

25 years of service

ANERA Newsletter

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 101 Spring 1993



ONE BIG PRISON

ANERA's 25th Anniversary Campaign Stresses Aid to the People of Gaza

Since December of 1992, 20 children have been killed and over 250 children injured by live ammunition in clashes with the military in the Gaza Strip. The government of Israel deported 400 members of the Islamic group Hamas from Gaza in an effort to punish attacks on soldiers and settlers. In March the borders were closed indefinitely, preventing 40,000 Gazan workers from traveling to their jobs in Israel and earning income. Consumed by poverty and violence, the Palestinians of Gaza see their situation, and their lives, deteriorating rapidly.

When ANERA began working with Palestinian refugees after the 1967 war few predicted that the conditions of political and economic repression would endure, unresolved, for 25 years. But they do, and nowhere more painfully and cruelly than in the overcrowded towns and refugee camps of the Gaza Strip.

UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, HUNGER

For the next 12 months ANERA will focus on the people of Gaza and this cri-

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SEEKING HOPE FOR A LOST GENERATION

The Intifada's Toll on Palestinian Children

"I am sad, but I have to send my daughter away now. Her brother lost five years of his life to the uprising and he is ignorant, he can never regain them," laments a Palestinian colleague and father of three teenagers, in a recent visit to the West Bank. He echoes the concerns of parents all over the Occupied Territories—the last five years of violence and turmoil have had a crippling effect on their children's emotional and intellectual development.

The full impact of the scars left by the intifada on this generation of young adults is not yet fully understood, but their parents are bitter and full of anguish as their children struggle to catch up. Palestinians prize education and learning, traditionally seen as a ticket out of poverty. "My two sons have both been in administrative detention, one was held for more than six months," the man continues, noting that this is a common experience for most 14 to 16 year-old Palestinian males. "They go in already behind in their studies, and they come out talking about revolution. But they still don't read."

The Israelis closed schools in the West Bank for nearly a year in 1989 and for six more months in 1990, and closed most colleges and universities for several years, citing their roles as incubators for intifada fervor. Both Palestinians and the international community call this a particularly brutal form of collective punishment. Palestinian schools are still routinely closed during times of strife, and have frequently been targets of demonstrations, tear gas and military violence. Consequently, access to private schools which tend to be more secure and reliable, such as the ones ANERA

works with in East Jerusalem and Gaza, is in great demand.

With this in mind, we wanted to share some stories from our spring school reports with you. Two schools are located in East Jerusalem and offer full scholarships/room and board to poor or orphaned children from the surrounding areas. The school in Gaza is continually forced to innovate and adapt by sending teachers out into the community to circumvent the lengthy curfews and school closures. The fourth school in Beirut, Lebanon, endured the last 17 years of civil war, and has recently re-



opened two former school buildings for classes and vocational training.

Did you know that you can help children directly at these schools? For the past 20 years ANERA donors have helped children in need by providing partial scholarships through these schools. Again, please use the coupon on page 3 to receive more information.

"I believe the injury we received in education is deeper than the injury in the head by the bullet," said Anton Sansour, executive vice president of Bethlehem University. "It will take a long time to recover."

DAR EI - TIFL
Phone 283251 P O B 19377
JERUSALEM



مؤسسة
دار الطفل العربي
القدس
تأسست عام ١٩٦٧ - ١٩٤٨
تلفون : ٢٨٣٢٥١ - ص.ب ١٩٣٧٧
القدس

Dear Friends of ANERA,

Hi, my name is Hedaya. I came to Dar El-Tifl from Damascus, Syria when I was only six months old. My father was from Arrabah Village near the town of Jenin. He was a merchant who traveled between Palestine and Damascus. After the death of his first wife he married my mother, a young girl of 23 years. She was a widow with two children.

My mother got sick so my father took her to Damascus for medical care. While my mother was still in the hospital my father had a heart attack and died. Two weeks later my mother gave birth to me and a few days later she died. I have a picture of my father, but, have never seen my mother.



Hedaya El-Huseni with her adopted child.

As a Palestinian refugee, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Damascus placed me with an older woman who was an UNRWA employee. After six months, UNRWA thought it would be better to send me to Dar El-Tifl in East Jerusalem. There I spent 18 years in the boarding school.

I graduated from Dar El-Tifl and started working for the school. I began working for the administration office, later in the boarding section, then as an assistant to the boarding principal and later as the boarding principal. As an orphan I lived all my life at Dar El-Tifl, I can truly relate to the children. I can sense their feelings, needs and help solve their problems. There is a strong bond between us. They feel I am their older sister who is here to help them.

