**Annual Fund**

Your continuing help this spring will enable us to meet and exceed our 2000 Annual Fund goal of $1.1 million by May 31, the end of our fiscal year! Thanks to your support, we will reach more people through our health, education and job creation projects.

Meeting this goal means that ANERA can continue and expand projects in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank. For example, through ANERA’s micro-loan program your help can provide more loans to men and women in need.

In Lebanon, ANERA provides small loans to Palestinian refugees through the Association For The Resurgence of Palestinian Camps: “I am a father of eight children, with my wife and father in a house of three rooms. I rented some land in the camp to plant crops. We live from its produce. I need money to rent more land, and buy seeds and equipment so that I can better provide for my family.” – Abdullah A.

By giving to ANERA, you help provide opportunities for Abdullah, and many others, to feed and shelter their families.

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**Jericho: Zone of the Miraculous**

Everyday busloads of tourists arrive in Jericho to visit the famous archaeological sites. Some people say Jericho is the oldest continually inhabited town on earth; it may well be that ancient. Jericho is also a town with a spirit of perseverance and the ability to prevail.

Located below sea level in the Jordan Valley, Jericho has a well-deserved reputation for searing summer heat. However, in winter Jericho is a paradise for Palestinians escaping the cold and dampness in West Bank cities like Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron.

Jericho is also home to Palestinian refugees who live on the outskirts of the town. Widespread unemployment and the susceptibility of agriculture to natural disasters make life here challenging. The development of the town of Jericho requires cooperation, understanding, and a willingness for each individual to contribute to the success of the entire community. Jericho residents possess great reserves of all of these attributes.

In Jericho: Dreams, Ruins and Phantoms, from which the excerpts in this article were taken, Robert Ruby tells of people’s long-time fascination with Jericho. “A friend once found me a nineteenth-century biblical picture book: it was a handsome, rare volume that has as its centerfold a hand-colored drawing of the Jordan Valley. The panorama obeyed all the conventions. In that book Jericho was a metropolis of castles protected by crenellated walls sprouting towers and following a perfectly circular course - Jericho as Mont-Saint-Michel. To the east the Jordan River flowed as a thin blue line that was perfectly straight. To the north a small puddle of blue represented the Sea of Galilee. Jerusalem was a larger bill of fairy-castles, lying across a mountain range to the west. The Dead Sea spilled off the southern edge of the page, and the hills leading up to its shore were a rich, fertile green.”

Even today, Jericho is surrounded by an aura. As you descend into the valley, it hits you like a wave. Although expected, the sensation is still a surprise.

In 1994, Jericho was the first Palestinian town in the West Bank to come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority. Since that time the town has attracted new investment, most notably a casino for tourists, as well as customers from Israel and Arab countries. There are new houses continued on page 2
ANERA in the Jordan Valley

ANERA has a long-standing connection to the 25,000 people of Jericho and the surrounding villages and refugee camps in the Jordan Valley. Since 1976, ANERA has worked with the Jericho Agricultural Engineers Cooperative and Jericho Agricultural Marketing Cooperative to establish income generating projects to benefit their members. These projects have included: land reclamation and irrigation, crop diversification, agricultural credit and marketing, job training, and livestock improvement.

Current initiatives are aimed at improving primary health care and community services.

► In remote villages without adequate basic health care, ANERA will work with local groups to upgrade existing clinics and establish a mobile health unit.
► In two refugee camps in Jericho, ANERA will help build community centers where residents can hold a variety of gatherings.
► In a valley west of Jericho, ANERA is constructing a flood mitigation dam to protect homes and fields from winter rainwater runoff.
► ANERA is implementing a major water conservation project to upgrade the Ain Sultan spring that is adjacent to the ruins of Biblical Jericho. Area residents rely heavily on ancient subterranean wells and springs such as the Ain Sultan spring for drinking and irrigation water. The project will replace exposed and leaking irrigation canals with pipes. Farmers will then be able to minimize water loss from seepage and evaporation, and improve crop irrigation.

