

Education and Training

Building a Foundation for the Future

In ANERA's last newsletter, we announced our 35th Anniversary Campaign to raise \$15 million to expand programs in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan (for an update on our progress, see page 5). These programs include economic development, health and education. In this issue, we highlight a small sample of ANERA's education projects supported through the Campaign.

After decades of conflict, the challenges confronting education in this region are vast: dilapidated schools; interrupted semesters; trauma caused by violence; and grinding poverty. Government ministries and local organizations need funds to meet basic educational needs as well as to build essential long-term services.

To meet these challenges, ANERA broadens educational opportunities and helps create a more competitive trained workforce. Additionally, ANERA promotes after-school education, which is still in its formative stages in the region, and gives the poor and the handicapped access to quality programs. It also expands state-of-the-art information technology programs that provide affordable, professional training, leading to well paying jobs and increased investment opportunities.

ANERA partners with local educational institutions to improve and expand education opportunities in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan. In these societies this crucial investment helps create conditions for a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Music Education

Music, as a fine art, has unparalleled educational and psychological value to people of all ages. ANERA is working to promote and strengthen music education throughout the West Bank and Gaza. With this goal in mind, ANERA has partnered with the National Conservatory of Music – Palestine.

The Conservatory offers programs in music education, performance, curriculum development, and teacher training at its three locations in Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. It also hosts a concert series and has been

continued on page 3



Inside

Preschool Milk Program	2
Campaign Countdown Begins!	5
In Honor Of	5
ANERA's Peace Plan	6

Preschool Milk Distribution

Malnutrition is a growing problem for Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A recent study conducted by Johns Hopkins University found that chronic and acute malnutrition is widespread among children less than five years of age and is increasing rapidly. In Gaza, over 30% of children screened suffer from chronic or acute malnutrition. Children, whose developing bodies are especially sensitive to a lack of needed protein, vitamins, and minerals in their diet, are the most vulnerable to malnutrition.

Communities that traditionally suffer from poverty have been especially hard hit. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, approximately 50% of all Palestinians require external food assistance to help meet their minimum daily caloric intake. Unfortunately, the number of Palestinian households requiring food assistance increases daily.

Rural areas are the most vulnerable in the face of the closures that have been imposed. The livelihoods of Palestinian farmers, fishermen and unskilled workers have been severely disrupted, preventing them from supplying food and earning income.

With the drastic increase in child malnutrition, ANERA, with seed funding provided by the National Arab-American Medical Association – NJ Chapter, has launched a special initiative in Gaza to provide the neediest Palestinian pre-school children one free box of milk every day for three months.

ANERA will purchase milk from the Al-Safa Milk Factory in Nablus, which is the only large-scale supplier of milk, yoghurt, and cheese in Palestine. The factory employs more than twenty persons, and purchases milk from small dairy farms in the villages surrounding Nablus.

Since the most recent upsurge in violence in April 2002, ANERA staff has managed the distribution of over one million dollars in food and six million dollars of in-kind medical supplies to local governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the West Bank and Gaza. In addition, we have funded special meal and supplemental nutrition programs supported by many donors. The distribution of milk in Gaza preschools is ANERA's latest response to the humanitarian emergency and deteriorating health situation in the West Bank and Gaza. ▀





Maghazi Community Center

Most Palestinian children, especially those in refugee camps, attend school in half-day shifts. Because structured activities and recreational facilities are rare, children traditionally have nowhere to go before or after school. Opportunities for Palestinian students to supplement their formal education are in great need.

With the help of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, ANERA has established an Educational Enhancement Center in the Maghazi Refugee Camp to provide a safe and intellectually challenging environment to children and youth during non-school hours.

Recently, the Maghazi Center opened a new computer lab, funded by ANERA with Rotary Club support, that helps youth in and around the camp gain valuable computer skills. Without this exposure to information technology, these young people are limited in their range of career options, leaving most with futures as poorly paid laborers. Having more young people trained in information technology will help the economic development of the entire region. ▶



Music Training *continued on page 3*

endorsed by Maestro Daniel Barenboim and the well known intellectual Edward Said.

ANERA helps the Conservatory bring the world of music to thousands of Palestinians in the region. As one of its major supporters, we provide the Conservatory with financial and technical assistance to support the institution's long-term growth and expand its outreach programs. We also fund special projects, such as producing a promotional CD to help raise money for music scholarships. ▶

Said Khoury Information Technology Center of Excellence at Al-Quds University

Training young people for high quality jobs is the mission of the Said Khoury Information Technology Center of Excellence at Al-Quds University. Laying the corner stone of the new Center, Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, President of Al-Quds University, and Dr. Peter Gubser, President of ANERA, dedicated the Center to the youth of Palestine, and to their future.

When completed, the Center will:

- ▶ train about two hundred youth each year to write software and prepare for future jobs
- ▶ house a business incubator program to help entrepreneurs realize their business ambition
- ▶ include a job placement and networking unit to assist information technology (IT) graduates in locating employment
- ▶ cooperate with a special fund that provides loans to students who need financial assistance.

