

# ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE US YEAR GREAT!

Number 126 Summer 2000

## Medicine for Palestine

Recently, five-year-old Basheer and his father rushed into the Orthodox Society clinic in Jerusalem. Both were scared. Basheer had been playing with his friends in the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem. He fell, hurting his arm.

The staff at the clinic promptly examined Basheer. Thankfully, the diagnosis was good: despite severe abrasions and bruising, the bone was not fractured. Basheer's father was immensely relieved that his only child was not seriously injured. He was also relieved because the clinic did not charge him for the medical care his son received. Like the majority of Palestinian parents, Basheer's father has no health insurance and cannot otherwise afford the cost of health care.

Everywhere, children injure themselves during play and need urgent care. For Palestinian parents living in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, attending to an injury is far from simple.

Hospitals and clinics in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem struggle under tremendous economic constraints and are in constant need of basic supplies and medicines, like the bandages and antibiotics used to tend Basheer's injured arm. In rural areas, health care facilities are too far away for timely care. Often, those who can reach the facilities have limited means to pay for services.

For over thirty years, ANERA's health care program has been address-

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Basheer and his father leave the Orthodox Society clinic after the boy was treated for his injuries.

ing these needs. It helps local organizations like the Orthodox Society clinic develop the means to provide high quality, accessible and affordable health care to needy Palestinians, like Basheer and his family.

Through its health program, ANERA seeks to strengthen the overall network of services offered by charitable associations and the Palestinian Authority. ANERA's main emphasis is on providing preventative health care, focusing especially on effective mother and child health care. ANERA's present work includes the physical rehabilitation of existing but over-burdened and dilapidated health facilities, and providing mobile

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## Annual Fund Reaches \$1.5 Million

ANERA has surpassed its \$1 million goal for the 2000 Annual Fund (June 1, 1999 – May 31, 2000)! ANERA's donors and partners actually contributed over \$1.5 million to support health, education and job creation projects in Lebanon and Palestine.

ANERA extends its warmest thanks for the contributions of thousands of individuals, and many foundations and corporations whose generosity ensures the continuation and expansion of programs and projects serving people in need. ❁

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Above: Children from the Palestinian Women's Union Kindergarten in Khan Younis, who benefit from the annual fund, celebrate their kindergarten graduation with a trip to the beach.

## *Medicine, continued from page 1*

health services to people in remote areas. In addition, through its in-kind program, ANERA provides desperately needed supplies and occasionally equipment to local hospitals and clinics.

Last year ANERA donated over \$1 million in pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to Palestinian organizations. Over 250,000 patients benefited from donations made to thirty-five non-profit health care and social institutions, as well as facilities run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the Palestinian National Authority.

To manage its growing program, ANERA hired Youssef Hassan, a U.S.-certified pharmacist who manages ANERA's 300 square meter warehouse, and Dr. Rand Salman who is an MD and has a degree in community health.

ANERA's program is supported through a combination of private funding and a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Donated medicines and medical supplies come from AmeriCares, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Children International, Direct Relief International, Islamic Relief, Latter Day Saints Charities, and the Order of St. John American Priory.

Based on "needs lists" prepared by hospitals and clinics, donated supplies are shipped from the U.S. to a Middle East harbor, usually Haifa. ANERA staff works with Israeli and Palestinian officials to clear supplies from the port. ANERA's established working relationships with the authorities and its tax-exempt and duty-free status facilitate entry of the goods into the country.

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Palestinian health care providers need a wide range of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. The most common items ANERA distributes are:

- ▶ Analgesics and antibiotics
- ▶ Anti-inflammatory drugs
- ▶ Anti-bacterial agents
- ▶ Eye care medicines
- ▶ Nutritional and dietary supplements
- ▶ Surgical and laboratory supplies
- ▶ Bandages, tape, gauze, latex gloves
- ▶ Disinfectant and soap
- ▶ Medical books

When available, ANERA also distributes to hardship cases items such as:

- ▶ Vegetable oil
- ▶ Rice
- ▶ Powdered milk
- ▶ Canned Meat
- ▶ Hygiene Kits (soap, toothbrush, tooth paste, shampoo, washcloth)
- ▶ Blankets



