

NEWS

no. 141 • summer 2003

ANERA's 35th Anniversary Campaign!

ANERA's Campaign Drawing to a Close

Join Us Now!

"I want you to know what people in even the most desperate situations are capable of doing if they are given even half a chance, a little bit of hope, and a little bit of money."

Geraldine Shawa, Director
Atfaluna Center for the Deaf, Gaza

When we first announced ANERA's 35th Anniversary Campaign last fall, Geraldine Shawa's inspiring words described the importance of investing in people and peace in the Middle East. Our goals for our 35th Anniversary Campaign are important and challenging.

We are succeeding!

ANERA's 35th Anniversary Campaign is in its final push and will end on September 30, 2003. The support from our donors has been wonderful! With your help, we have been able to do so much:

- ▷ In the past year, we distributed \$11 million of medical supplies, medicines, and other relief shipments to help families in the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon.
- ▷ Our education and after-school programs have improved and increased learning opportunities for thousands of children and youth. Examples include supplying high quality music instruments to the National Conservatory of Music – Palestine, developing a library at the Dar El Yateem orphanage and school in Tulkarem (West Bank), improving kindergartens in Beirut, and equipping computer labs at the Rawdat El Zuhur school in Jerusalem.
- ▷ The Gaza Women's Loan Fund has provided almost 350 new affordable loans in the past year alone to help poor women open and expand local businesses and earn the income they need to support their families. This has been particularly important in Gaza, where the rate of unemployment reaches 60%.

continued on page 2



Inside

Elder Hospital	2
Information Technology	3
Music.....	3
Endowment	3
Gaza Women's Loan Fund	4
Health & Relief	4
Campaign Update:	
Only three more months to reach our goal!	5
Gifts Made In Honor Of	5

Elder Hospital

Dar al-Ajaza Hospital was established in Beirut in 1954 to shelter and care for elderly or severely handicapped persons. The hospital is a registered Lebanese non-profit organization and prides itself on its mission of treating patients from all parts of Lebanon, regardless of religion, gender, or age. This mission was tested repeatedly during the Lebanese civil war, as the hospital is located adjacent to Cité Sportif and the Sabra-Chatilla refugee camp which were scenes of repeated violence.

Today Dar al-Ajaza provides high quality medical treatment to patients suffering from a wide range of mental, nervous, and physical disorders. The 800-bed facility is staffed by 25 specialized medical doctors, and nurses are available 24 hours a day to offer sustained medical attention. Services include x-ray, physiotherapy, ultrasound, electrocardiogram, and psychotherapy. Patient stays vary in duration from a few days to a few years. For this reason, the hospital encourages family visits.

In addition to private patients, Dar al-Ajaza works with the Lebanese Ministry of Health and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to house and treat patients referred by them. The hospital also serves as a training facility for university students in the fields of nursing, psychology, sociology, and medicine.

A fundamental part of the hospital's success is its very active Ladies Committee comprised of dozens of local volunteers. Members of the committee help in several ways including public relations, patient-family relations, social activities, facility management, and fundraising. These volunteers also are frequent participants in local conferences and seminars. They are committed to the patients and strive to keep the hospital looking spotless and running smoothly.

Through a generous private grant, ANERA is helping rehabilitate Dar al-Ajaza. We are providing \$1.5 million to upgrade the laundry facilities, elevators, heating system, bathrooms, and kitchen in a building which has been in use continuously and exposed to wear-and-tear because of near-full occupancy. ANERA has partnered with engineering consultants Team International to oversee renovation work, which is expected to last one year. When completed, the renovations will enable Dar al-Ajaza to function more efficiently and greatly will improve the overall quality of life for its patients. ▶



PHOTO BY HOUSAM ANSHARISH

A boy in a physical therapy session at Dar al-Ajaza.

Campaign Drawing to a Close

continued from page 1

- ▷ The construction of ANERA's first Information Technology Center of Excellence (ITCE) at Al Quds University near Jerusalem is almost finished and a second at the Palestine Polytechnic University in Hebron is under way. These centers will provide IT professional training and business opportunities to hundreds of students and help spur the growth of high-paying IT jobs in the region.
- ▷ We have been able to establish an endowment fund to ensure that ANERA can continue implementing essential projects even during difficult economic times.

