life for families in Gaza, so they may live with the dignity we all deserve.

Here's to making 2010 a better year for families who need our help in Gaza.



30 West Bank Towns



On a recent visit to the West Bank, ANERA headquarters staff and Board Member Dr. Ilham Nasser went on a drive with ANERA's agricultural specialists Mazen Dabbagh and Naser Qadous.

They traveled from Nablus through the area surrounding Qalqilya and, in almost every town and village, Mazen and Naser pointed to ANERA's good work.

In fact, ANERA has made a difference in more than 30 towns just in that one part of the West Bank.

The projects on these pages, funded by the U.N. International Fund for Agricultural Development, are just a small sampling of that work. Thousands more projects throughout the West Bank are made possible by the support of ANERA's generous community of donors.



Jayus: ANERA built this youth club activities and t Saving and Credit Associat



Al Midya: ANERA installed two cisterns, supplying water to the village's five acres of olive and fig trees.

“These two cisterns are a blessing. We have around one hundred sheep that graze here. Yesterday, I drew some cistern water for them to drink.”

Abu Ghaleb, a farmer in Al Midya



Zawiya: At Zawiya Secondary Girls School, ANERA added a building with six classrooms.



Rafat: At Rafat Secondary School, ANERA added a second floor with classrooms, a laboratory and office, plus toilets, and a protecting balcony.





“Financial independence helps women break free from subordination. It encourages them to exercise their rights and become decision-makers.”

Nahed Jaber, treasurer of the WSCA

center for
the Women's
tion (WSCA).



Al Mudawwar: Built a preschool for 100 children.



Ras al Tira and Ad Dab'a: ANERA installed water networks, providing a sustainable source of clean water to the residents of two villages.



Dayr Balut: Built a center housing a health clinic and preschool for the community.

“We were all delighted with the construction of this road. It takes me less time and effort to reach my land now, by foot or car.”

Abu Malek, a farmer in Dayr Abu Mash'al

ANERA constructed 12 miles of new agriculture roads throughout the villages west of Ramallah, improving access to new agricultural lands and to essential community services in health and education.



The Kinds of In-Kind



ANERA delivers millions of dollars worth of donated medicine, health care supplies and essential products to Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan every year.

Working with dozens of humanitarian organizations donating goods from around the world, we deliver an amazing variety of items—from playground equipment to blood-storage bags—that make a real difference in people's lives. A sampling of just a few of the goods we have delivered recently illustrates the diversity of our in-kind work:

- In the West Bank village of Kobar, Ikhlas al Bargouthy was overjoyed when ANERA delivered her a new wheelchair. Often, she said, it was just too hard to leave her house with her old rusted one. The new wheelchair has changed her life. ANERA has delivered more than 80 wheelchairs to the West Bank in the past few months alone.
- Oncologists at the Khan Younis hospital in Gaza greatly appreciated ANERA's shipment of biopsy needles that allowed cancer patients to be treated in Gaza with a greater assurance of an accurate diagnosis. Without the needles, patients must find a way to leave the region and their families to seek treatment in Egypt or elsewhere.
- We are delivering sporting gear and clothes for PACES (the Palestine Association for Children's Encouragement of Sports) to dozens of West Bank sports clubs. Kids across the region will soon be able to enjoy playing soccer, basketball and other games.
- In Lebanon we are making a world of difference to at-risk patients with our delivery of \$444,463 worth of anti-retrovirals, and to hemophiliacs with our delivery of \$679,390 worth of "Factor VII" blood coagulants.
- In Jordan, we have distributed some \$40,000 worth of educational materials, hygiene supplies, newborn baby kits, woolen blankets and wheelchairs for Iraqi refugees who live in and around Amman.

Your generous donations to ANERA play a key role in ensuring that these vital supplies get to the families who need them most. It is one program that stretches your dollar further than almost any other. In fact, we're able to deliver \$125,000 worth of donated medical supplies for just one thousand dollars.

\$1,000 delivers \$125,000 in donated supplies.

We are grateful to the organizations who put their trust in ANERA to deliver their donated goods as we are ever grateful to our generous donors for making our work possible. Thank you!



Ikhlas in her new wheelchair

In-Kind Donor Organizations

2009 fiscal year

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
AmeriCares
Catholic Medical Mission Board
Direct Relief International
Genzyme
Grassroots International
Hope Haven International Industries
International Orthodox Christian Charities
Latter-day Saints Charities
Medical Teams International
MAP International
Mennonite Central Committee
National Arab American Medical Association
Palestine Children's Relief Fund
Physicians for Peace
Wheelchairs for Humanity



Gaza oncologist with his new biopsy needles

Are you a monthly donor?

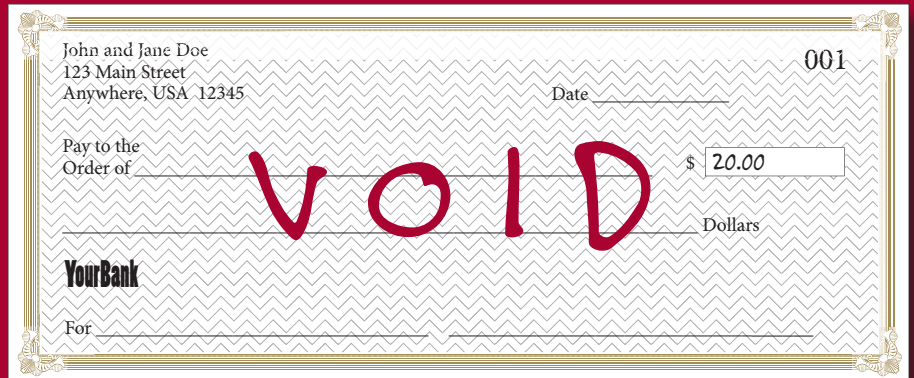
A small gift every month makes a BIG difference.

It's so easy.

Here's how —

1. Write an amount on a check.
2. Write VOID on the check.
3. Fill out the enclosed envelope and mail it in with your voided check.

Or visit www.anera.org/monthly to sign up online.



Our monthly donors are the foundation on which we maintain and grow our programs.

LEGACY



Leave a legacy.

Your legacy—and the future of thousands of families who need your help—will be secure.

You can help, even now.

Your bequest gift means ANERA will be here tomorrow, so people throughout the Middle East may live with the dignity we all deserve. A portion of bequests is contributed to ANERA's endowment.

For more information about making a gift from your estate, please email Mary Kate Chaath (mkchaath@anera.org) or Nancy Nye (nnye@anera.org), or call 202-842-2766.



from the desk of
Bill Corcoran, President



Dear Friend of ANERA:

We are beginning a year that I hope will be much better than the last. At the start of 2009 we feared for the lives of our staff and the families they serve throughout Gaza. Thankfully, after the violence ended, the care and dedication of donors like you helped transform our concern for their welfare into action. Our friends in Gaza remain ever grateful for your support.

In 2010, in Gaza and throughout the Middle East, ANERA will be delivering programs that will make a lasting difference. Teenagers in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon will have vocational training. Homes in the West Bank will be linked to clean, reliable water networks. Dozens of Gaza preschools will be rehabilitated. And Iraqi refugee children in Jordan will be given an opportunity for a better education.

I wish you the best in this new year. As always, thank you for making a better life possible for families who need our help. Thank you for all you do,

Bill Corcoran

■ ■ ■ ■ Picking up the Pieces