

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

Newsletter

Number 126 Fall 1999

Annual Board Dinner — The Best Ever

ANERA's Annual Board Dinner on September 18 in Washington, D.C. was a tremendous success. The 165 guests, the most ever to attend, included supporters who have given \$250 or more towards our Annual Fund, Board members and ANERA staff. The theme of this year's dinner was "Into the Year 2000: Investing in People and Peace."

Friends, supporters, board members, and staff engaged in animated conversation at a reception where a
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2000 Annual Fund Begins!

We have launched ANERA's fiscal year 2000 Annual Fund (June '99 through May '00) to match last year's record \$1.1 million!

Thanks to your wonderful support, we can meet this goal and expand ANERA's projects in these three areas of great importance:

- ▶ creating new educational and training opportunities for children and youth
- ▶ expanding micro-loan funds to increase family incomes
- ▶ increasing access to primary health care for families, particularly women and children.

Together we can make this year another tremendous success, helping hundreds of communities in need. ■

Bethlehem's Promise

Through the chaotic assembly of Bethlehem's souvenir shops, vegetable stands, and hotels, I struggle to imagine the serene manger scene the city has come to represent. With donations of \$42 million pledged by over 36 donor countries, the city of Bethlehem is in the midst of the biggest overhaul in its history. Nearly every major thoroughfare and tourist site is slated for improvement ranging from water lines and road rehabilitation to the new "Millennium Shopping Mall" and bus station. By the year 2000, Bethlehem hopes to re-emerge from clouds of dust with dependable water systems, networked waste disposal and smooth roads complete with the controversial installment of Bethlehem's first traffic lights.

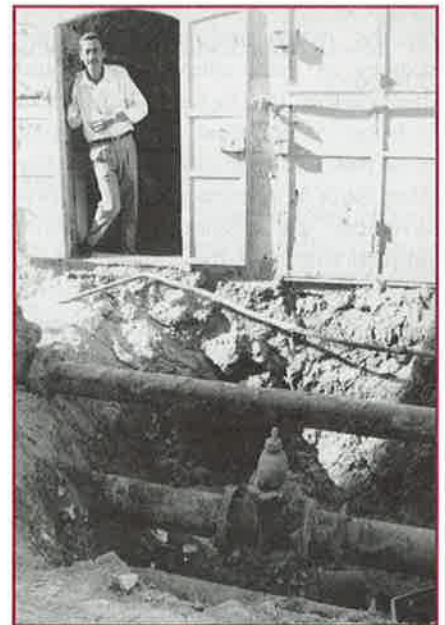
These concurrent improvements, however, bring growing pains. Wadi'a, whose grandfather opened the family's electrical supplies shop 45 years ago, is concerned. His shop is adjacent to Manger Square on the main market street, where cars once passed to enter the parking lot for the Nativity Church. The square was closed to traffic last summer when contractors initiated its transformation into a pedestrian courtyard. The stoppage of traffic combined with the water rehabilitation project being implemented directly in front of his storefront drove customers away. Wadi'a and others like him have had to close their shops and seek work, legal or illegally, in Jerusalem.

Another growing pain is the permanent Bethlehem-Jerusalem checkpoint. Palestinians living in the south-

ern part of the West Bank face the possibility of a harsher permit and closure policy aimed at controlling the daily influx of Palestinian workers into Israeli-controlled Jerusalem. The yearly wages of Bethlehem area residents working in Israel account for a notable percentage of the personal income to the area. This income would likely decrease if tougher restrictions are placed on Palestinian travel.

Bethlehem, like all Palestinian cities and villages, is trying to move forward economically and socially despite the many economic disadvantages and political challenges they face. It is essential that Bethlehem and

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The sidewalk once leading to Wadi'a's electrical shop now provides access to crews rehabilitating Bethlehem's major water and sewage pipes.



A new postage stamp from the Palestinian Authority portrays the traditional image of Bethlehem, which is now home to over 22,000 people.

communities like it build solid foundations based on local industry and business, strong social service providers, and high quality schools and vocational training.

Although the negative impact of closures and travel restrictions continues, the people of Bethlehem, and indeed all Palestinians, are finding ways to transcend these barriers. Alongside Palestinians, ANERA is working hard to find solutions whether through increasing the abilities of traditional, local institutions or through groundbreaking initiatives in information technology that enable Palestinian programmers to work via the internet.