Dar El-Tifl has supported many Palestinian children who graduated and are now working in outstanding jobs helping others. Miss Hussein, founder of Dar El-Tifl, taught, encouraged and developed our personalities. She is our guiding angel. Without her help thousands of Palestinian children would have perished.

When I was 23 years old I met my family: sisters, brothers, uncles and aunts. Unfortunately, there was no emotional bond to tie me to them. They were nice to me but I feel that Dar El-Tifl and Miss Hussein are my "real" family. Occasionally, I visit my sister and brother from my mother's side of the family. My father's family is very large. I visit everyone that is living here but many are scattered all over the Arab countries. They lost track of each other like many Palestinian families.

Six months ago a baby girl was brought to Dar El-Tifl. The minute I saw the newly born baby, my heart cried out and I adopted her. We are living in harmony together, my daughter and I. She is beautiful. I am sure she will have all the love I had here at Dar El-Tifl. I am proud to be a child of Dar El-Tifl.

**SOCIETY FOR THE CARE
OF THE HANDICAPPED
IN THE GAZA STRIP**

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865656
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جمعية رعاية المعوقين

فبي قطاع غزة
ص. ب. ١٤٦ غزة
هاتف : ٨٦٥٧٩٩ - ٥١
٨٦٥٦٥٦
فاكس : ٨٦.٧٤٢ - ٩٧٢٥١



The two youngest children (pictured at far right) participate in the Mothers Home Care Early Intervention program. Two families (16 people) live in this two-room house. Every week they are excited to receive the teacher. In preparation for their tutorial, the family cleans the house.

Dear Friends of ANERA:

When you support the Society for the Care of the Handicapped in the Gaza Strip you are helping the Mothers Home Care Early Intervention program. The program serves 4000 handicapped and at-risk children. When the Society began in 1976, only ten handicapped children attended classes.

In the beginning the teachers were concerned because after spending eight rewarding hours at school, the children would go home to parents who did not know how to care for them.



Sabah Sliman Abu Amarah is 9 years old. She has been in the Mothers Home Care program for three years. Sabah's teacher is Jihad Issa (pictured at right) who works with deaf children. Sabah's parents (mother pictured at left) are both deaf and mute. Her father is a laborer. Of the five children in her family only one can speak.

They began the Home Care program with the goal of teaching the family of handicapped children how to take better care of them. The program trains the mother in basic early childhood education, nutrition, health and hygiene.

Through Home Care, the teacher goes to the student's home once a week for 90 minutes. Each student has his or her own curriculum. The teacher gives the mother and student the weekly lesson then, without help, they study on their own the rest of the week.

In the last three years, one third of our at-risk students entered regular schools. Students that may have been labeled handicapped and gone to schools for special education. The local communities work hard to make this program successful. The teachers live within a ten minute walk of all of their students, so even on strike days they are able to tutor the children.

YES, I want to join ANERA's 25th Anniversary Campaign

- ___ \$10,000 and above: Builders
- ___ \$ 2,500 to \$9,999: Benefactors
- ___ \$ 1,000 to \$2,499: Sponsors
- ___ \$500 to \$999: Sustainers
- ___ \$250 to \$499: Creators
- ___ Please send me more information about the 25th Anniversary Campaign.

Contributions of \$250 or above will be recognized by category in ANERA's Annual Report (FY94) and listed in an album of contributors to be placed in Jerusalem and Gaza at the conclusion of the 25th Anniversary Campaign.

In addition, all contributors of \$500 and above will receive a 25th Anniversary plate of traditional Jerusalem pottery.

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Scholarship:

I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship (\$100 per child) for a child in:

- The Gaza Strip
- Beirut, Lebanon
- East Jerusalem
- Wherever the need is greatest

Sponsors receive a photo of the child and a letter from the school during the year.

RAWDAT EL-ZUHUR

P. O. Box 19796 - Jerusalem

Tel. 02 - 282062

Dear Friends of ANERA,



روضة الزهور
ص.ب ١٩٧٩٦ - القدس

تلفون ٠٢ - ٢٨٢٠٦٢

"Rawdat El-Zuhur was born out of faith, hope and love. We all have a great need not only to receive of these but also to GIVE them."—Miss Elizabeth Nasir

Miss Nasir established Rawdat El-Zuhur—The House of Flowers—in 1952, rescuing 50 young girls orphaned by the war of 1948. At first, the children learned practical skills. As years went by, Miss Nasir saw the need to expand, and teach reading, writing and arithmetic.

Now Rawdat El-Zuhur teaches 270 boys and girls through the sixth grade. And it continues to grow. Those of you who supported Rawdat El-Zuhur in 1991 helped build a second floor on the school. This gave them more space so each class has its own room. Now the children have a multi-purpose room to put on skits, show movies, have special events and form new programs.