The lives of the many people of the Jordan Valley are intertwined. They share water, a common history, an economy and one future. ANERA looks forward to continuing to find ways to help people in Jericho reduce poverty and relieve suffering.

In Honor of...

Anna Asper ■ Dr. Samuel Asper ■ Sir James Cobban ■ John Davis ■ Vito Depinto ■ Mr. & Mrs. Simon Esfan ■ Katrina, Sabina and Ellen Halaby ■ My father, Aref Jabr ■ Carol Kinghorn ■ Victoria Kozinets ■ Mr. & Mrs. John Nelson ■ Grace Osborn ■ In loving memory of Clarice Bailey Robinson ■ Dr. Wadi Sawabini ■ Ellie Schnitzer ■ Mr. & Mrs. John A. Wojdowski ■ Kyle S. Wilson

**Stocks Appreciated!**

Thanks to the many friends who have made gifts of appreciated stock to ANERA in recent months. These gifts are crucial for our work and have major tax advantages for you. For details, please contact Nina Dodge or Cyril Bindah at (202) 347-2558.
Fund Reaches $1 Million

Several months ago, Sabah Kilaani, a single mother, found herself without enough income to care for her family. With a loan from the Gaza Women’s Loan Fund (GWLF), Sabah started selling used stoves, refrigerators, and small appliances to residents in Maghazi. Today her business is making a profit and fully supporting her family.

For the last five years, the GWLF has provided over 500 women, like Sabah, with loans to develop and expand their small businesses. Typically, loans support grocery and clothing stores, beauty salons and food processing. With the income generated, women are able to pay for their families’ basic necessities – health care, education and food. As Dr. Peter Gubser, President of ANERA, points out, “The money goes very directly to improving the lives of the women and their families.”

Business success and on-time loan repayments are now customary, confirming that giving credit to Palestinian women can be both financially profitable and sustainable for the lending institution. Now capitalized at $1 million, the GWLF is well known in the local community. With a cadre of professional loan officers and portfolio manager, all of whom are female, to oversee lending, the GWLF is now developing the capacity to sustain itself. In the years to come, many more Palestinian women will be able to enjoy the same opportunity as Sabah.

In cooperation with the Presbyterian Church USA, Ashley Souther (Intern) joined ANERA in Gaza. Ashley is a graduate of Kansas State University where he received a degree in political science and international studies. His work includes reporting on ANERA projects throughout Gaza and assisting in the distribution of medical donations.

Samar Abdul Hadi (Planning & Evaluation Coordinator) provides support for all ANERA projects through the Community Services Grant. She holds dual Bachelor Degrees in mathematics and economics from Simmons College in Boston; and a Masters Degree in development studies from London School of Economics.

Ala’a Shaheen (Construction Projects Coordinator/Gaza) has a degree in construction engineering from The American University in Cairo. Jubran Said (Construction Projects Coordinator/Jerusalem) holds a civil engineering degree from Washington State University. Among other projects, Ala’a and Jubran will oversee the construction of roads, classrooms, and clinics in Gaza and the West Bank.

I want to give:

- $200 for General Programs
- $175 for Gaza/West Bank Fund
- $100 for Lebanon Relief
- $75 for 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.

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.
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 fallow 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.

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.

Signature __________________________ Date ______________

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

In Memory of Dr. Samuel P. Asper

We are deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Samuel P. Asper, a close friend and wonderful supporter of ANERA’s health program over many years.

Dr. Asper served on ANERA’s Medical Committee from 1979 until 1998, lending the committee his great medical expertise and knowledge of the Middle East. In the course of his distinguished career, Dr. Asper served as dean and chief of staff of the American University of Beirut hospital at the height of Lebanon’s civil war. He will be remembered for his tremendous service and leadership in the Middle East, and for helping humanitarian institutions navigate a steady course in times of war and great conflict.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Ann and his family.

ANERA
American Near East Refugee Aid

1522 K Street NW, Suite 202
Washington, DC 20005-1270

ANERA’s Scholarship Program
You can help a young Middle Eastern student receive an education.

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