In many local and international forums, Bethlehem residents have served as prominent spokespersons for the needs and special circumstances of local municipalities and their people. The fact that Bethlehem is home to the first wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable market in the West Bank is one example of its perseverance and ability to undertake projects that raise the standard of living for all its residents. Bethlehem's promise lies in its being a leading example of successful and comprehensive social and economic development. ■

— Helen Grant

Helen Grant is an intern in ANERA's Jerusalem office through the Common Global Ministries Board of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Church (Disciples of Church) and the United Church Board for World Ministries, United Church of Christ. She currently lives in Bethlehem, Palestine.

slide presentation of the recent ANERA Leadership Tour of West Bank and Gaza was available for them to view.

Recognizing their service to peoples of the Middle East through decades of support to ANERA, Steve Skancke, ANERA Board Chair, presented beautiful Palestinian ceramic plates to honor Mr. and Mrs. Said Shaheen and Mr. Timothy Taylor, Managing Trustee, Clark Charitable Trust. For twenty years the Shaheens' wonderful contributions have extended to a wide range of projects, particularly our Scholarship Program. Mr. Shaheen served on ANERA's board from 1980 to 1986. Mr. Taylor has been an

extremely generous donor to ANERA since 1986. Under his trusteeship, the Clark Charitable Trust has broadly supported ANERA's projects and most recently has been a major contributor to the Gaza Women's Loan Fund.

Tom Neu, ANERA's Middle East Representative, gave an excellent slide presentation highlighting ANERA's diverse projects in micro-enterprise, information technology, health and social services, water resources, and community development. Through personal case studies, he brought to life ANERA's impressive accomplishments and direct impact individuals and families. ■

To see more photos from this celebration visit www.anera.org.



Alfonso Wright

(L to R) Steve Skancke (ANERA's Board Chair), Tim Taylor (Managing Trustee of Clark Charitable Trust, Josephine Khan (family member of Mrs. & Mrs. Said Shaheen) and Peter Gubser (ANERA's President) pose with the Palestinian plates which recognize the honorees' contributions to ANERA.

In Honor of...

My mother - Jean Edson Atallah ■ Persis Bliss ■ Munir Daoud ■ John Davis ■ Sabina and Ellen Halaby ■ Ned W. Handy ■ in memory of King Hussein and in honor of Queen Noor ■ Mr. Ishaq ■ Robert E. Marsh ■ Clarice Bailey Robinson ■ in memory of the victims of the Sabra and Shatila massacres ■ Charlotte Stabile

ANERA in Bethlehem & Jerusalem

ANERA has worked with the people of the Jerusalem and Bethlehem areas on a variety of projects including farm mechanization, land reclamation, spring and irrigation canal rehabilitation, livestock improvement, and light industrial zone construction. Through the generosity of its donors, ANERA provides financial support for several organizations which provide health care and vocational opportunities for people whose needs are not being met.

▶ **The Four Homes of Mercy** (Jerusalem, Bethany and Beit Jala) provides residential care to elderly individuals, pregnant women, and children with physical handicaps. They also manage a nursing education program from which many of their staff members have graduated.

▶ **At the Peace Center for the Blind** (Jerusalem) physically disabled women receive academic instruction and vocational training. Some women reside at the center, and others are day students living in villages around Jerusalem.

▶ **Workshops for the Blind** (Bethlehem) employs visually disabled men to manufacture a variety of brooms which are sold in local markets. Through this employment men earn an income to help support their families as well as participate in the local economy.

▶ Thanks in part to ANERA, the **Young Women's Christian Association** (Jerusalem) is now offering an aerobics and fitness program twice a week to women from the surrounding area. Unlike men, women's access to physical training and exercise facilities is not readily available. ■



Doris Warrell

Munir (above) makes about 30 brooms per day at the Workshops for the Blind.

Your Legacy

Through a bequest in your will or trust, you can extend your support for Palestinians and Lebanese in need and the worthy institutions that help them, beyond your lifetime. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. *Please use ANERA's full name "American Near East Refugee Aid" in your bequest documents, followed by our address.* For information on the ANERA Legacy Society or bequests to ANERA, please contact Nina Dodge at (202) 347-2558. ■



You can help a young Middle Eastern student receive an education.

Contact Doris at (202) 347-2558 or use the coupon below today.



Dear El-Tijf

YES, I want to help the people of the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon!

I want to give:

- \$200 for General Programs
- \$175 Gaza/West Bank Fund
- \$100 Lebanon Relief
- \$75 A scholarship (\$175 each) for a child:
- \$50 at the school with the Greatest Need
- \$35 in Lebanon
- Other in West Bank/Jerusalem
- in Gaza

I have remembered ANERA in my will.

