

This Newsletter

This newsletter highlights ANERA's longstanding partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which has allowed thousands of people in the Middle East to improve their lives. The Community Services Project described in this newsletter is the most recent in a series of awards ANERA has received over the years from USAID. To benefit even more people in new ways, ANERA looks forward to continuing and strengthening its relationship with USAID in year 2000 and beyond.

The ANERA-USAID partnership is one of many which help ANERA expand its work and reach more communities in need. Partners include multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations Fund for Agricultural Development and the Netherlands Development Cooperation Program, and a broad range of private NGOs, foundations, corporations, and individuals. ■

Building Communities in Gaza

By Karim Amer, an MA candidate at John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, worked in ANERA's Gaza City office during the summer of 1999.

Entering Gaza for the first time is an encounter that even the most travel-hardened and experienced person is not likely to forget quickly. As a first-time visitor I was humbled — not by Gaza's political history, nor its socio-economic conditions, nor even the symbolic role Gaza has often assumed through media snapshots and impassioned speeches in distant lands, but by the tenacity of its people.

At the Erez crossing from Israel into Gaza, I was immediately situated as the enormous gate I had just passed through promptly closed behind me. Welcome to Gaza.

Entering Gaza, I was struck by just how different this part of Palestine was from the West Bank. I saw donkey carts, street vendors, unpaved roads, crowded streets, honking cars, and barefoot children. It felt more like a section of Cairo than a West Bank Palestinian city, where the houses cling to hillsides and open land is no further than a stone's throw. And then there were the children, everywhere I looked — children running, playing, working, waiting. I had entered a city of children.

I was amazed by the variety of environments in such a confined space — the intense overcrowding of Jabalia camp, the beautiful and almost unspoiled coastline, the small villages in middle Gaza, the

continued on page 2

ANERA Wins New USAID Grant

ANERA has just received a three year \$5 million Community Services Project grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work in poor villages in the northern West Bank, and in the middle area of Gaza. The grant will fund approximately fifty projects that will provide:

- ▶ increased access to water for home and personal use,
- ▶ better collection and treatment of sewage water,
- ▶ improved roads between villages, farms and markets,
- ▶ additional classrooms, and other school improvements,
- ▶ improved clinics providing primary health care, and,
- ▶ expanded community centers for cultural and social activities.

In all, these projects will improve the lives of over 175,000 needy Palestinians. ■



Philip Davies

Almost half of the population of Gaza is less than 16 years old.

markets in Nusseirat and Gaza City, and the less crowded areas, often filled with palm trees, that connect them all. Enclosing them all is a fence that defines Gaza's border with Israel.

My task at ANERA was to identify the highest priority needs of people living in the middle area of Gaza, roughly between Gaza City and Khan Younis. ANERA wanted more information on the people's living conditions as part of a Community Services Project proposal to the United States Agency for International Development.

I met with a wide range of people, including United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) officials, mayors of the local municipalities and chairmen of village councils, representatives of local and international NGOs working in the area, women's groups, staff in educational centers, and most importantly the people who live there, be it men sitting in



William Carter

Opening and improving roads helps farmers bring their produce to market, and enables the sick and injured to reach medical treatment.

groups drinking tea by the road or children playing soccer on a sandy road. Some sights are forever imprinted in my memory, like the small children running barefoot in the open sewage down the streets of Muasker al-Jadid, and the children learning to explore the Internet in an educational enhancement center in Deir al-Balah refugee camp.

To see firsthand these people's

physical needs, to imagine how their lives could be improved, to formulate projects to help them, and finally for ANERA to be awarded the grant was for me a small example of how social and economic development works.

I will not be there to see the agricultural roads paved in Musadder and Wadi Silqa, the

sewage channels covered in Muasker aj-Jadid, the classrooms built in Nusseirat, and the water tower erected in Johr ad-Dik. However, I feel satisfied knowing that in a small way what I contributed will benefit others in the near future, and that these changes will make a difference because of ANERA's commitment to helping the people of Palestine. ■

Order of St. John Honors ANERA

Peter Gubser, ANERA's President, was recently invested into The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, an order that shares its origins with the Knights Hospitaller who established a hospice 900 years ago in Jerusalem. This honor recognizes ANERA's long service in Palestine and specifically the recent medical assistance given to the St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, the leading eye care facility in Palestine. Twenty years ago, ANERA helped upgrade the training of nurses at the hospital, and over the years has helped the hospital acquire medicines and equipment. ■

Staff Transitions

Several new staff members have recently joined ANERA. As the Planning and Evaluation Coordinator in Jerusalem, **Samar Abdul-Hadi** will be working on a variety of ANERA projects and overall program development. Samar has a masters degree from the London School of Economics, and was recently a Senior Researcher in a Ramallah-based management and consulting firm.

Tamara Handal, Assistant Accountant, will be helping our Jerusalem staff with expanded accounting tasks.

For ANERA's new job creation project, **Dr. Badie Sartawi** joined ANERA in Jerusalem as Director of the Information Technology (IT) Initiative. Badie has a Ph.D. in systems theory and engineering from the University of Toledo (Ohio). He will be working to expand Palestinian expertise and employment in the growing international information technology industry.