The Center is named in honor of Said Khoury the president and co-founder of Consolidated Contractors International Company and commonly referred to as CCC. They generously donated the funds to build and establish the Center at Al-Quds University in cooperation with ANERA. Fawzi Kawash, the former Executive Vice President of CCC and now an advisor to the shareholders and a current ANERA Board Member, was instrumental in making this project possible. ▶

Scholarship Program

Soon after being founded in 1968, ANERA began providing scholarship grants to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to help refugees of the 1967 war obtain vocational training. Today ANERA's Scholarship Program continues offering hope to hundreds of children at schools in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Each year ANERA's Scholarship Program helps over 200 poor, orphaned, and handicapped children receive a quality education at seven schools in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon. The cost of each scholarship, \$175 per student, provides these children with books and other school supplies, food, clothing, medical care, trained teachers, and well-maintained classrooms.

If you would like to help one or more children in ANERA's Scholarship Program or receive information about the program, please contact Adrian Loucks, Director of Scholarship Program at (202) 347-2558 or at adrian@anera.org. ▀



Literacy Campaign for Working Children

Children in post-war Lebanon live under extremely difficult conditions. The number of orphans, displaced, disabled, and working children has risen drastically in the past eight years.

Child labor is reported as one of the most pressing social problems in Lebanon. Large numbers of working children are found in urban neighborhoods of major cities as well as remote rural areas. Northern Lebanon has the highest proportion of working children (10–17 years old), and the poor urban neighborhood of Bab Tebbaneh in Tripoli is one of the most affected areas.

While it is difficult to completely eliminate child labor, ANERA strives to find ways to reduce its negative impact on the children now and in the future. We offer a second chance to receive an education that will empower them to build their future.

In Bab Tebbaneh, ANERA supports a literacy program for working children, carried out by the Rene Moawad Foundation. Due to the poverty in the neighborhood, schools are too expensive for destitute children, many with 8–10 siblings, who live in cramped and unhygienic conditions.

Literacy classes enable these children to continue their education and acquire basic reading, writing and math skills. Extracurricular activities such as field trips to historic sites and the beach also are part of their program. All children receive counseling and are encouraged to attend classes regularly and perform well academically. Teachers and social workers make home visits to report on the students' progress and build parental support for the program so vital to their children's future. ▀

Improving Schools

ANERA receives grants from USAID (the United States Agency for International Development), individuals and foundations to renovate and expand schools, community centers, and education labs in the West Bank and Gaza. Below are some statistics on our current and recently implemented projects.

Education

Number of school renovations: 29
 Value of renovations: \$2,080,240
 (\$870,000 proposed)
 Number of beneficiaries: 12,941

Social Services

Number of renovations: 52
 Value of renovations: \$1,979,345
 (\$1,095,000 proposed)
 Number of beneficiaries: 112,514

Campaign Countdown Begins !

With only nine months to go, the ANERA 35th Anniversary Campaign is making great progress. Already, more than \$13 million has been raised in gifts from thousands of donors. Thank you very much for your support to date.

We are excited and grateful that some of our donors have made gifts of \$500,000 or more. We are also very grateful for those donors who give much less. Every donor is important to ANERA, and to the people we help. Our gifts range from \$5.00 to over \$1 million. We appreciate any gift, whatever the amount. We know every gift comes from the heart. Combined, these gifts do so much.

Expanding school facilities, after-school programs, and developing state-of-the-art information technology programs are among the top education goals of the Campaign.

Our last newsletter focused on the health and relief work of the Campaign. This current issue highlights a variety of projects in education. Expanding school facilities, after-school programs, and developing state-of-the-art information technology programs are among the top education goals of the Campaign. From schools for children with special needs, to recreation programs for adolescents, to music lessons, to information technology training for adults, ANERA is involved.

As part of our Campaign, we are providing special gift opportunities for your contributions of \$350 and above. These beautiful gifts of embroidered work and painted tiles are hand-crafted by artisans in communities where ANERA works. By purchasing these local crafts, we are supporting education and community development projects, and small businesses, their workers and their families.

The success of ANERA's 35th Anniversary Campaign will be a high point in ANERA's mission to reduce poverty and relieve suffering in the Middle East. It will be a sign of our commitment to invest in people and peace in this troubled region. ▶

IN HONOR OF

Joe Herbert Powell
Laurence D. Ryan's 25th Anniversary
Nina M. Powell's Birthday
Patriarch Sabba
Da'ama Akiki
Rihab Yacoub
Brian S. EagleHeart
Roberta Dora
Nicholas Thacher
Mary Grace Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Estfan
Chet, Carol & Jared Hope
Wadad Matar
Gladys Barham
Children
Anne Ogilvy
Mattie M. Lewis
George Parmalee
Madeline Williams' 75th Birthday
Najib Hishmeh
Dr. Nabih Amin Faris
Passam Abdelhamid
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Sabeel
Samantha Runnion
H.R.H. Princess of Wales
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Nabil Matar
Mr. Samir Habash
Henry Selz
Sister Noel Boggs

ANERA's Peace Plan

Help people in need:

- ▷ have access to education, employment and health care.
- ▷ increase their abilities to live a good life.

Help ANERA:

- ▷ reduce administrative costs.
- ▷ plan for future projects.

Help yourself:

- ▷ by giving automatically.
- ▷ by making the world a better place for all of us.

Use the coupon or visit our website to start helping today!

Because of the cost of processing the transactions, we ask each donation total \$5.00 or more. ▶

Yes, I want to join ANERA's Peace Plan

Here is my monthly gift of:

- \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other

I authorize the transfer of the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my 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.
 I want these donations to be charged to my credit card. (MC or Visa only)

My account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____



AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

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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