A PASSPORT TO LEARNING:

• Now that the second floor is built, there is room for a library. To encourage children to read, the staff created a passport library program. Each child receives a passport with empty pages. The children get a stamp for every book they read and when the passport is full, they get a new one. The children are excited about the program and want to read more so they can get a new passport.

DAY OF TEACHERS:

• One day last Spring, the sixth graders became teachers of the younger students and the adult teachers had a free day. The students wrote lesson plans as if they were teachers. They taught math, reading and sang some songs. The younger children behaved and were happy to have new teachers for the day. The sixth graders enjoyed teaching, but, the next day during their debating class they expressed how tiring it is. Hopefully this will make them better students now that they know how hard it is to discipline students.

Yours Sincerely,
Samia Khoury
President



Mahmoud Sharif teaches the fifth grade Arabic class. It's been a long day.



Nora Harthie and Said Assali teach the nursery school class a new song.



Ali Kalambo teaches the nursery school class.



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Dear Friends of ANERA,

We are trying to catch-up with the compounding social needs of our country caused by the 17-year war we endured. This year, we have over 1500 physically, sensory, mentally and socially disadvantaged students who benefit from our 16 programs.

Look how we are growing, in terms of quality and diversity of services. We're adding extra-curricular activities to develop the true meaning of rehabilitation.

Together, dear ANERA friends, we are confident to go a long way.

Nadeem Shwayri
Director, Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Center
Beirut, Lebanon



A new theater! The hidden artistic talents of people labeled as mentally retarded are amazing. The theater unveils their inner gifts, often pushed down by their environment. Hundreds of spectators applauded the children on opening night, November 12, 1992. We had a Christmas play and now they are preparing a presentation for Teacher's Day, March 9.



Field trips—Middle East Airlines hosted our young children with cerebral palsy for three days in a row. The airline staff insisted on pushing the wheelchairs, and guiding the children through the hangars. They boarded a plane, were served a snack and taken one by one to the cockpit.



Independence Day—wheelchair users paraded in a procession, marching to lively music.

The Village (our shelter compound) greenhouses are starting to produce. The children feel proud when they pick ripe vegetables from vines they planted themselves! The Village began a publication, called Our Village, in which visitors are interviewed. One time a visiting minister had to answer sensitive and honest questions asked by one of our cerebral palsy "correspondents." Some of the questions were embarrassing for him, but it encourages outreach with our students.



PRISON, (Continued from page 1)
sis as part of our 25th Anniversary Campaign to raise an additional \$250,000 dollars in aid. Through the Gaza Emergency Fund, we will make a real difference in helping families survive. ANERA already supports the efforts of Palestinian community groups to create self-help projects, jobs and income. We want to be able to double the number of families assisted by these agencies—such as cooperatives that help market farmers' produce and agencies that make small loans to women for home-based businesses—women supporting families

whose husbands are disabled, jailed or dead. We will help local hospitals and clinics.

CREATE MORE JOBS AND INCREASE INCOMES IN THE COMING YEAR

We are seeking minimum donations of \$250 to enable us to double our assistance and effectiveness in the coming year. We will give special recognition and will report on the progress of the campaign to those contributing to the Gaza Emergency Fund. If you would like more information, please write to us using the coupon on page 3, or call Nina Dodge at (202) 347-2558.

ANERA has received gifts...

In Honor of:

Dr. and Mrs. Mukhtar and Saadat Al-Sharif's 40th anniversary ■ Frederick A. Chmiel ■ Ernest Ferris ■ Jesus Christ ■ Helen Danielson's birthday ■ my husband, Dr. Alan Gilbert ■ the Monser family ■ Ms. Bedelia Orlando's father ■ Evelyn Sanders ■ Sarah Schwartz ■ Peter Steubig ■ Nancy Withington ■ Palestinian and Lebanese children ■ peace and justice for all ■ a friend ■ rebuilding the American University of Beirut bell tower

In Memory of:

Musa Alami ■ Simon and Arlette Atallah ■ Vess G. Chigas ■ Mrs. Leo Coerver's sister ■ Dr. John Davis ■ Domenica DeFano ■ Maya De Montandouin ■ Aris M. Ehardt ■ Mary Eid ■ Dr. Nabih Amin Faris ■ Barbara Ann Mishriki ■ Leslie E. Richardson ■ Donald and Frances Roberts ■ Rev. Bruce E. Schein ■ Mrs. Frank J. Scorlock ■ Masada D. Sobeh ■ Perle Speakman ■ Olive and Harry Snyder ■ Farid and Theodora Tabri ■ George Wahbe ■ Evan M. Wilson

Condolences to the family of Mr. Adib B. Geadah and thanks to those who made contributions to Dar Altoufoula in his memory.

ANERA

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