This fall the world witnessed an historic event when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Israeli-PLO Accords. These two leaders should be commended along with the many people both in and out of the government who have been working for peace between the Arabs and Israelis. But while these accords are a major first step—a singular breakthrough, if you will—there is much more to do.

On the Palestinian-Israeli front, the accords have to be translated into tangible projects which bring change on the ground. Eventually, the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip must be negotiated. Regionally, the world now wants to see peaceful relations between Israel and the balance of the Arab states: Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. It should be remembered that Egypt courageously made peace with Israel in 1979.

**SEPTMBER 13, 1993**

**A Momentous Beginning**

**NOW COMES THE HARD PART**

In the midst of this, there is much work for ANERA. Thanks to our long-time friends and supporters, ANERA, through its offices in Jerusalem and Gaza, has been supporting successful, grassroots development projects in the Middle East for 25 years. We stand ready with personnel, technical expertise and a track record of implementing successful projects on the ground to help in any expanded capacity that may be needed.

But successful translation of the accords into true peace will depend on many factors. The World Bank has estimated that redeveloping the Territories will need up to $3 billion dollars in loans and investment. This money, when and if it comes, must be spent wisely in order to benefit the greatest number of people and create true economic development in a democratic, civil society. ANERA encourages all of the people now engaged in nation-building: the PLO, local institutions, donors, investors and the people of Palestine to look to the Palestinian NGO (non-governmental organization) community for successful models in how to

(Con't. on page 4)

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**ANERA Extends Scholarship Program to New School in Gaza**

In August of 1993, ANERA began a new scholarship-partnership project with the Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children, located in the heart of Gaza City, in the impoverished Gaza Strip. Appropriately, Atfaluna was accepted into the scholarship program just prior to the historic signing of the PLO-Israeli Peace Accord.

In the spirit of peace and economic development inspired by the “Gaza-Jericho first” plan, ANERA is proud to be working with yet another Gazan institution which improves lives and provides opportunities for the poorest people in the new Palestinian state.

As long-time ANERA supporters know, and as is now acknowledged worldwide, the social, economic and basic physical conditions in Gaza are horrible. Although the immediate reaction to the accords was celebration, Atfaluna’s teachers and staff report that many people in Gaza are only “cautiously optimistic.” Reconciliation and reconstruction here may be the most problematic in all of Palestine.

With over 5,000 inhabitants per kilometer, the Gaza Strip is the most densely populated area in the world. The physical infrastructure of the city—the availability of paved roads, sewers and clean water—has deteriorated drastically since Israel occupied the region in 1967. Over 50% of the work force is unemployed in a

(Con't. on page 3)
Very Dear Friends of ANERA,

I’ve wondered a lot just how to start my first letter to you. Please forgive me if it’s a bit long. You see, I want so very much that you understand. So, perhaps the best way is to take it straight from the heart, because, after all, that’s really what Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children is all about ... It’s about caring and helping, and lots of hearts big enough to find a place for a child in need—a disabled and poor child who desperately needs someone in his corner to fight for him and his rights so that he, too, may have his chance in life.

Atfaluna Center joyfully opened its doors in May, 1992, as the first and only school for deaf children in the Gaza Strip, population: 800,000. The people of Gaza owe a great debt of gratitude to ANERA who had the vision and who funded and provided technical assistance to train the first-ever workforce of deaf education teachers in the Gaza Strip. Getting things going, quite frankly, was tough and sometimes tearful. With $7,000 donated from a Japanese friend, and a great deal of determination, our newly formed women’s society set up school in a small rented house with tables and chairs borrowed from the local YMCA and a staff of seven volunteer teachers. We tried our best to make it look like a school. It kept looking like a house.

Student selection was an agonizing affair. Only 28 children were to be accepted, but scores of pleading mothers confronted us with school-uniform-clad youngsters in tow all ready to start school. I think it was those brand new school bags that really got to me! We were blamed, shouted at, bribed with live chickens and oranges, and even threatened when the majority of parents were told that their children would have to be put on the waiting list. But we understood the anger and the injustice of it all. After all, had we not understood, Atfaluna would never have come into being. We also knew that after those first few day that there was no going back.

The first month was chaotic, especially when dealing with the 3-to-5 year-olds. Nothing we had planned was working. The children were uncontrollable and cried almost all of the time. Except for Hikmet whose father is deaf, the children had no concept of language at all, or even “home” signs. There was hardly any way to communicate. Our attempts to hug and soothe were met with limp or stiff little bodies refusing to be picked up or cuddled.