Scholarship Donors receive a student's photo and letters from their school.

I want to support ANERA's work by being a:

- Founder:** \$10,000 or above
- Builder:** \$5,000 to \$9,999
- Benefactor:** \$2,500 to \$4,999
- Sponsor:** \$1,000 to \$2,499
- Sustainer:** \$500 to \$999
- Creator:** \$250 to \$499

Donors giving \$250 or more to this year's Annual Fund will be recognized by category in ANERA's 2000 Annual Report.

Please charge to my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Your donation is tax-deductible.

Making Peace...Every Month

Through our monthly giving program, **ANERA's Peace Plan**, you can be part of the solution to the troubled peace efforts in the Middle East. Consider making a modest monthly donation through our automatic giving program. In the past 30 years we have learned that ANERA's programs cannot run in a stop-and-go fashion. These programs require dependable resources over a sustained period of time. By joining **ANERA's Peace Plan**, you play a significant role in our work to bolster Palestinian and Lebanese long-term economic and community development, education and health programs.

► Decide how much you would like to give, send us the coupon below with your check for the first monthly gift, and we will take care of the rest!

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

► Not only does this make donating to ANERA quick and easy, it also helps to lower our administrative costs. ■ *Your personal commitment makes a difference in the lives of others!*

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

Here is my monthly gift of: \$54 \$36 \$27 \$14 \$10 Other \$ _____

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.

Date _____

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



Combined Federal and the United Way Campaigns

This fall through the end of December, ANERA will again be participating in annual workplace giving campaigns as a member of International Service Agencies. Designate ANERA number 0307 when making your gift.

ANERA would like to thank the many people who contributed last year to ANERA through the Combined Federal (CFC) and United Way Campaigns. Your support provided over \$40,000 for ANERA's education, economic and health projects.

If you would like to be recognized for your generosity, please give permission to CFC or the United Way to release your information to us. ■

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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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Doris Halaby, Vice President
Jane W. Schweiker, Treasurer
Peter Gubser, President
Philip Davies, Vice President
Nina Dodge, Vice President
Cyril G. Bindah, Assistant Treasurer
Taichi Yamamoto, Secretary

Editor: Doris E. Warrell

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

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BETHLEHEM'S PROMISE

Nonprofit Organization
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60637
Ms. Doris Warrell
3200 16th St NW Apt 412
Washington DC 20010-3333



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Change: ANERA's 1999 Projects



This past year witnessed considerable leadership change in Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. The election of Israel's Prime Minister Barak has re-energized the peace process. While all expect the coming negotiations to be difficult and arduous, in many circles there is hope for progress.

Throughout the year, ANERA's activities are people-to-people programs: people in the Middle East and people in America. Our supporters, beneficiaries, partner organizations and staff make the projects succeed. With your financial generosity and help, our work — our service — is made possible. ANERA and our friends in the Middle East, give our thanks to you.

In fiscal year 1999 (June 1, 1998 through May 31, 1999) ANERA and its AMER Medical Division gave development assistance and relief aid totaling \$10,870,282 to local institutions providing 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 civilians in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Egypt. The listing below includes grants, loan guarantees, technical assistance and project oversight expenses, grants in-kind and shipping costs.



M. Nalbardian

Over 93% of every dollar given to ANERA helps children and adults in the Middle East lead better lives.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Grassroots Service & Urban Economic Projects

Partial funding to provide community, microcredit, and environmental services. These projects are with: Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps (Lebanon), Friends of the Earth-Middle East (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Palestine), Gaza Women's Loan Fund (Gaza), Jenin Villages Water Users Association (West Bank), Peace Center for the Blind (Jerusalem), Salfet Municipality and Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), and SARAYA (Jerusalem). **\$709,041**

Agricultural Credit, Extension, and 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: Beit Lahia Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), Gaza Fishermen's Cooperative (Gaza), Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (West Bank and Gaza), Jericho Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), Jericho Municipality (West Bank), and Khan Younis Agricultural Cooperative (Gaza). **\$610,466**

Technical Assistance & Project Oversight

Provision of training and consultants as well as project development, implementation and evaluation. **\$871,806**

Total Community & Economic Development **\$2,191,313**

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's Rafah and Khan Younis Kindergartens (Gaza), and Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem). **\$106,000**