But we have more to do. The following pages of this newsletter will show how your support has impacted the lives of people in the Middle East, and what, together, we can achieve in the future. We are almost there, but we are counting on you to make sure these projects continue. Our work could not happen without your support. ▶

Information Technology

In our effort to create more high-paying, professional jobs in the region, ANERA developed a series of pilot projects aimed at training in software development. Six universities partnered with local information technology (IT) businesses offer these courses.

As part of ANERA's growing IT project, the Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) in Hebron is slated to construct the second Information Technology Center of Excellence (ITCE). The ITCE will serve as an IT business incubator, helping entrepreneurs and local businesses learn new innovations.

The University's Center of Excellence also serves as a training facility for many kinds of software development, such as Oracle, Java, and Cisco programming languages. Students can take internationally-recognized certification tests. To ensure students have every opportunity to find employment, the center will include a job placement and networking service. ANERA also has established a loan fund that helps students who need educational financial assistance.

ANERA and PPU will share part of the cost of building the center. ANERA has been able to raise a significant amount, but we need \$340,000 to finish the Hebron center and launch its programs.

Facts about ANERA's IT project:

- ▷ Since 1999, more than 70 men and women have been internationally certified in various IT software programs;
- ▷ Construction of ANERA's first ITCE at Al Quds University is expected to be completed by August 2003;
- ▷ The Anne Cabot Ogilvy IT Loan Fund launched in February.



PHOTO BY NINA DODGE

Balance needed to complete Palestine Polytechnic University's Center of Excellence:
\$340,000

PHOTO BY NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC



Balance needed to recruit music instructors, produce teaching materials, and help expand the program:
\$43,000

Music

ANERA has partnered with the National Conservatory of Music – Palestine (NCM) since 1999 to promote and strengthen music education throughout the West Bank. The NCM hosts summer music camps, a concert series, and public workshops. Through programs in music education, performance, curriculum development, and teacher training, ANERA's partnership with the NCM brings the world of music to thousands of Palestinian adults and children throughout the region.

In the future, the NCM hopes to expand its training into other parts of the West Bank and Gaza, start a bachelor's degree music program, and establish a training program for music teachers. But right now, ANERA is seeking \$43,000 to recruit music instructors, produce teaching materials, and help expand the program.

Facts about the NCM:

- ▷ Each year the NCM's 20 teachers educate over 400 adults and children in music studies;
- ▷ The program has branches in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem;
- ▷ Music concerts are held annually.

Endowment

At the beginning of the 35th Anniversary Campaign, ANERA's board established an endowment fund to ensure that ANERA's help can continue as long as it is needed.

Such a fund will support our projects, even at times when funding from our regular sources is low.

With tremendous support from our board and a number of our donors, we are close to raising \$300,000 in seed money to launch this new fund. It is our hope that through future gifts and bequests, this endowment fund can grow.

Balance needed to complete the seed funding for the Endowment Fund:
\$77,000

Gaza Women's Loan Fund

As one of ANERA's fastest growing income-generating projects for women, the Gaza Women's Loan Fund (GWLF) has dispersed more than 1,550 loans totaling \$2,800,000 since it began in 1995. The program extends small, affordable loans to poor women to expand or start small businesses. Each business generates household income and provides a boost to the local economy.

The borrowers work mostly in trade, with a majority selling food, clothes, or household items from their home, a permanent storefront, or a mobile stand. ANERA's goal is to make the GWLF as self-sufficient as possible within the next few years.

In order to do so, ANERA plans to strengthen the project so that even more women and their families can be helped. We have been able to raise almost \$400,000 but need your help with the remaining \$105,000.

Facts about the GWLF:

- ▷ The average loan amount is \$1,500;
- ▷ Currently, GWLF has over 400 borrowers, including many repeat clients.

Balance needed to finalize administrative upgrade of the GWLF and launch a new direct lending program that will allow us to help more women:
\$105,000



PHOTO BY ADRIAN LOUKS



PHOTO BY ROBE MOSHE

Balance needed to fund the costs for ANERA's Medical In-Kind project into the next year:
\$65,310

Health & Relief

The impact of closures and curfews in the West Bank and Gaza has had a detrimental effect on the health of Palestinians, as well as on the ability of health care workers to treat patients. In response to growing humanitarian needs, ANERA had greatly increased the number of shipments of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, nutritional supplements, and emergency health kits to local health facilities.