And then one day, quite magically, the children stopped crying. Perhaps it was when they began to understand that they were not alone in that world of almost absolute silence; someone was going to help them understand. From then on, it was uphill all the way. Traces of smiles began to appear ... life was starting to look pretty good after all. All those lines and scribbles on paper were taking on some meaning and every new day held the promise of exciting discoveries as teachers struggled to communicate and give meaning to language. Language-wise, the 12-year-old ranked with hearing 3-year-olds. No single child had ever been to school before! Learning about colors was particularly exciting — and messy — as the children cut out countless red and green objects from magazines and pasted them on paper. My red blouse caused quite a stir as I made my way through the classrooms, little hands hastening to sign “woman blouse red.” Communication was picking up at home, too, as the children themselves taught siblings and parents to sign.

As Palestinian flags now fly freely for the first time in the Gaza Strip, our hearts are full of hope for the promise of peace and the end to so much suffering. A visitor once said that Atfaluna was a “light of hope” amongst all the turmoil and suffering in the Gaza Strip. With your help, that light of hope can shine a lot brighter.

Our children thank you and send you this message:

Very truly yours,
Geraldine Shawwa, President
Community Child Development Society - Atfaluna Center

(Ask a deaf friend)
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
(continued from page 1)

population of over 800,000.

But amidst all of the impoverishment and despair, there are thousands of suc-
cessful and inspirational examples of people succeeding in the face of this 
overwhelming adversity. The Atlafuna Center for Deaf Children is one such suc-
cess story.

Founded in 1991 by Gerry Shawwa, 
Atlafuna is the first school totally devot-
ed to the special educational needs of 
deaf children in Gaza. In the past, these 
children would receive no special educa-
tion at all, being left to live in silence and 
isolation. Today, Atlafuna, with its staff 
of 19 (14 of whom are teachers trained in 
an ANERA-funded training course), 
serves 70 profoundly deaf children. For 
the estimated 10,000 hearing-impaired 
children in Gaza, Atlafuna is perhaps 
their only chance at realizing a normal 
and productive future.

Due to overwhelming needs in Gaza, 
and the school's exceptional track-record 
and community-based approach to pro-
viding social services, ANERA proudly 
welcomed Atlafuna into its scholarship 
family in August 1993. Now, in addition 
to supporting students at the Sun Day 
Care Center also located in Gaza, Rawdat
El-Zuhur and Dar El-Tifl schools in East 
Jerusalem, and Al-Kaafat in Beirut, 
ANERA donors will also provide schol-
arships for needy deaf children at 
Atlafuna. This support will make a gen-
une difference in the lives of these chil-
dren.

In a recent letter, Atlafuna's founder 
Gerry Shawwa expressed her thanks to 
ANERA donors for making the center 
possible. (See page 2).

For more information about Atlafuna, 
or other scholarship schools in East 
Jerusalem, Gaza or Beirut, Lebanon, 
contact: Traci Little, ANERA Scholarship 
Director, 202-347-2558.

Thank you, ANERA Donors

Atlafuna is an Arabic word which means "our children." To quote my Oxford, 
"our" is defined as "belonging to us." So, 
as you can see, we had you very much in 
mind when naming our school.

Well, things have changed a lot over 
this past year-and-a-half. Atlafuna now 
serves 60 profoundly deaf children and has 
a salaried staff of 19. The children now 
have little buddies and first grade crushes 
and little hands now fluently relate all sorts 
of events and school gossip. We have 
moved to a bigger facility which can ac-
commodate up to 100 children. But we des-
perately need finances before we can 
increase our enrollment. Some 300 children 
fill our waiting list. We are helping many 
community-based rehabilitation centers to 
open classrooms for the deaf in various 
quarters in Gaza City and in outlying vil-
lages and refugee camps. This should help 
a lot.

Through the generous help of ANERA 
we are training audiometrists and hearing-
aid repair technicians and will be setting 
up a basic audiology unit and hearing-aid 
repair workshop this year. These most 
vital services have never before been 
available in the Gaza Strip.

Gerry Shawwa

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

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

Contributions of $250 or more 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 and 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:

[ ] Palestinian child
[ ] Lebanese child
[ ] Wherever the need is greatest

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

G4.7
to design and implement effective, accountable development projects (more about this in our next newsletter.)

25 YEARS OF SERVICE—UNFORTUNATELY

The West Bank and Gaza Strip enjoy a rich mosaic of private organizations which has been created over the years to provide essential services for their society: popular committees, women's unions, farmer's cooperatives, local charities, the list is extensive. Development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while hindered, crippled and oppressed for the past 25 years, is not starting from scratch. Dedicated people and organizations do exist to carry out this vision. ANERA wishes them well, and stands ready to help, on the long road ahead.