*In February, members of the Jahalin Bedouin received blankets from ANERA donated by the Latter Day Saints Charities.*

## **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.

## **In Honor of...**

Shukri B. Abed & Ramsiyeh Abed  
• Lana Abu-Sahyun • Sam Asper • Anna Asper • Dorothy Batson • Sir James Cobban • Mary Penrose Copeland • John Davis • Mr. & Mrs. Simon Estfan • The wonderful work being accomplished by the Gaza Women's Loan Fund • Lucy Guilbeau • Katrina, Sabina and Ellen Halaby • My father, Aref Jabr • Tai Y. Kilby • Carol Kinghorn • Victoria Kozjnets • Barbara Ann Mishriki • Mr. & Mrs. John Nelson • Grace Osborn • Clarice Bailey Robinson • Dave & Lisa Ryan • Dr. Wadi Sawabini • Ellie Schnitzer • Kyle S. Wilson • Mr. & Mrs. John A. Wojdowski

# Match your gift to ANERA and increase its impact!

Many companies have a matching gift program — enabling you to double or even triple the impact of your donations. Ask your personnel or administrative offices to find out if your company matches gifts.

Most organizations ask you to fill out part of a form, which you send to ANERA along with your donation. We take care of the rest.

Your support will reach more Palestinian and Lebanese communities in need, bringing more help in job creation, health, and education.

If you have any questions about matching your gifts, please call Philip Davies, Vice President, at (202) 347-2558 or through email at philip@anera.org.

## Medicine, continued from page 2

When the shipment reaches the ANERA warehouse in the village of Beitin, West Bank, it is inventoried by ANERA staff who then contact beneficiary institutions. The materials are safely stored in the warehouse until recipient clinics and hospitals are able to



A member of ANERA's warehouse staff delivers nutritional supplements to a local organization that will then distribute it to malnourished people.

send a truck to pick up their supplies. Staff conduct follow-up assessments to be sure all product is used for the purpose intended.

As a result of ANERA's work, health care groups can devote their energy to treating people in urgent need, like Basheer, and spend less time worrying about whether that treatment is fiscally or materially possible. Dr. Hafez Adel Nabil, President of Patients Friends Society, says, "without ANERA's help we would have reduced service to our patients." Marwan Khader, Administration Director of St. Luke Hospital, agrees: "We cannot always afford buying [the donated] items. We are really thankful for [ANERA's] constant support and help."

In the coming years, ANERA's plans include helping to develop a regional network of clinics and health points and expanding its medical in-kind program enabling people to obtain quality emergency and preventative health care. ❀

See Health Program Highlights on next page.

## ANERA's Peace Plan

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

Here is my monthly gift of:  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$10  \$5

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.*



Through 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 learned that ANERA's programs cannot run in a stop-and-go fashion. Our programs require dependable resources over a sustained period of time. By joining ANERA's Peace Plan, you will play a significant role in our work to bolster Palestinian and Lebanese long-term economic and community development, and education and health programs.

- ▶ Decide how much you would like to give, send us the coupon above 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!**

# ANERA Health Program Highlights

- 1948** American Middle East Rehabilitation (AMER), established by Palestinians, Arab-Americans and others in the U.S., sent food, clothing and blankets to Palestinians displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.
- 1968** American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) formed.
- 1971** AMER merged with ANERA. AMER volunteers form ANERA's Medical Committee.
- 1975-1991** During the Lebanon civil war, ANERA channeled donations through the Lebanese Red Cross, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the American University of Beirut Hospital.
- 1987-1993** During the Intifada, ANERA donations were sent directly to West Bank and Gaza health care organizations providing emergency care to the injured.
- 1990-1991** During the Gulf War, ANERA donations were sent through the Jordan Red Crescent Society for refugee relief in Jordan.
- Ongoing** ANERA continues to provide medical in-kind donations and grants to support health care organizations in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan.

## Thanking Our Interns

Special thanks to this year's interns: James Cramer, Helen Grant, Mysara Abu Hashem, Neha Nagar, Jessica Nicholaides, Ashley Souther and Monica Tarazi. Their invaluable contributions to ANERA are deeply appreciated.

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AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

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

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## MEDICINE FOR PALESTINE

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