In the Washington office, we said goodbye to **Luzia d. Ricci**, who is now a full-time mother to Anthony, her new son. **Taichi Yamamoto** is our new Executive Assistant. A recent graduate of the University of West Virginia, Taichi is from Tokyo, Japan. ■

In Honor of...

Louise I. Brown ■ Lucille (Rosie) Childs ■ Mr. John Crahbe ■ Alyce S. Ferris ■ Dawn Shereffe Gruen ■ Mr. & Mrs. Ali Seydo Kurdi ■ Dr. Ernest Levi ■ Dr. Alfred Lilienthal ■ Catherine Quinn ■ Clarice Robinson ■ Andrew Severa



ANERA, USAID and You

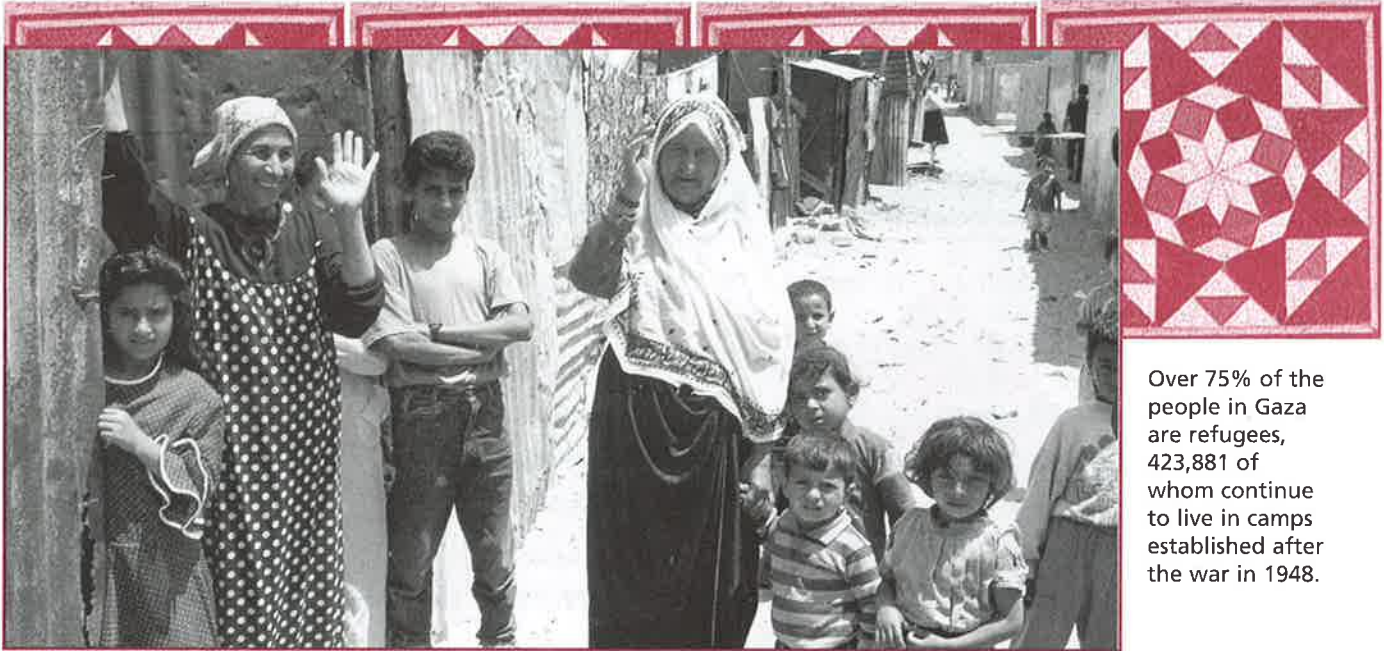
ANERA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) work together to improve people's lives by carrying out projects that range from providing families' drinking water to building light industrial complexes. ANERA's private donors play an important complementary role that is essential to the success

of projects funded through USAID grants.

Private contributions demonstrate broad-based support for ANERA's work in the Middle East and are used to leverage grants from major donors, such as USAID.

Private contributions enable ANERA to maintain a long-term presence in the places where we

work. Over the years, more than 25,000 individuals have contributed to ANERA and helped improve the lives of thousands of people in the region through dozens of projects. They have improved the quality of our programs, our understanding of the circumstances of the people we serve, and our response to their needs. ■



Over 75% of the people in Gaza are refugees, 423,881 of whom continue to live in camps established after the war in 1948.

William Carter



Ayfalina

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: _____

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 am enclosing a check for my first monthly contribution, made payable to ANERA.

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, contact Nina Dodge at (202) 347-2558. ■

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

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.

Material in this newsletter may be reproduced without prior permission, provided credit is given and a copy of the publication in which the item is used is sent to ANERA. Subscriptions are free of charge. Any inquiries should be sent to the Editor at the address below.

ANERA OFFICERS

Steven L. Skancke, *President*
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.

ISSN 1966-3584

ANERA

1522 K Street NW, Suite 202
Washington, DC 20005-1270
Tel: (202) 347-2558 ■ Fax: (202) 682-1637
anera@anera.org ■ www.anera.org

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

1522 K STREET NW, SUITE 202
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1270

BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN GAZA

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 8530
Washington, D.C.

60637
G4.33
Ms. Doris Warrell
3200 16th St NW Apt 412
Washington DC 20010-3333