ANERA has received gifts...

In Honor of:
Merle Thorpe, President, Foundation for Middle East Peace ■ Arij Waled Bitar ■ Jesus Christ ■ Thomas D. Collier ■ Dr. Louis Hamada ■ Ms. Elinor B. Jacobs ■ Phillip McCracken ■ new baby Sherif ■ Eileen Trofa ■ Ms. Rev. Georgia Villegas ■ The Peace Process

In Memory of
Domenica Defano ■ Alfred Ellis ■ J.R. Enloe ■ Mr. & Mrs. Simon Estfan ■ Russell Ricker ■ Sadie Shiner ■ Dorthy Whalen ■ my son, Gene Yatlee

A profound thanks from ANERA for their help this year to:
Tom Benjamin ■ Special thanks to William Carter for generously donating his time, skills and photographs taken during his travels in the West Bank and Gaza Strip ■ Ulla Morris-Carter ■ Saied Elatab/ Middle East Photo ■ Mike Kiernan ■ Madge Pendleton ■ Nicholas Steedman

Give the Gift of Knowledge

This holiday season give a truly meaningful gift to a special friend or loved one—a scholarship for a hopeful child. If you make a $100 scholarship donation to ANERA as a gift before December 10, 1993, we will send the recipient a holiday card announcing your gift and describing our program. They will also receive exciting and informative letters from the school and a photo of a child being helped.

Give a gift that lasts forever—the gift of knowledge.
AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID
25 Years of Service in the Middle East

PROJECT ACTIVITY 1993

In fiscal year 1993 (extending from June 1, 1992 through May 31, 1993), ANERA and its AMER Medical Division gave development assistance and relief aid totalling $4,466,814 to local institutions providing economic and community development, education and health services, assistance for the poor and indigent, and related technical assistance and training to the Palestinians, Lebanese, and other civilians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Israel.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Women’s Service Organizations
Mother/child health care, food for the needy, literacy programs, vocational training for women and job creation. Arab Women’s Union (Tulkarem, West Bank), Bir Zeit Women’s Charitable Society (Bir Zeit, WB), Jericho Women’s Charitable Society (Jericho, WB), Women’s Cooperative for Sewing and Handicrafts (Gaza City, Gaza), YWCA (Jericho, WB). $82,000

Urban Economic Projects
Construction of slaughterhouse, wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable markets, and light industrial complexes as well as creating the management capability to construct a sewage system. The projects are with the municipalities of Anabta, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Salfit, and Tulkarem in the West Bank and Gaza City, Khan Younis, and Jabalia in the Gaza Strip. $1,256,710

Revolving Loan Funds
Revolving loan funds to assist Palestinian and Lebanese farmers, artisans, and shopkeepers to generate employment. Beit Lahia Agricultural Cooperative (Beit Lahia, Gaza), Hebron Marketing Cooperative (Hebron, West Bank), Jenin Agricultural Cooperative (Jenin, WB), Khan Younis Agricultural Cooperative (Khan Younis, Gaza), Qalqilia Agricultural Cooperative (Qalqilia, WB), Ramallah Agricultural Cooperative (Ramallah, WB), Tulkarem Agricultural Cooperative (Tulkarem, WB) $418,000

Land Improvement, Irrigation and Mechanization for Agriculture
Partial funding to establish mechanized units and irrigation systems to cultivate or reclaim land. Projects are located in Al-Auja, Beit Illu, Der Ghassanah, Kufir Neimeh, Majd al-Ba’a, Marj Najeh, Al-Najah, Ramallah and Salam in the West Bank and Beit Hacoon and Rafah in the Gaza Strip. $93,400

Grassroots Community Organizations
Libraries, clinics, literacy programs, vocational and leadership training, assistance to handicapped and orphans, relief for the poor and employment generation. Anata Health Cooperative (Anata, West Bank), Artas Charitable Society (Artas, WB), Bir Zeit University (Bir Zeit, WB), Community Child Development Society (Gaza City, Gaza), Crippled Children Center (Jerusalem), Dar Shyoukh (Beit Jala, WB), Dheisheh Refugee Camp Committee (Bethlehem, WB), Galilee Society for Health Research and Services (Rama, Galilee), Gaza Literacy Group, Gaza Union of Citrus Producers (Gaza City, Gaza), Hamlet al-Tib (Bethlehem, WB), In’Ash al-Qarya (Abu Dis, WB), Islamic Benevolent Society (Beit Sahour, WB), Jenin Charitable Society (Jenin, WB), Palestine Counselling Center (Jerusalem), Rafah Rehabilitation Center (Rafah, Gaza), Sheltered Workshop for the Blind (Jerusalem), Tawfiq Fishing Cooperative (Gaza City, Gaza), Touba Charitable Society for the Handicapped (Touba, West Bank), YMCA (Gaza). $231,000