These items benefit thousands of impoverished families who cannot afford to pay for emergency or routine treatment. Donated supplies are welcomed by clinics and hospitals because they arrive at a time of dire need and enable administrators to use scarce cash resources for other critical requirements.

ANERA has been able to deliver \$10.5 million in medical supplies and pharmaceuticals in the past year alone. This relief program costs about \$100,000 a year to operate including shipping, port fees, and storing and distributing supplies. We need to raise slightly more than \$65,000 to ensure the continuance of this size of a relief effort.

Facts about ANERA's Health and Relief program:

- ▷ ANERA's health staff includes a medical doctor, public health specialist, pharmacist and finance manager to oversee the receipt and distribution of the shipments;
- ▷ We work with more than 100 clinics and hospitals in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan;
- ▷ In February 2003, ANERA implemented a nutritional supplement program for kindergarteners in Gaza. Every day they receive milk and nutritional biscuits at their school. ▶

Campaign Update

Only three more months to reach our goal!

ANERA's 35th Anniversary Campaign Investing in People and Peace in the Middle East will conclude this September and we need your support. For 35 years ANERA has been successfully working in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan. Now we are needed as much as ever.

Your contributions to ANERA's campaign support the basics required for a better future – healthier families, education, jobs, and ... hope. Already more than \$14.6 million has been raised from thousands of people who believe in the importance of ANERA's work. However, there are still essential projects to complete.

The campaign invests in people and peace by:

- ▷ Increasing our response to the crisis in the West Bank and Gaza through emergency relief
- ▷ Strengthening schools and universities, and expanding learning opportunities
- ▷ Strengthening small businesses run by women
- ▷ Establishing information technology programs offering professional training and business opportunities
- ▷ Improving health care for the poorest, the most isolated and the handicapped.
- ▷ Creating an endowment fund to ensure that ANERA is there to help as long as help is needed

While you read this newsletter you will learn about projects still needing contributions. As we move close to our \$15 million goal, we hope you will help us complete these wonderfully effective projects. Every gift you give is important.

In appreciation of campaign contributions of \$350 or more through September 30, 2003, we are offering special hand-crafted recognition gifts. ANERA's purchase of these items directly benefits local artisans in communities where we work.

We have almost reached our campaign goal to fulfill vital new projects. We count on your support to succeed in making this special investment in people and peace in the Middle East. ▶

Gifts Made

IN HONOR OF

Allan Gilbert
ANERA
Barbara Ann Mishriki
Dorothy Voekle
Dr. Vivian Bull
Elaine E. Thornton
Ella Poe Burling
Etienne Rousse
Frances L. Nash
George Kappes
Gil Flues
Hannah Corinaldi, Marco & Sandro Montini
Helma Hutton Keil
Islamic Center of Long Island
J. A. Staudenmaier
Jesse Jackson
John F. Deckenbach
John Mallouk
Kathryn Habib
King Hussein
Kirsten Moran
Loren J. Totusek
Majorie Sa'adah
Ms. Kiesling, Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece
Musa Alami
My beloved son, Gene
Noam Chomsky
Palestine's Children
Patricia Pynchon
Penelope Skinner Whittlesey
Revice Kegler
Samantha Runnion and Princess Diana
Shakeeb Atallah
Simon Estfan
The Palestinian People
The People of Iraq
Wadie Joseph Harb
Wahbeh Tamari
William Lynn
Yassir Arafat
Yasmin Kabir

ANERA's Monthly 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 that all monthly transactions 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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 number is: _____ 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.

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 2002-2003

Les Janka, Chair
Jean C. Newsom, Vice Chair
Peter Gubser, President
Philip Davies, Vice President
Nina Dodge, Vice President
Jane W. Schweiker, Treasurer
Cyril G. Bindah, Assistant Treasurer
Taichi Yamamoto, Secretary of the Corporation

Editor: Adrian Loucks

ANERA does 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



Final Days of ANERA's
35th Anniversary Campaign!

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