Youth Programs, Schools & Universities

Partial funding for sports and music programs, and school equipment and libraries. These projects are with: Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children (Gaza), Birzeit University (West Bank), Dar El-Yateem Orphanage (West Bank), Educational Enhancement Centers in Gaza, Information Technology Project (West Bank, Gaza and Israel), Institut de Reeducation Audio-Phonetique (Lebanon), Kalandia Youth Center (West Bank), Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem), Silwan Club (West Bank), sports clubs in Gaza, Tamer Institute (Jerusalem), and YWCA (Jerusalem). **\$103,637**

Technical Assistance & Project Oversight

Provision of training and consultants as well as project development, implementation and evaluation. **\$19,572**

Total Education **\$229,209**

HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics & Hospitals

Partial financial assistance to improve the delivery of health services. Our projects are with: Four Homes of Mercy (West Bank), Health Care Society (Lebanon), and Orthodox Society Clinic (Jerusalem). **\$12,060**

In-Kind Pharmaceutical Program

Medicines, food supplements, and equipment for: Al-Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza), Aqraba Clinic (West Bank), Ard Al-Insan Centers (West Bank and Gaza), Augusta Victoria Hospital (Jerusalem), Al-Awda Hospital (Gaza), Al-Bireh Arab Women's Union (West Bank), Al-Bireh Red Crescent Society (West Bank), Dar Al-Salam Hospital (Gaza), Dar El-Tifl School and Orphanage (West Bank), Gaza Patient's Friends Society, Gaza Red Crescent Society, Hebron Ahli Arab Hospital (West Bank), Hebron Patient's Friends Society (West Bank), Hebron Red Crescent Society (West Bank), Islamic University Medical Center (Gaza), Juabeh Geriatric Clinic (West Bank), Maqassid Hospital (Jerusalem), Ministry of Health of the Palestine National Authority, Nablus Patient's Friends Society (West Bank), Qalqilya Zakat Society Clinic (West Bank), Al-Salah Clinic (Gaza), Salvatorian Sisters Clinic (West Bank), Al-Shifa Hospital (Gaza), Souba Clinic (West Bank), St. Luke's Hospital (West Bank), St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital (Jerusalem), St. Joseph's Hospital (Jerusalem), Tulkarem Red Crescent Society (West Bank), United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and Al-Wafa Rehabilitation and Health Center (Gaza). **\$8,364,471**

Technical Assistance & Project Oversight

Provision of training and consultants as well as project development, implementation and evaluation. **\$73,229**

Total Health Services **\$8,449,760**
TOTAL OVERSEAS PROGRAMS **\$10,870,282**

PUBLIC EDUCATION

ANERA conducts modest activities to inform Americans 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, and comment on radio and television.

TOTAL DOMESTIC PROGRAMS **\$63,279**



ANERA

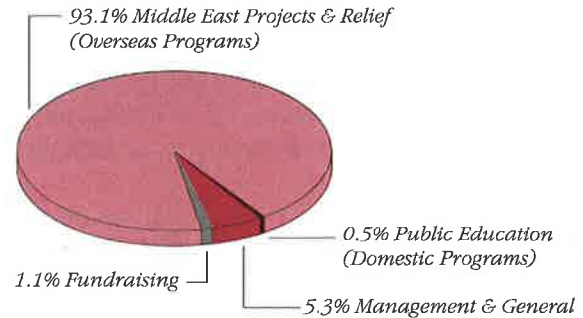
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TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES **\$10,933,561**

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

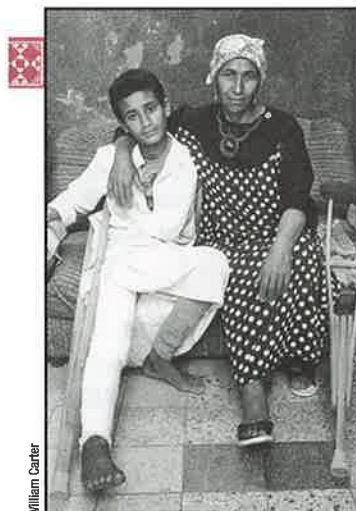
In addition to receiving support from more than 25,000 individuals, ANERA was assisted by many small businesses, religious groups, private foundations, corporations, and governmental and multilateral institutions.



Through membership in the International Service Agencies, ANERA participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way Campaign of the Capital AREA and many state and local workplace giving campaigns.

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).

If you have any questions about our projects or would like a copy of our 1999 Annual Report, please let us know. Our latest annual report is also on the internet at www.anera.org.



Injuries, like this boy's broken leg, require medical treatment which ANERA helps provide by delivering donated medical and pharmaceutical supplies to Palestinian health care centers.