Agricultural Produce Processing, Marketing and Services
Partial funding to assist cooperatives to improve their ability to process foodstuff and market produce as well as the establishment of mobile veterinary clinics. Beit Lahia Agricultural Marketing Cooperative (Beit Lahia, Gaza), Deir Sharaf Olive Press Cooperative (Deir Sharaf, West Bank), Gaba Livestock Cooperative (Gaza City, Gaza), Hebron Livestock Co-operative (Hebron, WB), Jalazone Cooperative Bakery (Jalazone, WB), Jericho Agricultural Cooperative (Jericho, WB), Nablus Agricultural Cooperative (Nablus, WB), Nahda Livestock Cooperative (Nahda, WB), Palestinian-European Chamber of Commerce (Jerusalem), Tulkarem Agricultural Cooperative (Tulkarem, WB), Tulkarem Livestock Cooperative (Tulkarem, WB). $676,304

TOTAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT $2,757,414

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT —PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROJECTS— IS AN INVESTMENT IN PEACE.
TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

Provision of training and consultants in agriculture, job creation, credit, health and education.

TOTAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE $262,783

EDUCATION

Child Scholarships
Scholarships for orphaned, destitute and handicapped children. Dar El Tifl (Jerusalem), Al-Kafa‘at Rehabilitation Institute (Beirut, Lebanon), Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem), Society for the Care of the Handicapped Children (Gaza City, Gaza). $139,387

Youth Programs, Schools and Universities
Equipment, expertise, and scholarships for educational development. Arab Women’s Society (Jerusalem), Bethlehem University (Bethlehem, West Bank), Bir Zeit University (Bir Zeit, WB), Center for Applied Research in Education (Jerusalem), Hebron Union of University Graduates, Hebron University, Hebron Young Women’s Society (Hebron, WB), Islamic Industrial Orphanage (Abu-Dis, WB), Israeli-Palestinian Center for Research and Information (Jerusalem), Jeel al-Amal (Bethany, WB), Union of Charitable Societies (Hebron, WB), Women’s Studies Center (Jerusalem). $310,500

TOTAL EDUCATION $449,887

HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics and Health Training
Partial assistance for upgrading clinics’ ability to deliver basic health services. Anata Health Cooperative (Anata, West Bank), Arab Colleges of Medical Professions (El-Bireh, WB), Arab Health Center (Jerusalem), Beit Sahour Health Insurance Cooperative (Beit Sahour, WB), Bethlehem Handicrafts Workshop (Bethlehem, WB), Blood Bank Society (Gaza City, Gaza), Egyptian Red Crescent (via American Red Cross), Jenin Patient’s Friends Society (Jenin, WB), Nablus Patient’s Friends Society (Nablus, WB), National Society for Mental Health (Ramallah, WB), Qalqilia Zakat Committee (Qalqilia, WB), Red Crescent Society (Nablus, WB), St. Luke’s Hospital (West Bank), Silwan Benevolent Society (Silwan, WB), Singel Clinic (Singel, WB), Sour Bahar Clinic (Sour Bahar, WB). $577,987

Hospitals
Hospital services for Palestinians. Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza City, Gaza), Patient’s Friends Society (Hebron, West Bank). $87,625

TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES $665,612

IN-KIND MATERIALS: PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Medicine and health material for hospitals and clinics. Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza City, Gaza), American University Hospital (Beirut, Lebanon), Lebanese Red Cross. $301,618

Shipping Costs $29,500

TOTAL IN-KIND $331,118

TOTAL $4,466,814

FINANCIAL REVIEW 1993

Anera is grateful for the generous donations received this year from individuals, organizations, corporations, foundations and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The chart at right represents Anera's expenditures in fiscal year 1993, which total $5,951,792. A copy of Anera's FY 1993 annual report and audit may be obtained by contacting the Anera office.

Anera is proud that less than 10% of its income was needed for fundraising and management. This is an excellent record among charitable organizations and is made possible by the generosity of Anera donors and the efficiency of the Anera staff.

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